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June 6, 2022

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 has been coordinating the program since its inception in 1994. To date we have reclaimed 6.3 million pounds of PSC salmon and halibut and turned them into 25 million servings for food banks in Alaska and the lower 48.

### **1. Current Participants**

SeaShare is authorized by the Alaska Region of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to distribute incidentally caught salmon and halibut from the groundfish trawl fisheries in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI) and Gulf of Alaska (GOA) to economically disadvantaged individuals. The current permits (3 years each) run through June 2, 2023.

SeaShare maintains a list of all vessels and processors participating in the program. The current list includes:

- 122 Catcher Boats
- 12 Shoreside processors
  - Dutch Harbor
  - Akutan
  - Kodiak
  - King Cove
  - Sand Point
  - False Pass
- 35 At-Sea Processors (C/P's + mother ships)
- 2 re-processors (to inspect, trim, steak and re-pack)



## 2. Freight and service donors

The boats and plants donate their time and effort to retain, clean, and freeze Prohibited Species Catch (PSC) for donation. SeaShare collects those frozen, H&G fish in Kodiak, Dutch Harbor, Seattle and Tacoma. We then work to enroll other companies to store, ship, re-process, pack and distribute the fish to food banks.

In 2021 SeaShare recruited over 20 service companies to help turn H&G fish into family-sized portions and send them out. Those partners donated or discounted their services.

## 3. Financial support

All of the costs associated with retaining and donating frozen H&G fish are donated by the participating processors in Alaska. SeaShare then works with downstream partners to store and convert those donations into finished packages that food banks can distribute. The final cost increased to \$0.62 per finished pound for PSC from the BSAI.

SeaShare receives no government funding to support the PSDP. We recruit financial help from corporations, foundations, and food banks to support all costs associated with the program. We maintain a list of current funders [here](#).

## 4. PSC Donation Volumes from the BSAI and GOA

Retained volumes declined substantially in 2021. This is probably a temporary downturn, resulting from the complications of seafood production during the pandemic. SeaShare still has the capacity to process and distribute larger volumes.

For illustration, I've included totals from the last five years:

Donated pounds by year

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
BSAI salmon	318,662	291,443	345,725	275,873	168,048
BSAI halibut	23,119	17,250	13,550	11,060	2,599
GOA salmon	13,427	4,165	26,418	10,127	950
GOA halibut	17,275	19,950	38,758	29,321	4,802
Total by year:	372,483	332,808	424,451	326,381	176,399

## 5. PSC Distribution

SeaShare relies on the national network of food banks, called Feeding America, to safely and efficiently distribute all of our donated seafood. In Alaska we work with individual food banks and feeding centers to maximize distribution across the state. The communities who received prohibited species bycatch donations last year are:

- Kodiak
- San Francisco
- Portland
- Seattle

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. All at 0 cost.

Food banks in the lower 48 are able to support a portion of the costs incurred to turn donated PSC into finished servings.

## 6. Overall Distribution in Alaska

SeaShare distributed 840,000 servings across Alaska last year. In addition to PSC fish, we distributed the following items, all at 0 cost to the receiving communities:

- ❖ 600 pounds Dungeness crab to Kodiak
- ❖ 73,543 pounds Canned salmon to Fairbanks and Anchorage
- ❖ 34,016 pounds Breaded pollock portions to Anchorage
- ❖ 25,259 pounds Bristol Bay king salmon (not bycatch) to Yukon villages
- ❖ 6,119 pounds Bristol Bay salmon (not bycatch) to Kuskokwim villages
- ❖ 24,000 pounds GOA chum salmon (not bycatch) to Yukon villages



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SeaShare has maintained the seafood distribution network that we've built across Alaska, and we are working in 2022 to reach more of our traditional locations. You can view an Interactive map [here](#).

## 7. Other items to confirm

- Neither SeaShare, nor any of our partners, advocate for bycatch. We do recognize the value that these fish have, and our donors go to great lengths to retain them for hunger-relief.
- Participation is voluntary, allowing processors to donate bycatch only when they have the resources available to do it well.
- Each plant has different capabilities and limitations. At a minimum, all processors agree to Head and gut, freeze, and pack the fish. Quality remained high in 2021.
- A portion can be distributed in Alaska in H&G form, minimizing costs.
- The majority is trimmed, steamed and re-packed into family size portions. Downstream recovery averaged 87%.
- All pounds reported are finished, donated pounds.
- SeaShare does not record salmon by species (chum vs. chinook), or by number of fish.
- PSC fish account for less than 10% of the total volume donated by SeaShare since 1994.

## Summary

Reclaiming fish that would otherwise be thrown overboard remains an important program - one that highlights the respect that fishermen and seafood processors have for the resource. It's also an important source of protein for the food banks we serve.



we appreciate the support that NMFS and the NPFMC provide. Together, we've recovered and donated 25 million servings of high protein salmon and halibut since 1994.

Please let us know if SeaShare can provide any additional information, or if you have recommendations to improve the Prohibited Species Donation Program.

Respectfully,

Jim Harmon  
Executive Director

cc: SeaShare board of directors  
NMFS  
Conoco Phillips

ADF&G  
CDQ partners  
Rasmuson Foundation