

Weather:

Last week the weather forced all the boats into port creating a shortage of fish. Many boats managed to get back out this past weekend, but some smaller boats remained in port. NOAA is predicting Gale force winds for Wednesday through Thursday of this week with high seas, which will force most of the boats back into port. Expect landings to fall off at the end of this week and prices to rise.

Ground fish:

Most ground fish boats that are fishing will be heading back to port, to avoid being caught in the predicted bad weather for Wednesday through Thursday. The Canadian fleet has also had limited time on the fishing grounds and the boats will be heading in ahead of the storm. Expect a shortage of fish by this weekend with prices heading up again.

Scallops:

With limited landings since the last storm and another gale predicted for the middle of this week, scallop prices continue to rise. Landings from the Elephant trunk have stopped as the first boats that ventured into the Trunk found mostly small scallops on scattered beds. The boats have decided to wait until later in the winter or early spring to return when the scallops have grown and the beds are more productive. Landings of all other sizes remain very light and as mentioned prices continue to hover around the \$10.00 range for both 10/20 and 20/30 sizes.

Most Canadian boats remain tied up because of weather conditions and with more bad weather predicted landings will remain very light. The large offshore boats have had limited landings and much of the product has gone into production for the European markets.

The Peruvian scallop season has switched from Roe on scallops for the European market back to shucked meats for the US market, but prices being offered for December delivery are over \$5.00 for small sizes and \$6.00 for larger bay scallops. With demand high and other Bay scallops staying expensive, expect prices to rise as the Christmas holiday approaches.

Mexican scallops are also very scarce and frozen inventories are limited.

Philippine scallops are limited, but there is some inventory available at very high prices.

Japanese scallops from all areas continue to remain tight and very expensive. Production from all areas was down this year especially the larger sizes. The normal imports expected in December will not materialize this year as much of the Japanese scallops will remain in the home market. Expect prices to remain very high and availability tight until late next summer when the new season starts.

Chinese scallops are available, but inventories are low and the product being offered is at very high prices.

FAS Long Line Alaskan Cod:

Alaskan FAS long Line Cod landings have increased as many boats have offloaded their catch before heading back out. There will be a slow down in the fishing effort over Thanksgiving, but supply should remain strong into the New Year.

Halibut:

East coast halibut boats are still tied up waiting for a good stretch of weather before heading back out. Halibut will begin to spawn in a couple of weeks and the catch will drop off dramatically in December and part of January. Halibut generally do not take bait during spawning season and will spend time on the bottom spawning. The catch will be incidental and mostly from draggers as the fish will not take the baited hooks.

West coast halibut season has ended until March of 2011. Prices for frozen inventory are at record high numbers and inventories are limited.

Salmon:

Supply from East Coast farms in Maine and Canada have been steady and there should be adequate supply for the Thanksgiving demand.

The West Coast wild salmon season has ended with most areas reporting good or record landings for the season. As always there were some areas that did not produce the expected results, but overall the season was good. There has been some recent good news as there have been some strong returns of wild salmon in Northern California and Oregon that previously had poor runs.

Shellfish:

Supply has been erratic after the last storm with a number of areas closed due to runoff and pollution. Most areas have been opened again,

but with another storm predicted for the middle of the week, supply could become a problem by the weekend.

Swordfish:

Swordfish supply has tightened dramatically as most North East boats have tied up and the weather has prevented the Mid Atlantic boats from landing large volumes. As expected prices have risen as supply has dropped off. There has been some increased production from Gulf of Mexico and Central American suppliers, but not enough to keep prices down.

Tuna:

Tuna supply remains very limited for fresh wild caught fish, from the American fleet. There will be some imports available from the Gulf of Mexico and Central America. Supply of loins and steaks from Indonesia and Asia has increased, but much of the product is from Cold Smoked or previously frozen product.

Remember to eat fish; it is food for your brain.