

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

AGENDA B-2
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ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME REPORT

Only two fisheries have occurred since the last Council meeting; Chinook Salmon and Red King Crab. The chinook harvest in the Southeast winter troll fishery (October 1, 1990-April 14, 1991) through November 10 is 16,099 chinook. Alaska contribution (6,084 chinook) has been estimated at 37 percent.

The Bristol Bay red king crab fishery opened by regulation November 1 this season. Preseason estimates placed the guideline harvest level at 17.1 million pounds. The fishery closed November 13, when it was anticipated that the total harvest would be taken. The actual landings made by about 241 boats participating in that fishery have been preliminarily estimated at 19.6 million pounds. Fishermen received about \$5.00/pound (\$4.75 in Dutch Harbor, about \$5.25-\$5.50 in Kodiak). Average weight appeared to be about 6.5 pounds. Harvest rates averaged 14-15 legal male crab per pot lifted this season. Last season, the CPUE was between 8-10.

In a final note, Amendment 16A to the Bering Sea/Aleutians Groundfish Fishery Management Plan specifies that herring PSC caps would be established at 1% of the biomass of Bering Sea herring stocks from Port Moller to Norton Sound. The Alaska Department of Fish & Game herring forecast estimates the biomass of these herring stocks to total 83,406 metric tons for 1991. The 1991 herring cap would therefore be established at 834 metric tons.