



**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME JUNE 1999
REPORT TO THE NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT
COUNCIL**

Fisheries managed under delegated authority to the State of Alaska since the last council meeting include crab, salmon, demersal shelf rockfish, and state waters Pacific cod.

BERING SEA/ALEUTIAN ISLANDS KING AND TANNER CRAB FISHERIES: Since the last report, only the Bering Sea *C. opilio* Community Development Quota (CDQ) and two golden king crab fisheries have been conducted. The CDQ fishery concluded on May 31 and their fleet of 23 vessels harvested 9.670 million pounds of a 9.674 million pound quota. Processors paid an average of \$0.84 per pound for CDQ snow crabs yielding a total fishery value of \$8.1 million; this is a 42% increase in value over the 1998 fishery. During the 1999 season, observer coverage was reduced from the 100% level required in 1998 to one observer per group. The reduced coverage level had mixed success.

The Aleutian Islands golden king crab fishery continues, though only two vessels remain fishing from a larger initial fleet. Through May 29, harvest in the area west of 174° west longitude is 1.4 million pounds of a 2.7 million pounds GHL. The average weight of legal crabs is 4.1 pounds and processors are paying \$2.00 per pound. The fishery will close on August 31 by regulation if the GHL is not reached.

The Bering Sea golden king crab fishery is also currently underway. Three vessels fishing the Pribilof District have harvested approximately 125,000 pounds with an average weight of four pounds. Processors are paying approximately \$2.40 per pound for Bering Sea golden king crabs and much of this product has been shipped from Dutch Harbor live. The department has recently developed a GHL of 200,000 pounds for this fishery. At the current harvest rate the fishery should close near the end of June.

SALMON TROLL FISHERY: The Southeast Alaska winter troll fishery was conducted from October 11, 1998 through April 14, 1999, and harvested about 30,800 chinook salmon. The Alaska hatchery contribution to the winter catch was an estimated 2,180 fish. The spring troll fisheries, which target Alaska hatchery chinook salmon, began May 3 and continue through June 30. As of June 1, about 3,600 fish were harvested, with approximately 50% of these from Alaskan hatcheries.

SOUTHEAST ALASKA DEMERSAL SHELF ROCKFISH AND OTHER GROUND FISH

FISHERIES: Between April 16 and May 31, 1999; the total number of pounds (round weight) landed by fishery in the Southeast District was 80,782 pounds of DSR, 1,243 pounds of black rockfish, 166,566 pounds of other rockfish, 525 pounds of pelagic shelf rockfish and 40,514 pounds of Pacific cod. The directed fishery for lingcod in state waters opened May 16, 1999 and 125,127 pounds of lingcod have been landed.

STATE OF ALASKA PACIFIC COD FISHERIES: The State water P. cod fisheries in the Central and Western Gulf of Alaska opened after the closure of the federal P. cod fisheries. The following is an update through June 1, 1999.

Prince William Sound The Prince William Sound Area GHLL is 0.930 million pounds. This is 25% of the Eastern Gulf P. cod TAC. The state waters fishery opened at noon March 21 and the harvest taken by both pot and jig gear is 267,000 pounds from 3 vessels in 14 landings.

Cook Inlet The Cook Inlet Area GHLL is 2.6 million pounds, which equates to 2.25% of the Central Gulf P. cod TAC. The guideline is split equally between pot and jig gear. The state waters fishery opened at noon March 21 and harvest is 1.32 million pounds through May 28. The harvest by gear type is 1.2 million pounds from 14 vessels fishing pot gear and 0.1 million pounds from 12 vessels fishing jig gear. Fishing with pot gear is closed by regulation and will reopen June 15. The jig fishery will remain open until the allocation is taken.

Kodiak The Kodiak Area GHLL is 11.7 million pounds, which is 10% of the Central Gulf P. cod TAC. The guideline is split equally between pot and jig gear. The fishery opened on March 21, and the harvest through May 31 is 7.9 million pounds. Fifty nine pot vessels harvested 6.2 million pounds and pot gear closed on April 29. Ninety two jig vessels are registered and the cumulative harvest is 1.68 million pounds. Jig activity is expected to continue throughout the summer with pot gear again allowed after September 1.

Chignik The Chignik area GHLL is 8.2 million pounds, or 7% of the Central Gulf P. cod TAC. The guideline is allocated 85 percent to pot gear and 15 percent to jig gear. The season opened on April 15. Thirty two pot vessels have harvested 6.0 million pounds. Twelve jig vessels are registered and have taken 140,000 pounds. Jig and pot fishing are expected to continue through the summer.

South Alaska Peninsula The South Alaska Peninsula Area GHLL is 13.0 million pounds, or 20% of the Western Gulf cod TAC. The guideline is allocated 85 percent pot gear and 15 percent jig gear. The South Alaska Peninsula Area closed for pot gear on April 11, 1999. Fifty three pot vessels harvested 11.0 million pounds. Thirteen jig vessels have taken 230,000 pounds. Jig fishing is expected to continue through the summer.