

1989 COMMERCIAL FISHERIES SUMMARY THRU JUNE 15

OILSPILL IMPACTS

There have been several closures/postponements to commercial fisheries in Alaska as a result of oil spilled from the "Exxon Valdez" on March 24. These include:

Prince William Sound

Herring (projected at 6,987 for sac roe and pound and wild roe-on-kelp)
Pot Shrimp
Trawl shrimp
Sablefish (black cod)
Northern Area Dungeness crab
groundfish
Eshamy District commercial salmon fishery (250,000 chum surplus to hatchery needs, plus harvests of other species)

Lower Cook Inlet

Pot shrimp (Outer District)
groundfish (Outer and Eastern Districts)
Herring sac roe (Outer and Eastern Districts)
Kamishak District commercial salmon fishery

Kodiak

Herring sac roe (19 of 56 management units closed)
Salmon (all management units)

SALMON

The winter troll season in SE Alaska produced a total harvest of 33,822 chinook (Oct 1, 1988 - April 14, 1989). Of these, only 9,410 chinook were taken after January 1.

The Southeast inside waters special June Hatchery opening established by the Board of Fisheries, opened for three days June 5-7. A limit of 25,000 non-Alaska chinook was established. The catch was approximately 10-12,000 chinook. Therefore, there will be an additional three day period June 21-23. The regular southeast Alaska troll season in all waters opens July 1, and is expected to run 10-15 days, depending on CPUE. Gillnet season opens June 19, and the purse seine season will begin July 2.

In other 1989 fisheries, the salmon season ^{820,000 as of June 15} opened May 15 in the Copper River District for sockeye and chinook (~~700,000~~ sockeye and ~~29,000~~ chinook), Upper Cook Inlet setnet fishery (4,400 sockeye and 30,000)

9,480 chinook), Lower Cook Inlet (7,750 sockeye and 350 chinook), Chignik (59,000 sockeye and 30 chinook), False Pass (204,600 sockeye and 700 chinook, and Bristol Bay 21,300 sockeye and 1000 chinook). STATEWIDE SALMON CATCH TOTALS MAY 15 - JUNE 15 ARE 1,244,740 SALMON.

HERRING

The preliminary total 1989 sac roe and roe-on-kelp fishery statewide was approximately 39,439 short tons. The forecast projection was about 48,000 tons, but there was no fishery in Prince William Sound due to oil. Severe weather and poor roe percentages hampered many fisheries. Major harvest areas: Harvests in the Sitka Sound sac roe fishery were 11,700 tons. The Togiak (Bristol Bay) harvest was about 12,205 tons. The Cook Inlet sac roe catch was approximately 5,141 tons. The Norton Sound sac roe harvest netted 4,494 tons.

GROUND FISH

The Clarence Strait sablefish fishery opens June 22 through 27. The GHL is 300,000-350,000 pounds.

SHELLFISH

KING CRAB

The 1989 Southeast Region brown king crab harvest through June 12 was 797,076 pounds. This fishery continues, as both the Lower Chatham and Icy Strait/Lynn Canal fisheries are approaching the lower limits of the GHL. In past years, the Icy Strait fishery continued into August. The Exploratory brown king crab fishery remains open until January 29, 1990 if there is no red king crab fishery.

The 1989 Westward region king crab (all species) harvest through June 4 was 17,775,461 pounds. Fishing continues only in the Adak brown king crab fishery at this time, with all other areas closed.

TANNER CRAB

The 1989 Southeast/Yakutat Region Tanner crab harvest for the season was approximately 1,755,486 pounds.

The 1989 Westward Region Tanner crab harvest was 154,987,823 pounds for the season. Of this, the C. opilio catch was 140,981,129 pounds.

DUNGENESS CRAB

The 1989 Yakutat Dungeness crab fishery opened by regulation May 15. Catch to date is about 824,341 pounds. Catch will continue until CPUE declines.

The Kodiak Dungeness crab fishery opened May 1 in the Northern District, and June 15 for the Southern area. Catch to date is 9,500 pounds, which is light.

SHRIMP

The Southeast shrimp beam trawl fishery in District 8 produced a harvest of 258,854 in 1989. Districts 6 and 7 remain open with GHL of 80-400,000 pounds and 15-50,000 pounds respectively. Catches through June 12 were 203,718 pounds and 25,512 respectively.