

SEASHARE

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April 1, 2023

Simon Kinneen, Chairman
North Pacific Fisheries Management Council
1007 W Third Av., Suite 400
Anchorage, AK 99501-2252

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

Chairman Kinneen,

Thank you for the opportunity to present this update to the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council. SeaShare has been coordinating the program since its inception.

SeaShare remains the only organization authorized by the Alaska Region of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to retain and distribute incidentally caught salmon and halibut from the groundfish trawl fisheries in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI) and Gulf of Alaska (GOA) to economically disadvantaged individuals. We are currently working with NMFS' Sustainable Fisheries Management office in Juneau to renew those permits for another three years.

No one asks for bycatch, but our partners recognize the value that PSC can have for hungry families and agree to donate their line time, labor and packaging so these fish aren't wasted.



Steaking and trimming frozen fish

1. Current Participants

SeaShare maintains a list of all vessels and processors participating in the program. The current list includes:

- 132 Catcher Boats
- 12 Shoreside processors
 - Dutch Harbor (4)
 - Akutan
 - Kodiak (4)
 - King Cove
 - Sand Point
 - False Pass
- 35 At-Sea Processors (C/P's + mother ships)
- 2 re-processors in Puget Sound (to inspect, trim, steak and re-pack)
- Multiple cold storage, freight, and logistics companies in AK and WA

2. PSC Donation Volumes from the BSAI and GOA

Retained volumes rebounded slightly in 2022, but are still lower than historical averages. SeaShare still has the capacity to process and distribute larger volumes. These are the finished pounds we donated over the last five years:

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
BSAI salmon	291,443	345,725	275,873	168,048	225,928
BSAI halibut	17,250	13,550	11,063	2,599	4,360
GOA salmon	4,165	26,418	10,127	950	3,096
GOA halibut	19,950	38,758	29,321	4,802	12,311
Total by year:	<u>332,808</u>	<u>424,451</u>	<u>326,384</u>	<u>176,399</u>	<u>245,695</u>

3. Financial support

- All of the costs associated with retaining and donating frozen H&G fish are donated by the participating fishermen and processors in Alaska.
- SeaShare then works with downstream partners to store and convert those donations into finished packages that food banks can distribute.
- The final cost was approximately \$0.62 per finished pound for PSC from the BSAI.
- SeaShare receives no state or federal funding to support the PSDP.
- We recruit financial help from individuals, corporations, foundations, and food banks to support all costs associated with the program. We maintain a list of current funders [here](#).

4. PSC Distribution

SeaShare relies on the national network of food banks, called Feeding America, to safely and efficiently distribute our donated seafood across the country. In Alaska we also work with individual food banks and feeding centers to increase distribution across the state.

The communities who received prohibited species bycatch donations last year are:

- Kodiak
- Juneau
- San Francisco
- Portland
- Seattle

Kodiak processors continue to help us maximize distribution in their community and beyond. They re-work some of their donated fish into IQF steaks, which helps local organizations like Brother Francis, Chiniak Bay Elder House, and the Salvation Army accept more volume.

Everything we donate in Alaska is at 0 cost to the receiving agencies.

We rely on food banks in the lower 48 to support a portion of the costs incurred to turn donated fish into finished, packaged servings.

5. Overall Distribution in Alaska

SeaShare distributed 200,000 pounds (= 800,000 servings) across Alaska last year. In addition to PSC fish, we distributed the following items, all at 0 cost to the receiving communities:

- ❖ 86,090 pounds Canned salmon to Anchorage and Juneau
- ❖ 84,611 pounds King and chum salmon from Bristol Bay & Kodiak (not PSC) to Yukon villages
- ❖ 9,968 pounds halibut, salmon and ling cod (not PSC) to Kuskokwim villages
- ❖ 9,027 pounds breaded pollock portions to Juneau
- ❖ 2,078 pounds king salmon (not PSC) to Dillingham
- ❖ 563 pounds Crab and ling cod to Kodiak



Loading PSC fish into our Juneau freezer

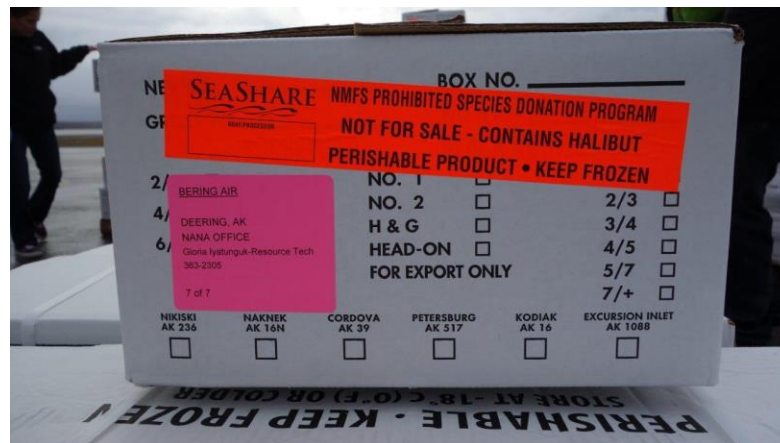
SeaShare has expanded the seafood distribution network that we've built across Alaska, and we are working in 2023 to reach more of our traditional locations. You can view an Interactive map [here](#).

7. Other items to confirm

- Neither SeaShare, nor any of our partners, advocate for bycatch. We do recognize the value that these fish have, and our donors go to great lengths to retain them for hunger-relief.
- Participation is voluntary, allowing processors to donate bycatch only when they have the resources available to do it well.
- Each plant has different capabilities and limitations. At a minimum, all processors agree to Head and gut, freeze, and pack the fish. The quality in 2022 was again high.
- A portion can be distributed in Alaska in H&G form, minimizing costs.
- The majority is trimmed, steamed and re-packed into family size portions. Downstream recovery averaged 88%.
- All pounds reported are finished, donated pounds.
- SeaShare does not record salmon by species (chum vs. chinook), or by number of fish.
- PSC fish account for less than 10% of the total volume donated by SeaShare since 1994.

Summary

Fish is an important protein source for food banks. It has both nutritional and cultural significance for the families we serve. SeaShare uses prohibited species catch (PSC) to feed people rather than wasting it. The same fishermen and processors who retain those fish for hunger-relief also provide significant volumes of non-PSC fish to communities across Alaska and the lower 48. SeaShare will continue to utilize the network we've built to maximize the results for all stakeholders.



Since 1994 the Prohibited Species Donation Program has recovered and donated 26 million servings of high protein salmon and halibut. We've also donated another 235 million servings of non-PSC fish across all 50 states. Please let us know if you have recommendations to improve any of our donation programs.

Respectfully,

Jim Harmon
Executive Director

cc: SeaShare board of directors
CDQ partners
Rasmuson Foundation
Conoco Phillips
NMFS