



**Alaska Department of Fish and Game**  
**Division of Commercial Fisheries**

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ADF&G FISHERIES REPORT: DECEMBER 3, 1991

**NORTH PACIFIC FISHERIES MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**

Since the last Council meeting, State management activities of fisheries under joint authority of the Council and the Alaska Board of Fisheries included: Crab and Troll Salmon. Additionally, trends in the rockfish fisheries are presented for your information.

**CRAB:** The Dutch harbor Brown king crab fishery opened on September 1 and closed November 15. - 1.4 million lbs were taken.

The St. Matthew Blue king crab opened September 16 through the 20th. -- 3.1 million lbs were harvested.

The Bristol Bay Red king crab fishery opened November 1 through the 8th. It is presently estimated that 17.3 million lbs were harvested. The Price was down considerably from the \$5.00/lb paid last year to \$3.00/lb this year.

The Adak red and Brown king crab season opened November 1 and has produced a catch through the 24th of November of: 520,000 pounds of red and 255,000 pounds of brown king crab.

The C. bairdi fishery opened on November 15th with a Guideline Harvest Level (GHL) of 32.8 million lbs.

**TROLL SALMON:** The winter troll salmon fishery opened on October 1. The catch to date for the first portion of 1991 season is 23,000 kings. This compares to a catch of 19,551 taken last year at this time. Fishing effort is up slightly over last year, but less than that observed in 1987 or 1988. The highest catches occurred in District 114.

The portion of the catch which was Alaskan hatchery component was 17.9%, or about 4,100 kings. This amount is above the historic average, but slightly less than last winter.

**ROCKFISH:** The longline portion of the Dermersal Shelf Rockfish fishery has remained closed since July 8, when the halibut PSC cap was reached. On reviewing landings of other rockfish, we have noted a dramatic increase in the catch of Black Rockfish, a species presently part of the Pelagic Shelf complex. This harvest occurs within the nearshore waters of the Gulf of Alaska. The greatest increases have occurred around Kodiak Island, within state waters. As a result of this dramatic increase, the state, through the Plan Team process, is recommending separate TAC's for Black Rockfish.

**LINGCOD:** Though the Council does not manage lingcod, it may be of interest to you that the state has implemented the first ever closure on this species. We closed lingcod when the upper end of the Guideline Harvest Level established by the Board of Fisheries for lingcod was reached on November 27th.

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