

Agenda Item: B-2

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME****REPORT TO THE NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL****JUNE 17, 1997**

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

**BERING SEA/ALEUTIAN ISLANDS KING AND TANNER CRAB FISHERIES:** In 1996, the Alaska Board of Fisheries (Board) combined the Adak and Dutch Harbor registration areas into a new Aleutian Islands registration area. To date, the Aleutian Islands brown king crab fishery has landed over 5.1 million pounds of which 3.2 million pounds has been landed from the area east of 174° West Longitude (the old Dutch Harbor registration area), and was closed on December 25, 1996. The area west of 176° W. long' will remain open until the regulatory closure of August 15. 1996 catches from the area west of 176° W. long' was 3.2 million pounds for this same time period.

Summer NMFS surveys have begun in the Bering Sea and projected guideline harvest levels should be available by mid to late August for the Bristol Bay red king crab, the Pribilof red and blue king crab, the St. Matthew blue king crab and the *C. bairdi* Tanner crab.

The department reminds the crab industry of the **special Board meeting** dealing with **Bristol Bay red king crab management strategies** that will be held at the **West Coast International Inn, Anchorage, August 25-28.**

**STATEWIDE SCALLOP FISHERY:** The Westward Region scallop fishery, including the Bering Sea, will open at 12:00 noon, July 1. See attached news release for Westward Region district crab bycatch limits and GHs.

SALMON TROLL FISHERY: The Spring Fishery, which targets returning Alaska hatchery Chinooks, opened May 4 with a catch to date of approximately 10,000 fish. Only a small portion of these Chinook are counted against the Treaty quota. The Chinook Treaty fishery begins July 1.

SOUTHEAST ALASKA DEMERSAL SHELF ROCKFISH FISHERY: The directed lingcod fishery outside of 3 miles remains open, but little effort has occurred. The inside waters management areas opened to the directed lingcod fishery on May 15, two weeks later than last year. Large directed effort occurred in the East Yakutat Area, closing the fishery on June 1 with 203,000 pounds landed. Total lingcod catch to date, including bycatch, is 377,000 pounds.

STATE WATERS PACIFIC COD FISHERY:

Kodiak: GHL - 8.5 million pounds, 4.25 million pounds for each of the pot and jig fisheries..

Pot fishery - closed, 4.6 million pounds landed by 34 vessels.

Jig fishery - 847,000 pounds landed by 72 vessels.

Chignik: GHL - 5.9 million pounds combined GHL.

Eight pot vessels and 3 jig vessels have landed 932,500 pounds.

Alaska Peninsula: - 9.4 million pounds combined GHL.

Thirty three pot vessels and 19 jig vessels have landed 6.0 million pounds.

The Cook Inlet and Prince William Sound state waters Pacific Cod fishery information was not available at the time of this report.

# COMMERCIAL FISHERIES



## NEWS RELEASE

ALASKA DEPARTMENT  
OF FISH & GAME



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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: June 11, 1997

### ATTENTION ALASKA SCALLOP FISHERMEN

Weather-vane scallop fisheries in areas K, M, O, Q, and R will open at 12:00 noon July 1, 1997 in both state and federal waters. It is required that all vessels be registered for an individual area and carry an onboard observer.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game has released the king and Tanner crab bycatch levels and guideline harvest levels for the 1997/98 scallop fishery. The bycatch and guideline harvest levels by area are as follows:

<u>Registration Area</u>	<u>Guideline Harvest Level (pounds of shucked meats)</u>	<u>Bycatch Levels</u>	
		<u>Tanner Crab</u>	<u>King Crab</u>
Kodiak	0 to 400,000		
Shelikof	-	51,000	35
Northeast	-	91,600	50
Alaska Peninsula	0 to 200,000	45,300	79
Dutch Harbor	0 to 170,000	10,700	10
Bering Sea	0 to 600,000	238,000	<i>C. bairdi</i> 500
		172,000	<i>C. opilio</i>
Adak	0 to 75,000	10,000	50

Fishermen should be aware that these bycatch levels are the maximum allowed. Registrations require vessel operators to notify observers of every king crab encountered. If, at any time the bycatch rate becomes excessively high the department may close those effected areas prior to achieving these levels. When possible the department will inform the fleet as to the overall crab bycatch rate by area as the season progresses. For additional information please contact the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Kodiak at (907) 486-1840.