

November Market Report

The Alaska halibut fishery is in its final few weeks. As of now, roughly 97% of the year's quota has been taken. With poor weather in Alaska, it is unlikely all of the year's quota will be taken.

FROZEN WILD SALMON



CHUM SALMON

The 2011 Alaska chum season is over. Despite a strong preseason forecast of 19.4 million fish, and good early production in Prince William Sound, the runs in other parts of the state fizzled and came up well short of anticipated levels.

Currently, all sizes and grades of frozen chum are available. Volumes are not large of any one grade/spec.

The shortfall of chum in Alaska has raised the bar on pricing. This has caused a commotion in some markets, but product continues to move. Don't expect any more upside to frozen markets. Coho's are short, so there is nothing to bridge the gap between chum and sockeye. The big issue will be falling atlantic prices, which are already eroding some fresh chum business..

Those looking for chum salmon from other world fisheries have been disappointed thus far. Chum fisheries in Canada's Johnstone Strait are just getting underway to mixed results, and the Puget Sound chum fishery is poised to begin mid-month.



COHO SALMON

The 2011 Alaska coho fishery is also done for the season. Like the chum fishery, it has also been a disappointment. ADF&G forecast a decent run for the year. However, catch faltered seriously in all catch areas and for all gear types. Even though some post-season adjustments are likely from ADF&G, this season will be a grim one. With good numbers forecast, and traditionally weak frozen markets, many coho sellers moved early fish to fresh markets in an effort of minimizing the downside risk of frozen markets.

Troll coho inventories are virtually nonexistent, with the exception of small pockets of 2-4# fish. Troll fish were

especially small this year. There are small pockets of 2-4# Net Coho fish and offgrades, but virtually no #1 4/+ fish available on the open market.



SOCKEYE SALMON

The 2011 Alaska sockeye fishery is over. Catch came up short of forecast.

Across the state, fisheries in Kodiak, Chignik, Cook Inlet and Prince William Sound produced more fish than expected, while fisheries in Bristol Bay and areas in Alaska Peninsula/Aleutian Districts underperformed.

H&G sockeye and sockeye fillets are tight commodities, with H&G fish selling briskly in Japan, the US, and Europe. It is the same story with fillets, though most fish has moved to US markets. The sockeye market This year, there will not be a big Fraser River run to save the day with such unanticipated supply. Look for a very strong market tone through the fall and winter.

FRESH WILD SALMON

The wild salmon season is slowing. The sockeye and pink runs are over for 2011. Most troll king fisheries are over for this year also, but some net kings are still available from Oregon and Washington. Late-season cohos maybe available from terminal areas of the Columbia and from Native fishers from Northern Washington. Prices remain firm due to poor catch this year as buyers scramble to fulfill winter needs. Chums will still be available as well.

FRESH FARMED SALMON



ATLANTICS: With the gradual decrease of weekly wild salmon availability, farmed Atlantic pricing and volume have begun rise. Most domestic producers will have available all.



STEELHEAD: Chilean season has just begun. Both availability and demand are expected to build from different market segments as people see these as an excellent alternative to Atlantic fillets.



KINGS: Great values are available with New Zealand kings, and volumes are readily available to the domestic market.

FROZEN FARMED SALMON



There is a return but slow of Chilean atlantic ssalmon to the marketplace. The fishery has almost fully regained its strength in the market. Stateside inventories in the US and Chile are gaining.

Соно

The Chilean coho season is underway. A vast majority of the coho harvest is going to Japan, with product coming to the US on a per-order basis only.



ALASKAN COD

The 2011 Gulf of Alaska Cod season has concluded. Most of the remaining headed and gutted cod is from our Alitak location and is high quality "jig-caught



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IMPORTS



YELLOWFIN TUNA

Longline yellowfin tuna landings continue to be low, but yellowfin catch from the purse seine fleet remains stable. Supply of yellowfin products is low, but stable.



ALBACORE TUNA

Landings and pricing of aalbacore remain the same. Increased demand for albacore in the United States.



Swordfish is hard to find in South America and Asia. Swordfish usually is in abundance in the winter months, but that is not the case right now. Prices are strong and increasing.

The Maria Dianne Currently the boats up north are tied up due to low prices and rough seas so prices heading into next week should start to climb. We should be back into heavy sword production right after Thanksgiving so plan your promotions accordingly



TILAPIA

It is winter time in southern China. The weather is getting colder and colder, and fish in ponds is growing more slowly now. Plants are busy packing orders, but sizing has shifted away from 5-7 oz, and 7-9 oz. to higher ratios of 3-5 oz. fillets. Price for larger size portions will rise through the winter months due to a general lack of availability.

FRESH FISH



NORTHERN GROUND FISH

Nothing available right now with high seas and bad weather up north fishing has been poor with many of the boats up and down the coast tied up.

Farmed Catfish & Trout



Farmed Cat: Availability remains to be good with full supply on all different styles carried. The price remains stable with no major changes in site. Depending on the winter weather in the

south we should remain consistent from here throughout.



Farmed Trout: Supply is good and available.

SHELLFISH



DUNGENESS CRAB

Severe shortages exist on dungeness crab, pushing prices up in recent weeks. New season replacement inventory is still two months out with the Northern California fleet- in the later part of November. After that, the Oregon and Washington fleets will take to the water.

Dungeness crab meat prices continue to go up with a majority of this past season's product getting used up to produce meat. Soft shell crab season is over with only dressed crabs available right now. Whole Cooked Dungeness are becoming available with prices starting out high due to cash buyers on the grounds bidding up prices. Dungeness crab season will start November 15th.



KING CRAB

While we still await the announcement for the Bering Sea King crab quotas, speculation is that this year's quota could be lower by up to 35%. In Russia, fishing effort has already begun with reduced quotas and catch rates well behind historical levels. Gold King crab fishing has started out of Alaska.



Recent sales have been reported on export markets out of the Canadian opilio inventory. With export demand slowing Canadian packers are nervous about having too much stock should the Alaska 2012 Opilio quota increase as speculated. Although it's not official, the early season survey is positive for the Alaska opilio stock and word is that in Jan 2012 season could see as much as a 25% increase over last year's.



Lobsters: Canadian hard shell lobsters are starting to become available along with some firm shell Maine lobsters. Meat to shell should be getting better as we move through the fall. Prices are holding steady no changes for this week. West Coast Spiny lobsters are being landed sporadically. While the quality is one of the best around the price continues to push over \$20.00 per pound.

SHRIMPMEAT

Eastern Canada

The cold-water shrimp fishing season in Eastern Canada is done for the year. Due to poor catch and reduced quotas, prices have been shot up. Primary only mid-size (125-175 and 150/250) sizes are available but at strong prices due to lack of other sizes.



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West Coast-CA/OR

PRAWNS

The west coast cold-water season will remain open thru October 31. Due to shortages of East Coast larger sizes new markets are substituting smaller West Coast product.



The shrimp market appears to be showing some signs of growth, after a quiet summer. With lower inventory and less production expected through the winter months, it is quite possible that we will see a stable market and even more possible that we will see some higher prices by the first of the New Year.



Eastern Sea Scallops

Scallops will be on the scarce side for the next week as these boats get back to fishing. Whatever boats have Closed Area trips left will be heading to the Hudson Canyon, because as of Nov 1st they are allowed back in. The quality we have been seeing from HC over the last several days has been very nice. The water has finally gotten cold enough to

the point that the scallops are starting to firm up and are not milking like they were. The meats are a creamy color(not dark like CA 1 & 2) and are very sweet.



Clams: All clams in full stock. I have not procured any cockles unless requested, but with New Zealand entering their spring the shelf life should be good.



Oysters: East Coast oysters are much like the clams developing full meats and preparing for the winter months. The Carlsbad Oysters are running too small to

harvest right now, but other than that all other types are in stock.



Mussels: Product is nice coming into the fall when all types will have full meats with hearty yields. The PEI's are still the mussel to beat, but our local Carlsbad product is giving it a run for its money. The Penn Cove mussels out of Washington have been running nice as well.

*** This publication is a compilation of contributions from American Fish Purchasing and our valued vendors.

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