

DUNGENESS CRAB FISHERY IN 1988-1989

Total Dungeness crab landings for the Pacific coast were 53.0 million pounds, about 5.1 million pounds more than 1987-88 and 15.8 million pounds above the long-term average. Production from coastal Washington, Oregon and northern California was 42.3 million pounds, 11.8 million pounds above last season and 15.8 million more than the long-term average. Crab condition was poor off Washington and northern Oregon and exvessel price for the area at 1.00. From Newport south the price was 1.25.

ALASKA

Landings were 7.6 million pounds, 2.5 million pounds below 1988. Production from the five main areas was: Kodiak, 3.1; Southeast, 1.9; Yakutat, 1.7; Prince William Sound, 0.6; and Cook Inlet, 0.2 million pounds, respectively. Kodiak showed an increase in catch while most other areas showed decreases.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Incomplete records show that 3.1 million pounds were landed, an increase of 16% over 1988. Catches were slightly improved in all areas.

WASHINGTON

The coastal fishery produced 21.9 million pounds, an all-time record high and surpassed the previous high of 18.4 million pounds set in 1968-69. Crab condition was poor until late December and most buyers put boats on limits or stopped buying for a time. Landings for December, January and February were 3.9, 6.2 and 4.6 million pounds, respectively. An influx of boats from California and Oregon increased fleet size to a record 2.0 boats. The exvessel price opened at \$1.00 and gradually increased to \$1.30. The Puget Sound fishery produced 2.0 million pounds about 2% above the average of the past 10 seasons.

OREGON

Landings were 11.2 million pounds up from 8.7 million pounds in 1987-88 and 2.6 million pounds above the long-term average of 8.6 million pounds. Crab condition was poor off northern Oregon early in the season and greatly affected the exvessel price. The price opened at \$1.25 for all ports except Astoria and ranged from \$0.50 to \$2.00 with an average price of \$1.15 for most crab. There were 342 boats in the fleet.

CALIFORNIA

Landings were 9.2 million pounds up from 8.7 million pounds last year. Landings for the northern parts of Crescent City, Trinidad, Eureka and Fort Bragg were 5.4, 0.9, 1.3 and 0.2 million pounds, respectively. Production in Crescent City was nearly double that of 1987-88. There were 318 boats in the fleet and made 5,436 trips. Exvessel price was opened at \$1.25.

The San Francisco/Bodega Bay fishery landed 1.4 million pounds, down nearly 50% from last season. There were 215 boats in the fleet.

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