



Rebuilding of Peter Pan Seafoods Port Moller Facility is in Full Swing

By Gary Johnson, PPSF Port Moller Plant Manager



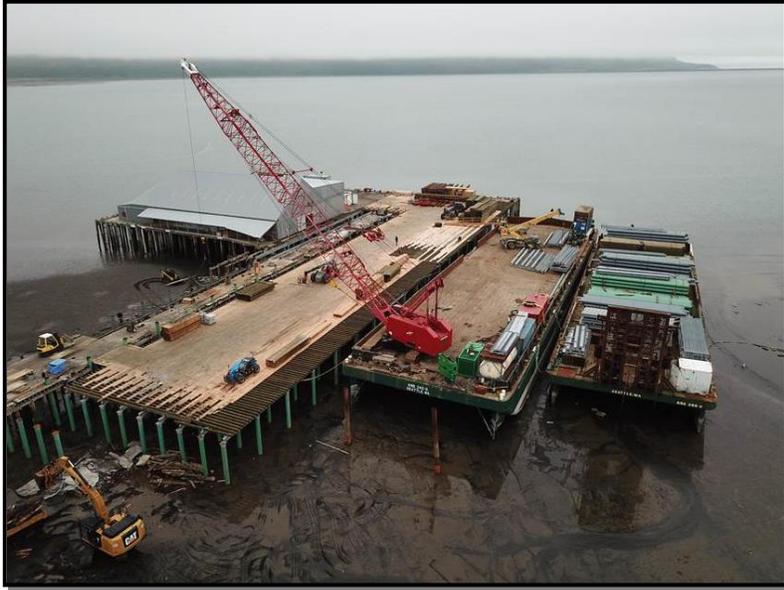
Reconstruction at Port Moller got off to a delayed start as the construction barges hit numerous delays in getting here due to poor weather this spring throughout the Gulf of Alaska. They finally arrived on May 14th, and since then, the contractor has made very good progress in getting the dock structure built. They fully expect to have the dock completed by the end of June, at which time the powerhouse building can be built, generators placed and the electrical

work can begin. The refrigeration plant will also be in this separate building shoreward of the processing plant.

Processing plant construction should begin in mid-July, with the shell up within four weeks. Then interior concrete, electric and refrigeration installation can commence. Major construction should be completed by the end of September or the first week in October, with initial installation of the processing equipment at that time.

Final installation of processing equipment and tuning up the powerhouse and refrigeration will take place in April and





May of 2019, with the plant ready to take fish in June. This will be a fully modern plant that is being built to significantly increase our daily throughput as well as increasing the production of value added products that Port Moller has become so well known for. We are excited to be involved in this significant investment that will be an asset to Peter Pan, the region and the North Peninsula fishery for a long time to come.



Photos courtesy: Gary Johnson, PPSF Port Moller Plant Manager

NPFMC in Kodiak - June 2018

By Ernie Weiss, Aleutians East Borough Natural Resources Director

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council met in Kodiak last week. The Council meets in Kodiak every third year in June, with the Council in the Convention Center, the Science & Statistical Committee (SSC) meeting in the Kodiak Inn Harbor Room and the Advisory Panel (AP) at the Elks Lodge. There is a fair amount of walking, biking or driving involved getting from meeting to meeting, but the weather was pleasant and the schedule packed.

Some of the highlights, besides the Kodiak reception Wednesday evening honoring outgoing Chair Dan Hull, are: electronic monitoring (EM), Bering Sea cod and Gulf of Alaska pollock and cod.

In the June electronic monitoring motion, the Council adopted the objectives submitted by the trawl EM Workgroup, for developing EM on trawl vessels: to improve salmon accounting; to reduce monitoring costs; and to improve monitoring data. The initial focus however, for using EM on trawl vessels will be for compliance purposes. In February, the Council made 'Full retention on WGOA pollock trawl CVs with EM compliance' the 3rd highest EM priority behind 'Full retention on AFA Pollock CVs with EM compliance' and 'Deck sorting of halibut Prohibited Species Catch (PSC) with EM for compliance monitoring'. Because funding for EM is a major obstacle, the Council encourages stakeholders to pursue grant funding to support field work in 2019.

A major topic of discussion in Kodiak centered on the Bering Sea trawl vessels increasing deliveries of Pacific cod to 'motherships' for processing offshore. The Council wants to limit the number of these offshore deliveries of cod by trawl catcher vessels to new AFA and AM 80 motherships and diminish the negative impacts to shore-based processors and communities.

For the discussion item Gulf of Alaska (GOA) Pollock and Cod Seasons, the Council established a purpose and need statement:

'Evaluation of the pollock and Pacific cod trawl fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska indicates the seasonal distribution of pollock and cod may create inefficiencies for participants and there may be opportunities to improve management of the fisheries. Modifying the seasons or seasonal allocations of pollock and cod could increase fishery yield, particularly for roe quality and quantity of pollock, management flexibility and potentially decrease prohibited species catch. The Council intends to improve prosecution of these fisheries while not re-distributing allocations of pollock or cod between management areas or participants. The Council understands that this action may have implications for Steller sea lion management measures and would be reviewed consistent with the Endangered Species Act.'

For GOA pollock, the Council is suggesting combining the A and B seasons and the C and D seasons, with 50% of the pollock going to the A/B season and 50% to the C/D season, with the potential to increase the amount of unharvested pollock that may be reallocated from one season to the following season. Options that would have increased the early season pollock allocation were scrapped as they would have resulted in overall pollock moving from areas 610 and 630 to area 620.

For GOA cod, the Council established options to increase to the early season allocation of cod from the current A/B season 60/40 split to options 65/35, 70/30 or 75/25 seasonal allocation of cod.

A complete summary of the June meeting will be posted with the [Council newsletters](#) when completed.

2018 Salmon Season Begins

By Ernie Weiss, Aleutians East Borough Natural Resources Director

Salmon fishing has started around the state. Area M fishermen, including at Nelson Lagoon, South Unimak and the Shumagin Islands, are delivering quality salmon to our shore-based plants. AEB Fishermen target red (sockeye) salmon in June, but also catch pinks, dogs (chum), kings (chinook) and silvers (coho).

In order to disincentivize the harvest of chum salmon in June, local processors working with fishermen have established ‘chum pools’.

In 1994, Area M fishermen and processors began a voluntary June chum pool because AYK region low chum salmon returns at that time were

being blamed on Area M fishermen taking too many chums. In order to discourage

Area M Salmon Harvest Summary		
COMMERCIAL SALMON HARVEST SUMMARY		
(INSEASON HARVEST ESTIMATES)		
Species	Daily Harvest	Total Through June 14, 2018
Chinook	12	2,522
Sockeye	3,361	304,241
Coho	0	28
Pink	21	47,538
Chum	449	123,963
TOTAL	3,843	478,292

Graphic courtesy: ADF&G's Daily Harvest Summary for Area M – 6/14/18.

Alaska Peninsula fishermen from targeting chum, area harvesters and processors decided that all chums caught in June would be pooled and vessels would receive an equal share of disbursements. Over the years, the chum pool has been refined so that the calculations are based on area, gear and time fished.

Seine and driftnet fishermen in the South Unimak and Shumagins have four 88-hour commercial fishing openings in June. This year, the last 88-hour opener in June for seine and drift ends at 10 p.m. on June 28th. The last June opener for setnetters ends June 29th. South Peninsula salmon fishing in July may begin July 6th, but for the Shumagin Islands section, it's dependent on results of an 'immature test fishery' by ADFG staff that applies to all species but pink salmon. The test sets will occur on July 2nd, 3rd and 5th aboard the F/V Kona Rose. Aleutians East Borough Resources staff will be on hand to observe the test fishery out of Sand Point.

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