

January 29, 2016

Dan Hull, Chairman
North Pacific Fisheries Management Council
605 W 4th Av., Suite 305
Anchorage, AK 99501-2252

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

Chairman Hull,
Please accept this annual report regarding SeaShare's participation in the donation of bycaught salmon and halibut in the BSAI and GOA trawl fisheries.

Background:

SeaShare worked with fishermen, processors, and NMFS to establish the Prohibited Species Donation Program. The pilot program began in 1993. Since then, we've reclaimed 4.2 million pounds of fish that would otherwise have been thrown overboard. SeaShare remains the only organization authorized by NMFS to retain and distribute PSC fish for hunger-relief.



Kodiak Food Bank

2015 Distribution and Volumes

482,165 pounds of PSC salmon
48,285 pounds of PSC halibut

Of that total, 182,000 pounds were donated in Alaska.
SeaShare has donated over 630,000 pounds of fish in Alaska over the last 3 years. That equates to 2.5 million servings of high protein seafood.

Partners:

- NMFS: SeaShare is authorized by NMFS to receive Prohibited Species Catch from the BSAI and GOA.
- Fishermen: We enlist fishermen, processors, and downstream service providers to efficiently handle donated fish.
- Funders: SeaShare also solicits funding from corporations, foundations, and individuals to support the costs involved.
- Food Banks: Feeding America's national network of food banks provide safe handling and distribution to hungry families. We also qualify additional food banks and feeding centers in remote communities, to expand the distribution network in Alaska.

The 2015 list of participants and donors includes:

- ❖ 138 Fishing boats
- ❖ 34 At-Sea processors
- ❖ 15 Shore Plants
- ❖ 8 Receiving agencies in Alaska
- ❖ Feeding America's national network of food banks
- ❖ 22 other companies (cold storage, freight, packaging, etc.)
- ❖ 42 Financial donors (corporations and foundations)
- ❖ The Western Alaska Community Development Association (WACDA) and its six CDQ members



Nov 2015 – steaking salmon at Unisea, Redmond WA

Alaska Locations that received our seafood include:

Anchorage	Kenai
Juneau	Nome
Cordova	Kotzebue
Fairbanks	Galena

The Kawerak Corp in Nome sent PSC fish on to: Diomedea, Savoonga, Gambell and Wales.

The Maniilaq Association and NANA Corp in Kotzebue distributed fish to the villages of: Deering, Buckland, Selawik, Kiana, Ambler, Kobuk, Shungnak, Noorvik, Noatak and Kivalina.

SeaShare continues to look for other agencies in Alaska (with affordable freight options) to receive and distribute donated seafood. We've made progress over the last three years, expanding the network of qualified food banks and feeding centers in more communities. The largest obstacle remains the limitations of shipping and storage outside the major population centers.

We are now working on a distribution project in Western Alaska. The plan is to install freezers in 4 or 5 hub villages, to accept larger quantities shipped via surface freight - reducing costs and improving distribution of seafood (a traditional source of protein for native Alaskans) throughout Western AK. We have grant \$ from the *Terry Shaff memorial Fund* to support the implementation, and will start in Dillingham.

Downstream costs

- Fishermen and processors donate their time to retain, clean and freeze fish for us.
- SeaShare then recruits additional partners to receive, store, re-process (sort, trim, steak, glaze, pack), and ship finished products to food banks and feeding centers at minimal cost.
- Generous financial donors in Alaska supported the average cost of \$.49 per pound to process, store, and distribute PSC donations in Alaska at 0 cost to the agencies.
- SeaShare also worked with Feeding America food banks to distribute over 300,000 pounds of PSC outside Alaska in 2015. Those food banks provided the additional financial support needed to utilize all of the available fish.
- In all, we spent over \$200,000 in FY 2015 on the Prohibited Species Donation Program (not including overhead).



Summary

SeaShare does not advocate for bycatch. All of our fishing partners work to minimize bycatch as much as possible. All boats are encouraged to throw back any salmon or halibut that might survive. We do recognize the value that PSC fish have, and our donors go to great lengths to make them available for hunger-relief.

The Prohibited Species Donation Program has been an important source of protein to food banks for over 20 years. Many of the boats and processors in Alaska also donate other, non-PSC fish throughout the year. They want to support their communities by sharing the nutritional benefits that quality seafood offers. SeaShare will continue to combine and coordinate the generosity of our seafood partners to achieve maximum benefit for hungry Americans. Please contact us if you have questions about the program, or ideas for improving it. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Jim Harmon,
Executive Director

cc: SeaShare board of directors
ADF&G
WACDA

Attachment: letter from Diomedea