

NORTH PACIFIC FISHERIES MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Since the last Council meeting, the activities of fisheries managed under joint authority of the Council and the Alaska Board of Fisheries include: Crab, Dermal Shelf Rockfish, and Salmon.

The Optico Tanner crab fishery closed on June 15th in the Western subdistrict. The guideline harvest level projection for this subdistrict of the Bering Sea was 52 million pounds. Fishery effort moved to the Western subdistrict in early April and weekly catches have ranged from .5 to 8 million pounds. Approximately 100 vessels - including 16 catcher/processors - fished Optico Tanner crab during this period. A catch per pot rate of 148 crabs compares to a high of 236 crab per pot last season. The season closed when it was projected that the 52 million pounds would be taken.

The Southeast Dermal Shelf Rockfish fishery closed with only about one third of the TAC harvested. This occurred when the Gulf of Alaska was closed to all hook and line gear because the halibut bycatch cap was reached. Under item D-3d the State will request a reopening of this fishery considering the extremely low halibut bycatch which occurs in this fishery.

The Southeast and Yakutat troll fishery has a harvest quota of 253,000 chinook. The Pacific Salmon Commission recently allowed an additional 15%, or 39,000 chinook, which raises the quota to 302,000 plus a hatchery add-on which is estimated to be 21,400 fish. The winter harvest was 33,000 chinook. In June, an experimental troll opening at Carnot Inlet, Cross Sound, Little Port Walter and Medvefitt, yielded 1,200 fish. The Alaska hatchery terminal access fisheries provided an additional 8,500 chinook during the first opening, June 5-7.