April 3, 2014

Eric Olson, Chairman
North Pacific Fisheries Management council
605 W 4th Av., Suite 305
Anchorage, AK 99501-2252

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

Chairman Olson,
Please accept this annual report regarding SeaShare’s participation in the donation of bycaught salmon and halibut in the BSAI and GOA trawl fisheries.

Background:
SeaShare worked with fishermen, processors, and NMFS to establish the Prohibited Species Donation Program. The pilot program began in 1993. Since then, we’ve reclaimed over 3.2 million pounds of fish that would have been thrown overboard. SeaShare remains the only organization authorized by NMFS to retain and distribute PSC fish for hunger-relief.

Participants:
NMFS amended our permit three times in the last year, authorizing more boats and processors to participate. We’ve also qualified additional food banks and feeding centers in remote communities, effectively expanding the distribution network in Alaska. The current list of participants includes:

- 122 Fishing boats
- 18 At-Sea processors
- 15 Shore Plants
- 8 Receiving agencies in Alaska
- Feeding America’s national network of food banks
- 20 + other companies (cold storage, freight, packaging, etc.)
- 11 Financial donors (corporations and foundations)

SeaShare continues to look for other agencies in Alaska (with affordable freight options) to receive and distribute donated seafood. We are working with the Rasmuson Foundation to include seafood in their statewide efforts to promote food security by using sustainable, local food resources.
Distribution
SeaShare donated 282,000 pounds of seafood in Alaska last year. Over 1 million meals.

Jun 2013 - USCG carried 13,000 pounds of halibut to Kotzebue

170,000 pounds generated from the Prohibited Species Donation Program were distributed in Alaska. That’s a 38% increase from the previous year. Locations that received our seafood include:

Anchorage  Juneau  Kodiak  Cordova
Fairbanks  Unalaska  Kotzebue  Galena

Downstream costs
Those locations in Alaska received PSC salmon and halibut at 0 cost to the agencies. Generous financial donors in Alaska supported the average cost of $.47 per pound to process, store, and ship PSC donations. SeaShare also worked with Feeding America food banks outside Alaska to distribute another 225,000 pounds of PSC. Those food banks provided the additional financial support needed to utilize all of the available fish. In all, we spent over $180,000 last year on the Prohibited Species Donation Program (not including overhead).

Our goal will always be to distribute donated fish as locally, and as efficiently, as possible. We’ve made progress over the last three years, expanding the network of qualified food banks and feeding centers in more communities. SeaShare is also researching opportunities to expand the storage of frozen seafood in remote villages. The largest obstacle remains the limitations of shipping and storage outside the major population centers.
SeaShare does not advocate for bycatch. Neither do our PSC partners. All boats are encouraged to throw back any salmon or halibut that might survive. We do recognize the value that PSC fish have, and our donors go to great lengths to retain them for hunger-relief.

This program has been an important source of protein to food banks for over 20 years. SeaShare works for our donors, combining and coordinating their generosity to achieve maximum benefit for hungry Americans. Please contact us if you have questions about the program, or ideas for improving it. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jim Harmon,
Executive Director

cc: SeaShare board of directors
Attachment: List of PSDP donors
PSDP donation partners include:

NMFS
Alaska Groundfish Data Bank
Alaska Seafood Cooperative & Member companies
AML/Lynden
At-Sea Processors Association & Member companies
Bean’s Café
Bellingham Cold Storage
Brother Francis Shelter
Carlile Transportation
City Ice / Lineage
Coastal Transportation
Conoco Phillips
E&E Foods
Fairbanks Community Food Bank
Feeding America
Food Bank of Alaska
Glory Hole, Juneau
Harbor Cold Storage
Horizon Lines
Independent Packers
Kloosterboer DHbr
Kodiak Food Bank
Midwater Trawlers Association
NANA Regional Corp.
NorthStar Cold Storage
Offshore Systems Inc
Pacific Seafood Processors Association & Member companies
Qawalangin Tribe
Rasmuson Foundation
Seafreeze / Lineage
Unalaska School District
United Catcher Boats
United States Coast Guard
Wells Fargo Bank
Western Alaska Community Development Association & Member companies