

AGENDA ITEM: E-2

DATE: May 22, 1980

SUBJECT: Domestic fisheries report by the Alaska Department of Fish & Game

Groundfish Fisheries

Southeastern Alaska

A. Black Cod

- 1) Catch 620,000 pounds through April
- 2) Present status: increased effort over 1979 (27 vessels in April) and low price (35 - 40 cents/lb.)

B. Groundfish

Little activity, effort shifting to the halibut fishery.

Note: The groundfish catch statistics are appended. These statistics include all domestic landings.

TANNER CRAB FISHERY

<u>Area</u>	<u>Opening Date</u>	<u>1980 Harvest</u>	<u>Current Status</u>
Southeastern	Sept. 1	1.6	Closed
Yakutat	Sept. 1	2.4	Closed
P.W.S.	Nov. 15	5.7	Closed
Cook Inlet	Dec. 1	3.4	Open
Kodiak	Jan. 5	18.8	Closed
So. Peninsula	Nov. 1	6.8	Closed
Dutch Harbor	Nov. 1	0.8	Open
Adak	Nov. 1	0.3	Open
Bering Sea bairdi	Nov. 1	36.2	Closed
Bering Sea opilio	Nov. 1	20.0	Open

Note: The status of the Bering Sea fishery is appended.

TOGIAK HERRING FISHERY

<u>Season</u>	
Season opened	April 15
Fishery began	April 27
Season closed	May 15
Harvest	18,000 tons
Deadloss	2,500 tons plus
Total	20,500 tons plus

Harvest by Gear Type

Purse seine 87 percent  
Gillnet 13 percent

April 28 - May 1 harvest of approximately 3,000 tons primarily for food and bait.  
Price to fishermen: \$50 - \$120. per ton.

May 2 - May 9 harvest of approximately 15,000 tons primarily for sac roe.  
Price to fishermen: \$200. per ton for 10 percent roe. *ex-vessel*.

Average Roe Content: 9-10 percent.

Age Composition of Catch: approximately 90 percent ages 6 and 7.

Effort

23 companies  
102 processor and tender vessels  
140 purse seiners  
370 gillnetters

Biomass Estimate

Peak estimate May 6: 100,000 tons  
Exploitation rate: 20 percent plus

ROE-ON-KELP FISHERY

Major fishery occurred May 2-13.  
Closed by emergency order May 13.  
Harvest: 185,000 lbs.  
Price to fishermen: 50 cents/lb.  
Roe quality poor to fair, due to light spawn coverage.

Current Status

- 1) Sac roe, bait, and food fishery closed by emergency order May 10 at 6:30 a.m.
- 2) Department will monitor biomass to determine if sufficient additional fish are available for harvest, although it doesn't appear likely at this point.

Comments

- 1) Information is preliminary and will be further refined.
- 2) Significantly fewer herring during 1980 than expected from population levels observed in 1979.
- 3) Wastage, which has not been a problem in previous seasons, was significant this year. Wastage was first documented May 5-6, but not recognized as a major problem until May 7-8. Announcement was made May 9 to close fishery May 10.
- 4) User allocation of the herring resource between purse seiners, gill netters, and roe-on-kelp pickers has become controversial because purse seiners harvested by far the majority (about 75 percent) of the available surplus.

GROUND FISH  
GULF OF ALASKA  
1980 CUMULATIVE DOMESTIC CATCHES

Reporting Period: Nov. 1979 - Oct. 1980  
Landings Thru April 30, 1980

<u>Species</u>	<u>DAH</u>	<u>Landings</u>	
		<u>Metric Tons</u>	<u>Pounds</u>
Pollock	(21,310 mt)	1,709.4	3,768,000
Flounder	( 3,180 mt)	735.4	1,621,000
Cod	(10,000 mt)	339.4	748,000
Pacific Ocean Perch Rockfish	( 3,815 mt)	54.7	120,000
Sablefish	( 6,480 mt)	281.2	620,000 (1)
Rattail	( 1,332 mt)	0	0
Atka Mackerel	( 1,440 mt)	1.7	4,000
Squid	( 150 mt)	0	0
Idiot Rockfish	( 6 mt)	0	0
Other	( 1,560 mt)	64.0	141,000
Unspecified		461.5	1,017,000
TOTAL		3,647.3	8,039,000

(1) Dressed Weight

Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Division of Commercial Fisheries  
Juneau, Alaska 99801  
19 May 1980

GROUND FISH  
BERING SEA/ALEUTIAN ISLANDS  
1980 CUMULATIVE DOMESTIC CATCHES

Reporting Period: Jan. 1980 - Dec. 1980  
Landings Thru April 30, 1980

<u>Species</u>	<u>Pounds</u>	<u>Landings</u> <u>Metric Tons</u>
Pacific Cod	11,913,000	5,405.4
Yellowfin Sole	194,000	88.2
Other Flounders	252,000	114.5
Pollock	14,887,000	6,754.4
Pacific Ocean Perch	40,000	18.1
Other Rockfish	15,000	6.8
Sablefish	400	0.2
Atka Mackerel	452,000	204.9
Other	222,000	100.5
Unspecified	30,000	13.8
Total	28,005,000	12,706.8

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GULF OF ALASKA GROUND FISH - ALL AREAS  
DOMESTIC CATCHES - NOV. 1979 thru OCT. 1980  
Metric Tons

	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr <sup>1/</sup>	May	June	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Catch To Date
Pollock DAH= 21,310	10.4	3.2	123.3	338.5	367.2	866.8							1,709.4
Cod DAH= 10,000	7.7	3.1	87.7	64.4	231.1	341.4							735.4
Flounder DAH= 3,180	47.3	54.4	54.3	16.6	16.2	150.6							339.4
Pacific Ocean Perch DAH= 2,915													
Other Rockfish DAH= 900	6.5	2.8	1.3	10.2	10.6	23.3							54.7
Sablefish <sup>2/</sup> DAH= 6,480	26.5	7.3	19.4	56.6	40.6	130.8							281.2
Atka Mackerel DAH= 1,440	0	0	0	0	0	1.7							1.7
Squid DAH= 150	0	0	0	0	0	0							0
Rattails DAH= 1,332	0	0	0	0	0	0							0
Idiot Rockfish DAH= 6	0	0	0	0	0	0							0
Other DAH= 1,560	5.3	11.0	3.7	4.3	6.3	33.4							64.0
Unspecified	26.1	30.9	107.7	179.7	108.7	8.4							461.5
Total	129.8	112.7	397.4	670.3	780.7	1,556.4							3,647.3

<sup>1/</sup> Domestic catches not landed in Alaska for November 1979 through April 1980 are included in the catch for April 1980

<sup>2/</sup> Dressed weight

GULF OF ALASKA GROUND FISH - EASTERN  
DOMESTIC CATCHES - Nov. 1978 thru OCT. 1980  
METRIC TONS

	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Catch To Date
Pollock DAH= 2,215	0	0	1.6	249.6	172.6	0							423.8
Cod DAH= 2,070	1.6	0.6	T	6.6	32.7	7.1							48.6
Flounder DAH= 1,360	44.8	49.3	50.6	0.1	0.3	0							145.1
Pacific Ocean Perch DAH= 1,315													
Other Rockfish DAH= 575	6.5	2.8	1.3	7.3	10.6	5.5							34.0
Sablefish <sup>1/</sup> DAH= 4,990	26.5	7.1	19.1	49.5	34.3	118.5							255.0
Atka Mackerel DAH=70	0	0	0	0	0	0							0
Squid DAH= 60	0	0	0	0	0	0							0
Rattails DAH= 1,266	0	0	0	0	0	0							0
Other DAH= 540	0.4	0.5	0.4	2.2	3.4	0.2							7.1
Unspecified	25.4	30.9	4.9	51.2	37.8	0							150.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>105.2</b>	<b>91.2</b>	<b>77.9</b>	<b>366.5</b>	<b>291.7</b>	<b>131.3</b>							<b>1,063.8</b>

<sup>1/</sup> Dressed weight

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GULF OF ALASKA GROUND FISH - CENTRAL  
DOMESTIC CATCHES - NOV. 1979 thru OCT. 1980  
METRIC TONS

	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr <sup>1/</sup>	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Catch To Date
Pollock DAH= 13,320	10.4	3.2	121.7	88.9	194.6	789.9							1,208.7
Cod DAH= 6,050	6.1	2.5	87.7	57.8	198.4	325.8							678.3
Flounder DAH= 1,120	2.5	5.1	3.7	16.5	15.9	142.3							186.0
Pacific Ocean Perch DAH= 1,225													
Other Rockfish DAH= 250	0	0	0	2.9	0	17.8							20.7
Sablefish <sup>2/</sup> DAH= 1,220	0	0.2	0.3	7.1	6.3	12.3							26.2
Atka Mackerel DAH= 1,080	0	0	0	0	0	1.7							1.7
Squid DAH= 60	0	0	0	0	0	0							0
Rattails DAH= 33	0	0	0	0	0	0							0
Other DAH= 620	4.9	10.5	3.3	2.1	2.9	33.2							56.9
Unspecified	0.7	0	102.8	128.5	70.9	8.4							311.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>24.6</b>	<b>21.5</b>	<b>319.5</b>	<b>303.8</b>	<b>489.0</b>	<b>1,331.4</b>							<b>2,489.8</b>

<sup>1/</sup> Domestic catches not landed in Alaska for November 1979 through April 1980 are included in the catch for April 1980.

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19 May 1980

<sup>2/</sup> Dressed weight

GULF OF ALASKA GROUND FISH - WESTERN  
DOMESTIC CATCHES - NOV 1979 thru OCT. 1980  
METRIC TONS

	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr <sup>1/</sup>	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Catch To Date
Pollock DAH= 5,775	0	0	0	0	0	76.9							76.9
Cod DAH= 1,880	0	0	0	0	0	8.5							8.5
Flounder DAH= 700	0	0	0	0	0	8.3							8.3
Pacific Ocean Perch DAH= 345	0	0	0	0	0	0							0
Other Rockfish DAH= 75	0	0	0	0	0	0							0
Sablefish DAH= 270	0	0	0	0	0	0							0
Atka Mackerel DAH= 290	0	0	0	0	0	0							0
Squid DAH= 30	0	0	0	0	0	0							0
Rattails DAH= 33	0	0	0	0	0	0							0
Other DAH= 400	0	0	0	0	0	0							0
Unspecified	0	0	0	0	0	0							0
Total	0	0	0	0	0	93.7							93.7

<sup>1/</sup> Domestic catches not landed in Alaska for November 1979 through April 1980 are included in the catch for April 1980.

Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
19 May 1980

<sup>2/</sup> Dressed weight.



STATUS REPORT OF  
THE 1979/80 DOMESTIC TANNER CRAB FISHERY  
IN THE BERING SEA

by

Martin F. Eaton

The season for Tanner crab opened November 1, 1979 but the first deliveries were not made until January 6 and fishing did not really begin until February 3rd.

This year's fishery was plagued with a scarcity of crab, ice conditions, price disputes and the high cost of fuel. The catch per unit of effort never exceeded 42 and averaged 30 per pot for the season.

A harvest guideline of 28 to 36 million pounds was established by the Fisheries Board and on April 20 when the catch reached 24 million pounds, the data available was analysed and the Regional Director was advised that approximately 32 million pounds would be harvested by May 11th. An E.O./F.O. was issued closing the fishery on May 11th.

Approximately 130 vessels harvested 36.5 million pounds of C. bairdi and 20 million pounds of C. opilio through May 17th. The product to the fishermen is valued at 19 million dollars for C. bairdi and 4.2 million dollars for C. opilio.

The Department is projecting that the C. opilio catch could go as high as 35 million pounds, if processors continue buying C. opilio through the month of June.

1980 BERING SEA  
TANNER CRAB CATCH  
PRELIMINARY

Week Ending	C. bairdi			C. opilio			Total
	No. Pounds	Vessels	CPUE	No. Pounds	Vessels	CPUE	
Feb. 3	500,000	-	-	0	-	-	500,000
Feb. 10	500,000	-	42	0	-	-	500,000
Feb. 17	1,600,000	34	34	178,000	2	58	1,778,000
Feb. 24	2,400,000	42	36	137,000	8	29	2,537,000
March 3	2,000,000	46	30	290,000	6	67	2,290,000
March 9	2,500,000	49	30	548,000	13	55	3,048,000
March 16	2,800,000	47	28	1,100,000	24	49	3,900,000
March 23	2,621,000	53	30	718,000	24	49	3,399,000
March 30	3,668,000	71	29	1,216,000	23	89	4,884,000
April 6	2,400,000	66	30	1,200,000	26	77	3,600,000
April 13*	479,000	11	28	399,000	6	113	878,000
April 20	2,000,000	58	30	2,500,000	39	95	4,500,000
April 27	4,197,000	65	33	2,400,000	49	86	6,597,000
May 4	2,900,000	56	28	3,100,000	39	119	6,000,000
May 11	2,920,000	50	30	3,400,000	37	100	6,320,000
May 18	3,069,000	42	30	2,871,000			5,940,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>36,554,000</b>			<b>20,117,000</b>			<b>56,671,000</b>

\*Most vessels on strike.