



ship

to shore

Halibut catch update

KETCHIKAN (KDN) — Commercial longline fishermen participating in the 2010 halibut fishing season have landed about 3.575 million pounds of the flatfish in Area 2C (Southeast Alaska) since the fishery opened on March 6, according to the NOAA Fisheries Service.

The total landed catch as of Friday represents about 81 percent of the overall quota of 4.4 million pounds.

About 825,000 pounds remain to be harvested by the end of the season on Nov. 15.

Sitka, Juneau and Petersburg have posted the largest landings this season, at about 1.73 million, 1.48 million and 1.20 million pounds, respectively.

About 162,000 pounds of commercially-caught halibut had been landed in Ketchikan as of Friday, according to NOAA Fisheries.

ASMI overseas

KETCHIKAN (KDN) — The Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute has been busy with a series of promotions overseas.

In Europe, ASMI participated in the Aug. 22 Urban BBQ in Brussels, Belgium, an annual event that draws up to 10,000 people and features chefs from a variety of famed restaurants.

ASMI-hired chefs prepared Alaska sockeye salmon during the Urban BBQ, and ASMI recipes were featured on the event's Web site, according to ASMI.

Italy's Gruppo Pam supermarket chain is featuring fresh Alaska king salmon in 51 of its northern Italy stores this summer through early September, according to ASMI.

Over in China, 10 of the high-end, import specialist City Shop outlets in Beijing and Shanghai are promoting Alaska sockeye salmon and snow crab.

There's also an ongoing promotion of Alaska seafood at five Beijing outlets of the Ole Supermarket chain.

Alaska products being promoted include pink salmon, king crab and Pacific cod, according to ASMI.

SEAFAC testing set

KETCHIKAN (KDN) — The U.S. Navy will conduct noise measurement operations Tuesday through Friday in Western Behm Canal at the Southeast Alaska Acoustic Measurement Facility.

Because outside interference from local shipping and boating activity prevents successful testing, SEAFAC will restrict and coordinate marine traffic in Behm Canal during the testing.

Local mariners wanting to transit Behm Canal during SEAFAC operations should contact the SEAFAC trial director on marine VHF radio channel 12 or 16 at call sign "SEAFAC control."

When actual noise measurements are being taken, amber beacons at the laboratory on Back Island and on one of the site barges in Behm Canal will be illuminated. Vessels within sight of the beacon should go dead in the water and idle or stop their engines until the beacon is extinguished at the end of the noise measurement, according to Michael S. Bass of the Naval Surface Warfare Center in Silverdale, Wash.

For further information, contact the SEAFAC site manager on Back Island or write to NAVSURFUR-FWARCEN DET Puget Sound, 7131 Sealion Road, Silverdale, WA 98315.

Carp wallops racer

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — A fish out of water sent a Texas kayaker onto dry land instead of the finish line at an annual Missouri River endurance race.

Houston resident Brad Pennington was considered one of the favorites among men's solo racers in the Missouri River 340, a canoe and kayak race that began Aug. 25 in Kansas City, Kan. At least until a 30-pound Asian silver carp jumped from the water and hit him in the head. The fish are known to panic and jump in response to passing vessels.

"It felt like a brick hit me,"

See 'Ship to Shore,' page B-7

First delivery of farmed geoducks made

By SCOTT BOWLEN
Daily News Staff Writer

History was made Aug. 27 when the boat Knightrider arrived at the Trident/Silver Lining Seafoods dock in Ketchikan, carrying a small plastic crate filled with geoduck clams.

The clams were the first batch of all farm-raised geoducks from Southeast Alaska to cross the docks, according to Kurt Morin, co-owner of Alaska Shellfish.

"That was the first time that clams planted on the farms and grown to mature product were shipped out of Alaska," he said.

Morin and Tyler Zaugg accompanied the geoducks to the dock, where they were met by Lorraine Vercessi, assistant mariculture coordinator of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

Vercessi took photos and measurements of clams, most of which were between 5 years and 6 years old, and weighed between 1.6 pounds and 2 pounds.

"It's almost the perfect size," Morin said later. "The market likes them at 1.8 to 2.5 (pounds), but they give you the best money for 1.8-to-tvos, right around the 2-pound average."

Morin said the farmed geoducks generally have whiter, thinner shells than the wild-stock clams.

"They haven't spent years putting shell weight on," he said. "They've been spending their time growing."

Fish and Game is interested in collecting data about the farmed clams, according to Cynthia Pring-Ham, mariculture coordinator for Fish and Game.

"We are still in the infancy (of geoduck farming)," she said. "We don't

have a lot of data."

Among the areas of interest is gathering enough data to compile a chart for determining the approximate age of a farmed geoduck based on the length of its shell, according to Pring-Ham.

Southeast Alaska has nine intertidal and 16 subtidal mariculture farm sites permitted.

The Alaska Shellfish clams delivered Aug. 27 were from one of the subtidal farm sites.

"This is just a great event for us, because it actually is working, and up to this point, we didn't know whether that culture method in subtidal would work," Pring-Ham said.

In that regard, the delivery of farmed Southeast Alaska geoducks to market represents a milestone achievement for Morin and the handful of other geoduck farmers who've been working to establish a geoduck mariculture industry here for more than a decade.

There is an existing commercial dive harvest fishery for wild-stock geoducks found in a variety of areas around southern Southeast Alaska and Sitka.

Starting geoduck mariculture here hasn't been easy.

The farmers, most of whom have had a background in commercial harvest diving, have long faced opposition from commercial harvest divers and the department — primarily over the issue of whether farmers could harvest wild-stock clams from farm sites and if so, how much.

The wild-stock issue now is resolved, mostly following regulatory changes, legal action and a series of commercial harvests of wild-stock



Kurt Morin of Alaska Shellfish shows a sample of his company's farmed geoduck clams on Aug. 27 at the Trident/Silver Lining Seafoods dock in Ketchikan. It was the first shipment of all-farmed geoducks from Southeast Alaska

Staff photo by Hall Anderson

clams from farm sites.

There's also been the infrastructure issue of trying to obtain adequate seed to plant at farm sites.

At present, the geoduck seed for

farms in Southeast comes from a single source, the Alutiiq Pride Shellfish Hatchery in Seward.

Morin said he hasn't been able to plant geoducks in 2009 or 2010

because of difficulties in obtaining seed.

"It remains our number-one problem," he said.

See 'Farmed geoducks,' page B-7

POW derby king hits 69.2 pounds

By Daily News Staff

Jeff Brown was beaming when he brought a photo of a king salmon to the Daily News office recently.

It wasn't just any king salmon.

It was the 69.2-pound king salmon that Brown had caught July 31 near Noyes Island off the southwest coast of Prince of Wales Island.

And, it was the biggest fish landed in the 2010 Craig and Klawock Annual King Salmon Derby.

It was, as Brown said, "the fish of a lifetime."

Brown, of Klamath Falls, Ore., is a regular summer guest at the Log Cabin Resort in Klawock, according to the resort's Skip Fabry.

At 5 a.m. on July 31, Brown and his friend, Dave Feske, had set out aboard Brown's boat, the Biopsea, for a salmon fishing trip to the Noyes Island area.

The main target was cohos, Brown wrote in a story about the trip.

By 10:30 a.m., they'd caught 10 salmon, one of which was a 20-pound king.

"At 11:15 a.m. I set the hook on an aggressive bite and the rod bent over and stayed down while the fish sounded and thrashed," Brown wrote.

About 200 feet of line spooled out within 30 seconds and the fish was gaining momentum, wrote Brown, who directed Feske to reel in his line.

Brown knew the fish was big — and that the chase was on.

The fish headed toward the kelp early, so Brown used his trolling motor to move the boat and the fish in that direction.

"Like a dog on a leash, he pulled the opposite and headed for open water," Brown wrote.

An hour later and two miles away from the hook-up spot, the fish started to rise from his "300-foot comfort zone," Brown wrote. It surfaced, showing its tail and dorsal fin.

Huge fish.



Jeff Brown hoists the 69.2-pound king salmon that he caught July 31 near Noyes Island on his boat. The fish won the second portion of the Craig and Klawock Annual King Salmon Derby.

Photo courtesy of Jeff Brown

Brown asked Feske how many big fish he'd netted.

"None," Feske replied.

Time to learn.

The fish sounded again while Feske made some practice sweeps with the boat's big net under Brown's direction.

About three miles from the hook-up spot, the king was "floundering on the surface about 10 yards from the boat," Brown wrote.

"OK," Brown told Feske. "Game on. Here we go. When he is sideways or belly-up, put his head in the bottom of the net, lift, and I will grab the rim of the net and lift him in."

It happened fast.

"Bam!" wrote Brown. "It all went well and the hog fish was in the boat."

Brown headed back to the Petro Marine dock in Craig, where the fish weighed in at 69.2 pounds.

The resort's Fabry said she recalls that the fish was 32 inches around at the belly.

In his story, Brown credited his "fish of a lifetime" catch to the absence of wind, orcas and sea lions — and the presence of a good leader and a "pot full of luck."

He thanked Feske for the good net technique, and the Prince of Wales Hatchery Association for "making it all possible."

POWHA sponsors the derby every year, according to Dan Goodness, the new manager of the association.

The Craig & Klawock Annual King Salmon Derby actually has two parts, each with its own set of winners.

Charles Hanson won the May 1-June 30 portion of the derby with a 58.3-pound king, according to derby information.

Gabe Rygaard placed second with a 56.3-pounder, followed by Theresa Mackey with a 47.6-pound king.

Brown easily earned the top spot in the July 1-Aug. 15 portion of the

See 'POW king,' page B-7

Where's it going?

Ocean trash pile not growing

By RANDOLPH E. SCHMID

AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON — The amount of plastic trash in the ocean doesn't seem to be growing, and environmentalists are puzzled.

A 22-year study indicates that the amount of plastic corralled by currents into a floating junkyard in the Atlantic Ocean has not increased.

"We know that global production of plastics has increased substantially over the time period" and disposal also has increased, said Kara Lavender Law of the Sea Education Association in Woods Hole, Mass.

"If there is more plastic trash it's hard to believe more is not making it into the ocean. There is missing plastic out there," she said in a telephone interview.

Over the course of the study more than 64,000 individual plastic pieces were collected at 6,100 locations that were sampled, Law and colleagues report in Thursday's online edition of the journal Science.

Researchers worry about plastic in the oceans because it can endanger seabirds, turtles and other sea life which eat it, or become entangled. A floating trash field also has been reported in the Pacific Ocean.

While the researchers found significant year-to-year changes in the amount of plastic in the Atlantic, averaging over time they found no significant increase.

The annual trips to the Atlantic junkyard use plankton nets to skim the surface, collecting tiny pieces, and students then pick out the plastic pieces with tweezers.

The exact expanse of the Atlantic trash field has not been determined, Law said. It is located in the Atlantic

See 'Ocean trash,' page B-7

SOUTHEAST ALASKA COMMERCIAL FISHERIES NEWS

Gillnet continues

KETCHIKAN (KDN) — The commercial gillnet fishery for salmon will continue fishing Sunday in several areas of Southeast Alaska, according to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

Parts of Sections 1-B (Tree Point) and 11-B will open from 12:01 p.m. Sunday through noon Thursday, according to the department.

Portions of District 6 and 8 will open from 12:01 p.m. Sunday through noon Wednesday.

Section 15-C and part of Section 15-A will be open from 12:01 p.m. Sunday through noon Tuesday.

Restrictions apply. For further

information, contact Fish and Game.

Seine openings set

KETCHIKAN (KDN) — The com-

mercial purse seine fishing fleet will have the opportunity to fish for fall chum salmon Tuesday in two fishing areas in Southeast Alaska, according to

the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Part of Section 9-B will open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday, according to the department.

Part of Section 13-B will open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday. Restrictions apply. For further information, contact Fish and Game.

Commercial Purse Seine Catches							Aug. 29-30
Area	King	Red	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total	
Dist. 1	0	250	4,000	48,000	13,000	65,250	
Dist. 2	5	800	6,500	75,000	28,000	110,305	
Dist. 3	5	100	200	9,000	3,000	12,305	
Dist. 4	50	300	1,000	7,000	800	9,150	
Dist. 13-B	0	0	20	34,000	8,000	42,020	
TOTAL	60	1,450	11,720	173,000	52,800	239,030	

Source: Alaska Department of Fish and Game preliminary estimates compiled Aug. 31

Commercial Gillnet Catches							Week of Aug. 29-Sept. 4
Area	King	Red	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total	
Tree Point	10	400	7,000	20,000	9,000	36,410	
District 6	20	550	22,000	11,000	7,050	40,620	
District 8	10	25	2,700	320	240	3,295	
District 11	5	300	9,000	10	1,100	10,415	
District 15	5	6,700	5,900	375	10,100	23,080	
TOTAL	50	7,975	46,600	31,705	27,490	113,820	

Source: Alaska Department of Fish and Game preliminary estimates compiled Sept. 2