



Agenda Item: B-2

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME  
REPORT TO THE  
NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

April 18, 1993

Fisheries managed under delegated authority of the State of Alaska since the last council meeting include crab, salmon and demersal rockfish.

BERING SEA KING AND TANNER CRAB FISHERIES: The *C. opilio* Tanner crab fishery in the Bering Sea closed at the upper harvest guideline on March 1, 1994 with a preliminary harvest of 142.2 million pounds. Approximately 76.2 million pounds was harvested from the Eastern subdistrict and 66.0 million pounds was harvested from the Western subdistrict by 272 vessels.

Ice and cold weather did not become a major concern until the closure, creating problems with vessels entering the harbors in the Pribilofs. As in past years with small GHL's, floater processors conducted their operations around the Pribilof Islands, and processed the majority of the crab throughout the season.

The Adak red king crab fishery closed by regulation on February 15, 1994 with a preliminary harvest of 689,000 pounds harvested by 12 vessels. The Adak brown king crab fishery has had small effort during the Bering Sea Tanner crab fisheries, but additional effort is expected for the remainder of the season. To date, only 490,000 pounds has been harvested by 8 vessels.

The Dutch Harbor brown king crab fishery also closed on March 1, 1994, with a preliminary harvest of 915,000 pounds taken by 4 vessels. This is the lowest effort and harvest recorded in this fishery.

SALMON TROLL FISHERY: Although Board of Fisheries action established a 45,000 cap for the winter troll fishery, this regulation was not in effect for this year. The department tightened the lines north of Cape Spencer, Sitka Sound and in the Hazy Islands areas. The fishery was monitored closely to ensure that the last two years catches were not exceeded. The season

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closed at mid-night, April 14 with an expected catch of 55,000 Chinook salmon.

SOUTHEAST ALASKA DEMERSAL SHELF ROCKFISH FISHERY: The annual directed fishing quota for the East Yakutat section DSR fishery was closed on February 8, 1994. The directed fishery may be reopened for 24 hours in June to allow full retention of DSR during the halibut opening.

Seasonal harvest objectives for the remaining three Southeast Outside Section DSR fisheries have also been closed, and will remain closed to directed fishing until July 1, 1994, with a possible opening to the directed fishery in June to coincide with the halibut opening scheduled for that month.

New regulations for the Chatham Strait sablefish fishery were adopted by the Board of Fish (board) during their March, 1994 meeting, and will be in effect for the 1994 fall season. The new regulations are:

- 1) The annual harvest objective set by the department will be divided by the number of eligible permits at the beginning of each season to determine the amount that each permit holder will be allowed to catch.
- 2) The season will last 30 days, and each fisher will be allowed to harvest their allocated share within the time period.
- 3) More than one permit may be fished on the vessel, but each permit holder must be on board the vessel while fishing.
- 4) Mandatory pre-season registration.

The board established a sunset clause and these regulations will be reviewed again after the 1996 season.