

July 21, 2011

Provided by Dr. Katie Howard, ADF&G

Links regarding the salmon bycatch donation program:

- Currently SeaShare is the only organization currently permitted to accept bycatch salmon for donation. <http://www.seashare.org/>
- While information on individual processors' participation in the program cannot be provided by NMFS due to confidentiality issues, SeaShare has some donor information on their web site. <http://www.seashare.org/Seashare-Donors.htm>
- All processors of GOA pollock (which, by regulation, must be delivered shore side) have agreed to participate in SeaShare
- The regulations for the program are at 50 CFR 679.26 <http://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/regs/679b26.pdf>
- NMFS posts the notices for the donation program on the web site at: <http://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/index/notice/notices.asp?Yr=2011> under Prohibited Species Donation Program

Some more info....

Chris Stark with Bering Sea Fisherman's Association is currently working on trying to increase participation of the fleet in the program, and working towards getting more of those donations to Alaska. Here's additional info he sent:

- SeaShare is presently distributing about 10% of the bycatch to food banks in PNW region.
- All Mothership and some of catcher/sea processor bycatch (10% of total) is kept on board (frozen whole) until the ship gets to Seattle (postseason). Sea Shares picks up and distributes.
- Chris is working on having the shore processors do the same, but to be delivered to Anchorage for Alaskan consumption/distribution
- Presently the remaining bycatch (90%) is hauled to Dutch Harbor (or some other Bering Sea shore processing location), run through the processing plant, commonly frozen, stored, then all is loaded up and dumped at sea
- Chris expects his work to expand bycatch fish donation to include all food-grade fish is about a year out, and it is likely that the groundfish fishery will pay the extra costs as a good-will initiative for their industry.