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April 8, 2021

Simon Kinneen, Chairman  
North Pacific Fisheries Management Council  
605 W 4<sup>th</sup> Av., Suite 305  
Anchorage, AK 99501-2252

RE: Annual report – Prohibited Species Donation Program (PSDP)

Chairman Kinneen,

Thank you for the opportunity to present this update to the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council. SeaShare was not able to present a report in 2020, so we are including 2 years of results for your review.

Food banks have seen a 60% increase in demand due to Covid-19. The network we've built over the last 27 years provided strong results in 2020. In spite of the complications created by the pandemic, our donors remain generous. The Prohibitive Species Donation Program (PSDP) has now generated over 24 million servings of high protein seafood for Americans struggling with hunger.

Food banks in Alaska, and across the lower 48 states, all benefit from this program. Hunger-relief efforts are increasingly focused on waste reduction across the food chain, and the Prohibited Species Donation Program exemplifies that effort. No one asks by bycatch, but our partners recognize the value that it can have for hungry families.

SeaShare remains the only organization authorized to retain Prohibited Species Catch (PSC) from the BSAI and GOA for hunger-relief. Thanks to the help from NMFS' Sustainable Fisheries Management office in Juneau, our permits were renewed in May 2020.

#### **1. Current Participants**

- 132 Catcher Boats
- 12 Shoreside processors
- 36 At-Sea Processors (C/P's + mother ships)
- 2 re-processors (to inspect, trim, steak and re-pack)
- Multiple cold storage, freight, and logistics companies in AK and WA

## 2. Receiving Locations

SeaShare works with cold storage, freight and logistics partners to accumulate donated (H&G) fish in the following locations:

- Kodiak AK
- Dutch Harbor, AK
- False Pass, AK
- Akutan AK
- Sand Point, AK
- King Cove, AK
- Seattle WA
- Tacoma WA

## 3. Annual PSC Donation Volumes from the BSAI and GOA

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>since 1994</u>
pounds of PSC salmon	372,143	236670	5,497,315
pounds of PSC halibut	<u>51,108</u>	<u>31,029</u>	<u>639,304</u>
total pounds =	423,251	267,699	6,136,619

## 4. Distribution of PSC Donations

### 2019

- 69,001 pounds were distributed in Alaska: Kodiak, Fairbanks, St. Paul, Juneau, Kotzebue, Nome, Kenai.
- 354,250 pounds were distributed in the lower 48.

### 2020

- 75,949 pounds were distributed in Alaska: Anchorage, Kodiak, Kenai, Kotzebue.
- 191,750 pounds were distributed in the lower 48.

Kodiak processors continue to help us maximize distribution, in their community and beyond. They re-work some of their donated fish into IQF steaks, which helps local organizations like Salvation Army accept more volume. Those processors also provide local storage, and local trucking to deliver fish to the USCG and Carlile for transport off the island. All at 0 cost.

Dutch Harbor and Akutan processors continue to receive, pack and store donated fish. We are working with the Q tribe in Unalaska this year, to prepare their new food bank system to accept, hold, and distribute local seafood.

## 5. Distribution in Alaska

SeaShare's board directed us five years ago to increase donations in Alaska. They recognized that two factors limit distribution:

The Cost of freight for frozen food items to remote communities

The Lack of cold storage in rural Alaska for frozen foods

Additional storage capacity in regional hubs allows us to send larger quantities by barge, rather than air freight. Thanks to generous financial support from seafoods companies and regional foundations, we've invested over \$200,000 to obtain, fill, ship and install new freezers. 3 communities - Dillingham, Bethel, and Juneau - have received 40-foot freezers.



Our new freezer for the South East Alaska Food Bank in Juneau

2 communities - St. Paul and Kodiak - have received restaurant-style, reach in freezers.



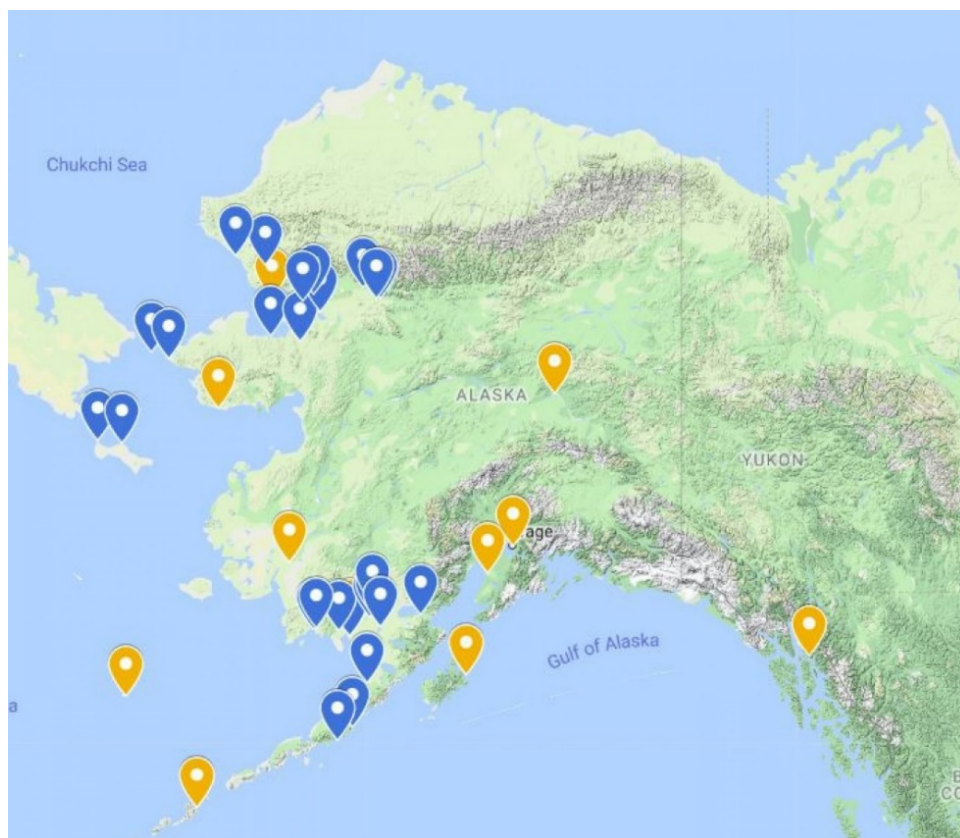
New Freezer at Salvation Army, Kodiak

The freezer we installed in Bristol Bay 5 years ago was replaced with a newer, larger unit last summer. BBNA food bank manager Barbara Nunn told us “Food is expensive here, and protein is especially hard for our food bank to get. We are so thankful for the quality seafood that SeaShare provides.”



Re-filling Our freezer in Dillingham

With the help of seafood companies, freight partners, regional and tribal corporations, and food banks, SeaShare has built a larger hunger-relief network in Alaska. Our donations are now reaching 40 communities.



You can view an Interactive map [here](#)

## 6. Cost of the PSDP program

Turning H&G fish into finished servings that food banks can distribute to families is complicated and expensive.

- Last year our PSC donations averaged \$ .44 per finished pound.
- All distribution within Alaska is at 0 cost to the receiving communities.
- Food banks in the lower 48 are able to help us cover a portion of the 44/lb. for fish they receive.

## 7. Current Financial partners for Alaska

SeaShare receives no funding from government agencies. We rely on a small base of financial donors to support all of our programs. The Prohibited Species Donation Program would not be successful without the fundraisers, gifts, and grants from these partners who help cover our expenses:

- Pacific Seafood Processors Association members (PSPA)
- At-Sea Processors Association members (APA)
- Rasmuson Foundation
- Conoco Phillips
- Lynden Inc
- Matson
- E&E Foods
- United Catcher Boats
- Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation (BBEDC)
- Norton Sound Economic Development Association (NSEDCA)
- Central Bering Sea Fishermens Association (CBSFA)
- Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Association (YDFDA)
- Aleutian Pribolof Island Community Development Assoc (APICDA)
- Wells Fargo Alaska
- Fishing boats and fleets
- Industry leaders

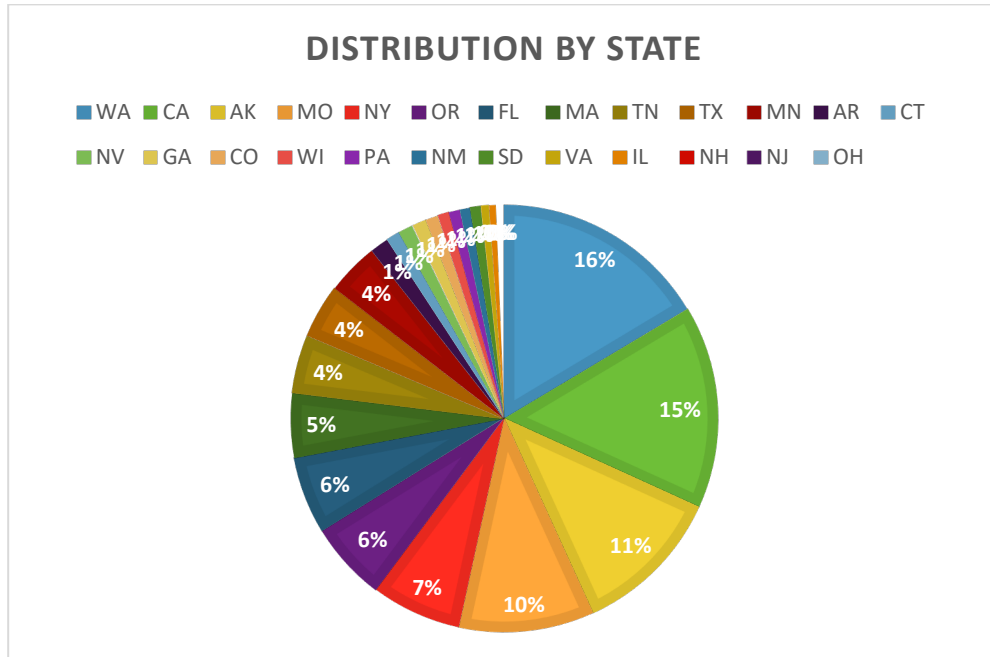
## Building on the Prohibited Species Donation Program

The success of the PSDP program led us to other protein sources for hunger-relief. PSC fish account for 10% of the 250 million seafood servings that we've donated since 1994.

While the pandemic created myriad obstacles and complications, SeaShare was able to increase our donations substantially last year. See below. Several organizations made significant contributions in 2020, approving emergency grants to support additional seafood acquisition. We combined that financial support with donations from our seafood partners to generate over 8 million servings that went to food banks in 22 states.



	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
Total pounds donated in Alaska:	209,713	176,940
Total pounds donated across the U.S.:	1,312,369	2,053,658



### Summary

The Prohibited Species Donation Program continues to provide important results for food banks in Alaska and beyond. Together, we are reducing waste and providing important nutrition to a segment of the population that needs all the health benefits that seafood offers. SeaShare remains strong financially, and our board is committed to using all our resources to meet the ongoing challenges of feeding families who are experiencing hunger. We thank all of the individuals, companies, and organizations who support us. Please let us know if you have recommendations to improve the PSDP program, or any of the other donation programs we manage.

Sincerely,

Jim Harmon  
Executive Director

cc: SeaShare board of directors  
ADF&G  
NMFS  
CDQ partners  
Conoco Phillips  
Rasmuson Foundation