

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DOMESTIC FISHERIES REPORT
TO THE
NORTH PACIFIC FISHERIES
MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
September, 1985

SALMON

Southeast Alaska-Yakutat Troll Fishery

Approximately 23,000 chinook were harvested during the 1985 winter troll season from Oct. 1, 1984 through April 14, 1985. The 1985 catch was down about 10,000 fish or 30 percent from the 1984 winter catch of 33,000. Landings were down proportionately as bad weather hindered fishing operations during the January-April period. Overall catch per landing was similar to the 1984 season.

The winter fishery is conducted in state waters inside the surfline with approximately 350 boats participating in 1985. Fish averaged about 13.3 pounds which is normal for the winter fishery (13-14 lb.) and about 3 pounds less than summer fish which average 16 to 16.5 pounds. Prices were quite variable but appeared to range from \$3.50 to \$4.50 per pound for large red chinook.

The troll fishery harvested an estimated 190,000 chinook during the summer season. There were three chinook fishing periods: a 10-day period June 3-12 with a harvest of 66,000; a 22-day period July 1-22 with a harvest of 112,000 and a 39-hour period August 25-26 with a harvest of 12,000.

The estimated total chinook harvest by all commercial and recreational fisheries in 1985 is approximately 268,000; troll - 213,000; nets - 33,000; recreational - 22,000 (see Table 1). Provisions of the 1985 U.S./Canada Salmon Treaty limited the southeast Alaska all-gear chinook harvest to 263,000, plus an allowance for harvest of new hatchery production (approximately 5,000 in 1985). Prices were varied with reports ranging from \$1.20 to \$2.70 per pound.

The 1985 troll harvest of coho salmon is the second largest on record, with the final catch expected to be 1.5-1.7 million; the largest catch was 2.0 million in 1951. The coho fishery was conducted from July 1 through September 20, except for a 10-day closure August 15-24. Coho prices have reportedly averaged about \$1.25 per pound.

Other salmon species harvested by the troll fishery included approximately 700,000 pinks, 18,000 chums and 5,000 sockeye.

Other Salmon

A new statewide salmon harvest record was set during the second week of September. With additional harvests still being reported, the harvest now stands at about 136.4 million fish (preliminary data). The previous record, set in ~~1985~~¹⁹⁸⁴, was 135.4 million. This is the sixth consecutive year that harvests have eclipsed the 100-million mark. Prices have generally been favorable this year and should result in one of the highest statewide overall ex-vessel values for the commercial salmon fisheries. The current accumulative salmon catch by management area is listed in Table 2.

SHELLFISH

Tanner Crab

In southeast Alaska, Tanner crab taken during the king crab survey indicate that the population is similar to last year. The allowable harvest for the 1986 season which starts February 10, should be similar to last year.

In Cook Inlet the Kachemak Bay Tanner index during the king crab survey was the third highest on record and was up 42% over last year. In Kamishak, however, the index was only average. Data from Tanner-specific surveys completed in September are now being analyzed. The July, Gulf of Alaska Tanner survey for Prince William Sound revealed a continued downward trend for crab in this area and no sign of building numbers of prerecruits. The inside portions of the Sound were surveyed in mid-September and results are presently

being analyzed. Continued closure of Prince William Sound is expected, while a slight increased harvest may be allowed in Cook Inlet (opens November 1).

The Westward Region Tanner crab survey results will not be available until October, but preliminary examination of the data indicates that harvests should be similar to last year (opens January 15, except in the W. Aleutians which opens November 1).

Fisheries this past season produced the following harvests.

	<u>Harvests in millions lbs.</u>	
	<u>1984/85</u>	<u>1983/84</u>
Southeast	1.5	1.6
Yakutat	trace	trace
PWS	0.0	0.0
Cook Inlet	3.0	2.8
Kodiak	12.0	14.3
South Peninsula	2.6	1.8
Chignik	0.4	0.7
East Aleutians	0.2	0.2
West Aleutians	0.2	0.3
Bering Sea (bairdi & opilio)	<u>63.4</u>	<u>23.8</u>
	83.3	45.5

King Crab

King crab surveys were generally bleak throughout Alaska. In Southeast, the legal red crab catch/pot (unstandardized) was 1.18, the lowest level since the surveys were begun in 1979. In Cook Inlet, Kachemak Bay produced 1.2 legals/pot, down from 1.8 a year ago. In Kamishak the 1.7 legals/pot taken this year represented a slight improvement over last year. Prince William Sound survey results indicated that a continuance of last year's closure is needed.

The Westward Region is the only region holding red/blue king crab fisheries this season and the following harvests are anticipated:

1. Bristol Bay: 3 to 5 million lbs. red (opens September 25)
2. Pribilofs: 300,000 to 800,000 lbs. red/blue (opens September 25)
3. Adak: 500,000 to 2 million lbs. red (opens November 1)

In addition, the Norton Sound red king crab fishery was opened from August 1 to August 23, with four fishing vessels and two catcher/processors participating. They harvested 427,011 pounds plus 4,152 pounds of deadloss. The remainder of the 900,000 harvest guideline has been allocated to the through the ice fishery (November 15 to May 15). The St. Matthews blue king crab fishery was open September 1 to September 6, and produced an estimated harvest of about 2 million pounds.

All the above fishery harvest rates were set at 30% of the legal population. Poor survey results required the continued closure of Dutch Harbor, Kodiak, and the Alaska Peninsula Areas.

Brown king crab seasons in the Bering Sea, Bristol Bay, and Cook Inlet Areas will remain closed for the remainder of 1985. The Adak 84/85 brown crab season ran from November 10 until August 15, and harvested 4.2 million pounds. Harvests in Dutch Harbor currently stand at around 0.5 million pounds. The brown crab fishery in Prince William Sound, by permit, will probably open on schedule at noon, October 1. In Southeast, the brown crab fishery is split between the red/blue fall season and the Tanner crab spring season.

Other Shellfish

In southeast Alaska, 135 boats participated in the first half of the Dungeness crab season, which ran from June 15 through August 15, and in Yakutat 35 boats fished from May 1 to July 14. The combined Southeast/Yakutat harvest stands at about 1.9 million pounds, about 0.3 of which came from Yakutat. Fishermen received about \$1.30 per pound. The seasons reopen October 1 and November 1 respectively. In Prince William Sound a brief midsummer closure was implemented in the Copper River District due to a high incidence of soft crab.

Harvests currently stand at about 0.5 million pounds. In Cook Inlet the harvests are fairly strong (about 0.86 million pounds) and should exceed 1 million pounds this year. Westward Region harvest (approximately 2.7 million pounds) are about half of last years harvest for this time of year. The season began May 1 and is scheduled to close by regulation on January 1.

The Southeastern Region pot shrimp harvest is 136,000 pounds, with 96 boats participating. The shrimp trawl harvest stands at 362,000 pounds, with 11 boats participating. Pot shrimp harvests for all Cook Inlet to date are about 30,000 pounds and about 360,000 pounds in the trawl fishery. Prince William Sound harvests stand at 138,000 pounds in the pot fishery and 65,000 pounds in the trawl fishery. Only three vessels are fishing shrimp in the Westward Region due to low price (\$0.18-0.20/pound) and limited abundance.

HERRING

Bering Sea

The total harvest of herring in the Bering Sea during the 1984/85 season was 38,105 short tons. The 1984 Alaska Peninsula food and bait fishery ran from July 15 through July 27 and yielded 3,578 short tons. The 1985 sac roe fisheries began with the Alaska Peninsula on April 15 and proceeded northward to Bristol Bay, Goodnews Bay, Security Bay, Nelson/Nunivak Islands, Cape Romanzof, and concluded June 21 in Norton Sound. Details for these fisheries are presented in Table 3.

Statewide Herring

Total harvest of herring throughout Alaska during the 1984-85 season was 61,673 short tons (s. tons) or 123,346,000 lbs., amounting to an approximate value of \$38,023,890 to the fishermen (preliminary data for all sac roe statistics). The 1984 food and bait fishery opened on July 1 in Cook Inlet. Dutch Harbor (July 15), Kodiak (Aug. 15), and Prince William Sound (Sept. 15) followed. In Southeast Alaska, the opening was delayed until January. The Westward Region accounted for a majority of the food/bait harvest (3,738 s.

tons) out of a total statewide harvest of 6,312 s. tons, which was worth about \$1,368,000.

The 1985 herring sac roe fishery, in comparison, was worth \$36,655,890 and yielded a harvest of 55,361 s. tons (preliminary data for all sac roe statistics). This fishery began on March 29 at 2:00 p.m. with a seine opening in Sitka Sound. Both the Westward Region and portions of Cook Inlet followed the Southeastern fisheries with regulatory openings on April 15, although significant harvests did not occur until late April and May. Prince William Sound sac roe harvests also occurred during late April and early May. Fisheries in the Westward Region were the last to close on June 30, although effort throughout June was very limited. Once again, the single largest and most valuable herring sac roe fishery was Bristol Bay, where 21,022 s. tons were taken with a value of \$11,456,990. Herring spawn-on-kelp was harvested (61 s. tons) only in Prince William Sound this year providing about \$547,600 to the fishermen. All harvests are summarized in Table 4 for each region.

The 1985/86 herring season commenced with the Dutch Harbor food and bait fishery which occurred primarily between July 16 and August 11. Six fishing vessels harvested 3,480 s. tons.

Table 1. Preliminary 1985 inseason summary of chinook salmon catches by southeast Alaska fisheries based on data available through September 9. (ASF&G 9/9/85)

TROLL FISHERY

Winter Season

23,000 October 1 - April 14 (ticket totals)

Summer Season

66,000 June 3-12 (ticket totals)
 112,000 July 1-22 (ticket totals)
 12,000 August 25-26; 39 hours (11,000 ticket totals)
190,000 Subtotal Summer Troll
 (189,000 ticket totals)

213,000 Projected total troll catch through August 26

NET FISHERIES

11,000 Gillnet catch total season projection
 (10,500 ticket totals thru August 24)
 22,000 Seine catch thru August 10 (ticket totals)
 (Non-retention beginning August 11)

33,000 Incidental net catch through season

RECREATIONAL FISHERIES

22,000 Pre-season projected recreational catch
 (No change expected)

ALL FISHERIES

268,000 All-gear total

Note: Totals do not include PNP terminal area cost recovery catches of approximately 1300 fish at Whitman Lake and Neets Bay.

Table 2. Cumulative all gear 1985 salmon catch by management area as of 9/11/85.

09/11/85

PRELIMINARY DATA (in Thousands of Fish)

Management Area	Thru	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	All
Tree pt./Portland Canal	05SEP	2.76	166.37	38.22	643.75	200.08	1,051.19
Prince of Wales Is. Gillnet	03SEP	1.65	263.39	79.98	567.96	62.53	975.53
Stikine River Gillnet	03SEP	0.01	1.05	1.40	11.03	1.84	15.35
Southern Districts Seine	02SEP	15.10	641.45	310.22	27,757.55	608.63	29,332.99
Annette Island Trap	05SEP	0.36	10.87	3.47	497.75	1.52	513.99
Annette Gillnet	05SEP	0.28	48.21	8.93	359.06	22.15	438.65
<hr/>							
Southern Southeast		20.19	1,131.37	442.24	29,837.13	896.77	32,327.72
Taku-Snettisham Gillnet	03SEP	2.78	80.79	26.50	279.19	76.82	464.09
Lynn Canal Gillnet	04SEP	2.63	250.61	22.82	198.88	137.18	612.13
Yakutat Gillnet	06SEP	1.02	254.64	78.64	16.10	10.77	361.19
Northern Dist. Seine	02SEP	4.28	47.14	43.62	17,015.51	750.74	17,861.31
<hr/>							
Northern Southeast		10.73	633.20	171.59	17,509.70	973.52	19,298.75
S.E. Troll	07SEP	213.00	4.15	1,480.00	625.00	23.70	2,345.85
<hr/>							
TOTAL: Southeast Region		243.92	1,768.72	2,093.84	47,971.83	1,893.99	53,972.32
<hr/>							
Naknek--Kvichak Dist.	30AUG	6.00	8,136.00	8.00	0.00	176.00	8,326.00
Mushasak Dist.	30AUG	68.00	1,323.00	20.00	0.00	253.00	1,664.00
Egegik Dist.	30AUG	4.00	7,403.00	32.00	0.00	108.00	7,547.00
Ugashik Dist.	30AUG	7.00	6,346.00	58.00	0.00	119.00	6,530.00
Togiak Dist.	30AUG	37.00	210.00	38.00	0.00	206.00	491.00
<hr/>							
Bristol Bay		122.00	23,418.00	156.00	0.00	862.00	24,558.00
Northern Dist.-UCI	09SEP	1.86	163.04	78.64	26.52	31.02	301.09
Central Dist.-UCI	09SEP	21.43	3,689.06	539.43	57.02	682.91	4,989.86
<hr/>							
Upper Cook Inlet		23.29	3,852.10	618.07	83.54	713.93	5,290.96
Southern Dist.-LCI	31AUG	1.00	84.10	2.42	518.79	5.49	611.82
Kamishak Dist.-LCI	31AUG	0.00	78.25	1.63	0.19	8.13	88.21
Outer Dist.-LCI	31AUG	0.01	91.78	1.60	622.96	11.76	728.14
Eastern Dist.-LCI	31AUG	0.01	24.33	0.00	92.40	5.14	121.89
<hr/>							
Lower Cook Inlet		1.04	278.47	5.66	1,234.35	30.54	1,550.08
Copper River	05SEP	42.18	927.75	489.49	17.78	5.76	1,482.99
Bering River	05SEP	0.19	20.54	311.02	0.13	8.30	340.19
P.W.S.-General	30AUG	0.43	8.96	2.07	22,353.00	971.00	23,335.47
Coghill Dist.	16AUG	0.35	329.68	0.84	406.15	220.59	957.62
Unakwik Dist.	23JUN	0.00	2.80	0.00	0.00	0.07	2.87
Eshamy Dist.	22AUG	0.00	2.24	0.13	100.87	1.38	104.64
<hr/>							
Cordova Area		43.17	1,291.98	803.56	22,877.94	1,207.11	26,223.79
<hr/>							
TOTAL: Central Region		189.51	28,840.57	1,583.30	24,195.85	2,813.59	57,622.83
<hr/>							
Kuskokwim River	31AUG	37.80	106.54	335.08	0.07	199.23	678.73
Kuskokwim Bay	06SEP	36.16	14.51	46.46	0.03	25.18	122.36
<hr/>							
Kuskokwim		73.96	121.06	381.54	0.11	224.41	801.09
Lower Yukon River	24AUG	140.96	0.00	44.76	0.00	612.51	798.24
Upper Yukon River	30AUG	4.73	0.00	0.18	0.00	85.91	90.83
<hr/>							
Yukon River		145.69	0.00	44.95	0.00	698.43	889.07
Norton Sound	07SEP	19.49	0.16	21.96	3.64	134.92	180.20
Kotzebue Area	31AUG	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	521.41	521.43
<hr/>							
TOTAL: Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim		239.16	121.22	448.46	3.75	1,579.18	2,391.80
<hr/>							
Kodiak	07SEP	4.92	1,801.95	230.77	7,345.68	423.29	9,806.62
Chignik	07SEP	0.44	897.04	149.45	154.44	17.69	1,219.07
South Peninsula	07SEP	6.00	2,061.00	154.00	4,396.00	1,341.00	7,958.00
North Peninsula	07SEP	22.00	2,518.00	144.00	4.00	697.00	3,385.00
Aleutian Islands	20JUL	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	14.00	15.00
<hr/>							
Alaska Peninsula & Aleutians		28.00	4,580.00	298.00	4,400.00	2,052.00	11,358.00
<hr/>							
TOTAL: Westward Region		33.36	7,278.99	678.23	11,900.12	2,492.98	22,383.69
<hr/>							
TOTAL ALASKA		705.97	38,009.51	4,803.84	84,071.57	8,779.76	136,370.67

Table 3. Bering Sea 1985 sac roe fishery statistics (preliminary data).

Alaska Peninsula Sac Roe

Estimated Harvest = 1,253 s. tons

Avg. Roe Percentage = 10%-11%

Prices Paid Fishermen = \$1,000/ton (S. Pen.) \$600/ton (N. Pen.)

Total Estimated Value to Fishermen = \$923,300

Number of Participating Vessels = up to 14 seiners

Notes: All areas opened on April 15 but harvests did not occur until May 25. Most of the harvest was over by June 12. Some sections remained open until the regulatory closure on July 15, even though there was no effort reported after the second week in June. A new stock, Bear Creek, was discovered near Port Moller this year and provided 510 tons towards the harvest total.

Bristol Bay Gillnet Sac Roe

Estimated Harvest = 4,364 s. tons

Avg. Roe Percentage = 7.5%

Price Paid Fishermen = \$550/ton for 10% roe content

Total Estimated Value to Fishermen = \$1,963,800

Number of Participating Vessels = 350 gillnetters

Notes: Two gillnet openings, one on May 23 and the second on May 25, provided 11 total hours of fishing. The gillnet take made up 17% of the total sac roe harvest. The estimate exploitation rate was 19.4% for the gill net and purse seine (below) fisheries combined.

Bristol Bay Purse Seine Sac Roe

Estimated Harvest = 21,022 s. tons

Avg. Roe Percentage = 9.8%

Price Paid Fishermen = \$550/ton for 10% roe content

Total Estimated Value to Fishermen = \$11,456,990

Number of Participating Vessels = 150 seiners

Table 3. (continued)

Notes: Two purse seine openings, one on May 23 and a second on May 25, provided 4 total hours of fishing. The seiners took about 83% of the total sac roe harvest.

Goodnews Bay Sac Roe

Estimated Harvest = 727 s. tons

Avg. Roe Percentage = 8.5%

Price Paid Fishermen = \$500/ton for 10% roe content

Total Estimated Value to Fishermen = \$308,975

Number of Participating Vessels = 70 gillnetters

Notes: The district opened at 10:00 a.m. on May 26 and closed May 31 at 9:00 p.m. The exploitation rate was estimated to be 19%.

Security Cove Sac Roe

Estimated Harvest = 758 s. tons

Avg. Roe Percentage = 9%

Price Paid Fishermen = \$500/ton for 10% roe content

Total Estimated Value to Fishermen = \$341,100

Number of Participating Vessels = up to 84 gillnetters

Notes: The district was opened on May 26 at 2:00 p.m. and remained open until 9:00 a.m. June 1, except for two brief closures totalling 14 hours. The exploitation rate was estimated to be about 17%.

Nelson and Nunivak Islands Sac Roe

Estimated Harvest = Nelson: 950/Nunivak:362/Total: 1,335 s. tons

Avg. Roe Percentage = 10% Nelson/9% Nunivak

Price Paid Fishermen = \$500/ton for 10% roe content

Total Estimated Value to Fishermen = \$637,900

Number of Participating Vessels = Up to 80 for Nelson/13-20 for Nunivak

Table 3. (continued)

Notes: Nelson Island was open for four separate fishing periods (44 hours) from noon June 11 through midnight June 14. Nunivak opened for 6 hours on June 10 and was reopened for continuous fishing between 9:00 a.m. June 11 until 10:00 p.m. June 20. Exploitation rate was estimated to be about 10%. An additional 129.97 s. tons were taken in subsistence fisheries.

Cape Romanzof Sac Roe

Estimated Harvest = 1,301 s. tons

Avg. Roe Percentage = 8.3%

Price Paid Fishermen = \$425/ton for 10% roe content

Total Estimated Value to Fishermen = \$552,500

Number of Participating Vessels = 70 gillnetters

Notes: Between 9:00 a.m. June 14 and 9:00 a.m. June 18, 60 total hours of fishing time was provided. Harvests this year eclipsed the previous high of 1,180 s. tons.

Norton Sound Sac Roe

Estimated Harvest = 3,767 s. tons

Avg. Roe Percentage = 9.4%

Price Paid Fishermen = \$400/ton for 10% roe content

Total Estimated Value to Fishermen = \$1,506,800

Number of Participating Vessels = 8 beach seine and 125 gillnetters

Notes: Of the total estimated harvest, the beach seiners took 271 tons. The fishery opened by regulation on May 15, but little effort occurred until June 17. Ice and a later-than-normal ripening delayed the fishery this year. The beach seine fishery closed at 3:00 a.m. on June 18 and the gillnet fishery at noon June 18. An additional gillnet opening was provided from 6:00 p.m. June 19 to 6:00 a.m. June 21. The estimated exploitation rate was about 18%.

Table 4. Alaska herring Harvest in Pounds (x 10³) for 1984/85 season.^{1/}

<u>Region/Area</u>	<u>Bait</u>	<u>Sac Roe</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Roe on Kelp</u>
<u>Southeastern Region</u>				
Sitka Sound	--	15,000	15,000	--
Kah Shakes	--	4,600	4,600	--
Tenakee Inlet	2,862	--	2,862	--
Totals	2,862	19,600	22,462	--
<u>Central Region</u>				
Cook Inlet	244	3,266	3,510	--
Prince William Sound	2,042	14,826	16,868	122
Bristol Bay	t	50,722	50,772	--
Totals	2,286	68,864	71,150	122
<u>A-Y-K Region</u>				
Goodnews Bay	t	1,454	1,454	--
Security Cove	t	1,516	1,516	--
Nunivak/Nelson Is.	--	2,670	2,670	--
Cape Romanzof	t	2,602	2,602	--
Norton Sound	t	7,534	7,534	--
Totals		15,776	15,776	--
<u>Westward Region</u>				
Kodiak	320	3,892	4,212	--
Chignik	--	84	84	--
Alaska Peninsula	7,156	2,506	9,662	--
Totals	7,476	6,482	13,958	--
STATEWIDE TOTAL	12,624	110,722	123,346	122
^{1/} All figures are preliminary.			124,584	

AGENDA ITEM B-2
FISH MANAGEMENT
NMFS, JUNEAU 9-85

1985 ALASKA GROUND FISH CATCH
(ROUND WEIGHT IN METRIC TONS)

SPECIES	TYPE	INTERNAL WATERS	S.E./ E. YAKUT.	WEST YAKUT.	CENTRAL GULF	WESTERN GULF	TOTAL GULF	BERING SEA	ALEUTIAN ISLANDS	TOTAL BSA	1985 ALASKA	1984 ALASKA	% CHANGE
POLLOCK	DAP	.	.	.	1579	84	1663	17877	10	17887	19550	1842	1061.3%
	JVP	.	.	.	219736	1016	220752	318388	7281	325669	546421	403743	135.3%
	FOREIGN	.	.	.	3	33	36	357309	20656	377965	378001	529604	71.4%
SABLEFISH	DAP	616	2942	2562	3686	2032	11838	2061	284	2345	14183	6979	203.2%
	JVP	.	.	.	25	1	26	32	63	95	121	588	20.6%
	FOREIGN	.	.	.	1	9	10	55	9	64	74	1048	7.1%
PACIFIC COD	DAP	48	9	.	682	1395	2134	68653	89	68742	70876	34658	204.5%
	JVP	.	.	.	1615	7	1622	29750	5531	35281	36903	31405	117.5%
	FOREIGN	.	.	.	1779	7295	9074	22225	1	22226	31300	34660	90.3%
ALL FLOUNDERS	DAP	37	.	.	7	17	61	29	53	82	143	334	42.8%
	JVP	.	.	.	713	3	716	142063	324	142387	143103	41523	344.6%
	FOREIGN	.	.	.	2	25	27	79532	31	79563	79590	87551	90.9%
P.O.P.	DAP	.	12	5	1	524	542	692	53	745	1287	101	1274.3%
	JVP	.	.	.	16	6	22	7	412	419	441	2082	21.2%
	FOREIGN	.	.	.	1	1	2	24	0	24	26	2747	0.9%
ROCKFISH	DAP	141	457	14	27	43	682	117	.	117	799	703	113.7%
	JVP	.	.	.	9	.	9	3	14	17	26	297	8.8%
	FOREIGN	.	.	.	1	.	1	29	.	29	30	517	5.8%
ATKA MACKEREL	DAP	.	.	.	.	.	0	.	.	0	0	0	***
	JVP	.	.	.	1	3	4	2	37526	37528	37532	36294	103.4%
	FOREIGN	.	.	.	0	.	0	1	.	1	1	278	0.4%
OTHER	DAP	6	40	.	6	.	52	.	.	0	52	85	61.2%
	JVP	.	.	.	1988	1	1989	2928	2303	5231	7220	3653	197.6%
	FOREIGN	.	.	.	22	64	86	3062	2	3064	3150	4761	66.2%
TOTAL	DAP	848	3460	2581	5988	4095	16972	89429	489	89918	106890	44702	239.1%
	JVP	0	0	0	224103	1037	225140	493173	53454	546627	771767	519585	148.5%
	FOREIGN	0	0	0	1809	7427	9236	462237	20699	482936	492172	661166	74.4%

SOURCES: 1985 DAP-- ADF&G REPORT AS OF 9-17
1985 JVP AND FOREIGN--NMFS PRELIMINARY REPORTS FOR 8-31
1984 DATA-- PACFIN REPORT #209, JANUARY-AUGUST

NEWS RELEASE
Robert W. McVey
907-586-7221

August 29, 1985

For Immediate Release

CLOSURE OF THE BERING SEA SUB-AREA SABLEFISH FISHERY

The total allowable catch (TAC) for sablefish of 2,625 metric tons will be achieved in the Bering Sea Regulatory Area by 12:00 noon September 4, 1985, according to Robert W. McVey, Director, Alaska Region, National Marine Fisheries Service. As a consequence, all fishing for groundfish by U.S. and foreign fishing vessels in waters greater than 200 fathoms deep is prohibited beginning at 12:00 noon (ADT) September 4, 1985. Because the TAC has been achieved, the retention of sablefish by vessels fishing in waters less than 200 fathoms is also prohibited as of the same date.

The Bering Sea sub-area is defined as follows: east of 170°W., the area north of the Aleutian chain; and west of 170°W., the area north of 55°N.

U.S. vessels which continue to participate in domestic and joint venture fisheries for groundfish in waters less than 200 fathoms deep in the Bering Sea sub-area must avoid sablefish and promptly discard those caught. This closure is a management measure intended to conserve the sablefish resource and is required by regulations governing groundfish fishing in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands. Sablefish fishing has not closed yet in the Aleutians area but is expected to close shortly if sablefish fishing vessels move from the Bering Sea into the Aleutians area.

NOTE: This closure published in the FEDERAL REGISTER on September 6, 1985
(50 FR 63997)

Number of Sablefish Vessels by Gear and Management Area

YEAR 85

Gear	Management Area							
	1. SOUTH EAST/ EAST YAKUTAT	2. WEST YAKUTAT	3. CENT- RAL GULF	4. WEST- ERN GULF	5. BERI- NG SEA	6. ALEU- TIANS	7. INTE- RNAL WATERS	8. UNKN- OWN AREA
	Number of Vessels	Number of Vessels	Number of Vessels	Number of Vessels	Number of Vessels	Number of Vessels	Number of Vessels	Number of Vessels
1. Longline	117	81	123	55	43	5	112	3
2. Trawl	1	1	13	5	10	1	2	.
3. Pot	4	.	6	6	4	1	8	3
4. Gillnet	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.
6. Other Gear	3	1	.	.	.	.	.	.
7. Unknown Gear	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.

1985 Sablefish Catch by Gear and Management Area

YEAR 85

GEAR	FMP Management Area								
	1. SOUTH EAST/ EAST YAKUTAT	2. WEST YAKUTAT	3. CENT- RAL GULF	4. WEST- ERN GULF	5. BERI- NG SEA	6. ALEU- TIANS	7. INTE- RNAL WATERS	8. UNKN- OWN AREA	TOTAL
	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons
1. Longline	2035	2501	2692	1299	1288	52	583	29	10479
2. Trawl	10	55	357	29	364	1	2	.	817
3. Pot	849	.	536	704	409	232	31	5	2867
4. Gillnet	.	3	.	.	.	.	.	.	3
6. Other Gear	48	3	.	.	.	.	.	.	51
7. Unknown Gear	.	.	0	.	.	.	.	.	0
All Gears	2942	2562	3686	2032	2061	284	616	34	14216

Above tables courtesy ADF&G