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## **MARKETS FOR ALASKA POLLOCK PRODUCTS**

Progress Report for Pollock Conservation Cooperative Research Center  
January 2004

### **Background**

This project was funded by the PCCRC in 2000 and received additional funding in 2001. The purpose of the project, as stated in the original proposal to PRC, was to prepare a description and analysis of markets for Alaska pollock products. The major product of the project was to be a report describing and analyzing markets for Alaska pollock products, including:

- Trends in Alaska pollock production, end-markets, trade and prices
- Key factors affecting Alaska pollock markets, including management changes, competing sources of supply, and changes in product demand
- Effects of the American Fisheries Act and the establishment of pollock cooperatives on markets for pollock products
- Potential market effects of future changes in Alaska pollock harvests, production and management
- Other factors which may affect pollock markets in the future
- Major market issues currently faced by the industry
- Priorities for future research relating to pollock markets

Another product was to be a database of historical and current pollock market information, to be posted on the Internet, and to be kept current with funding to be sought from other sources. The long-term goals of the project were to provide reference and educational tools for industry and fishery managers, to provide analysis of market issues of current importance to industry, and to facilitate consideration of market effects in analysis of the impacts of management decisions affecting Alaska pollock.

I provided written and oral reports about this project to the PCCRC in January 2002 and January 2003.

## **Current Progress Status**

As I reported to the PCCRC at the time, this project was mostly completed by January 2002. At that time the following had been accomplished:

- Analysis and understanding of available sources of pollock market data
- Compilation of an extensive historical database of pollock market data
- Development of tables and charts for describing and analyzing trends in pollock markets
- Preparation of most of a report on “Markets for Alaska Pollock Products”

What remained to be done was to complete the draft report, circulate it for comments, and prepare a final report.

As I reported to the PCCRC in January 2003, I was not able to complete the final work for the project during 2002, due to an overload of other commitments. I stated that I definitely planned to complete the report, and would do so as soon as possible. I stated that I could not provide a specific completion date—due to my uncertainty about other work obligations—but that I would try to complete the report by the summer of 2003.

However, I have still not completed the report. The difficult work-overload situation which I described in January 2003 continued throughout the year, primarily because of my responsibilities as an expert witness in a major court case which occupied essentially all of my time between January and May and left me behind on other ongoing responsibilities.

Over the year I have continued to collect and maintain up-to-date pollock market data. The University continued to subscribe to (at its own cost) and monitor several important proprietary data sources for tracking pollock market conditions, including FAO Globefish (associate membership), Japan-based Seafood News, the Japan-based Fisheries Information Service, and Urner-Barry’s Seafood Price Current (at a combined annual cost of approximately \$3500). I am not aware of any other public agency which subscribes to all of these data sources.

## **Plans for Completing Project**

As I stated to the PCCRC in January 2003, the delay in completing this project has been particularly frustrating to me because (1) I have invested a great deal of work in this project and need only a small additional amount of work to complete it; (2) I am very interested in the topic of Pollock markets and am very anxious to continue working on it; and (3) I greatly appreciate the support of PCCRC and want the project to be successful.

Clearly this project needs to be completed as soon as possible. To do this, I will work with the PCCRC’s designated representative to finish an updated, current report according to the following schedule:

- March 31, 2004      Completion of draft report and provide it to three or more selected reviewers (as requested by the PCCRC representative)
- May 31, 2004      Completion of the final report, based on reviewer comments
- TBA                      One or more public presentations on markets for Alaska pollock, as requested by the PCCRC representative
- TBA                      Discussions with industry and NMFS on how the University can best assist in providing pollock market data and analysis

I am prepared at any time to provide pollock market data to members of the industry and to NMFS upon request, both in their original format and as tables or graphics showing specific trends.