

Information from non-recorded phone interview with Hunter Berns, Fishing Vessel Operations Manager at Icicle Seafoods Inc. with Michael Karr (NTSB) on November 9, 2018

Pollock fishery opened on January 20, 2018. Vessel would fish for pollock until early March 2018. Pollock fishery a Total Allowable Catch Fishery.

Northern Victor, *Commodore* and *Progress* all part of Icicle Seafoods. *Commodore* directing the *Commodore* and *progress* fishing operations.

The vessels would harvest and deliver pollock to the Icicle Seafoods processing facility in Dutch Harbor, the *Northern Victor*, a former fish processing vessel. Because the *Northern Victor* manager was starting up his processing operations, he wanted to begin slowly: To test his processes especially since this would be the first time the *Northern Victor* was operating as a permanently moored structure instead of an anchored fish processing vessel; integrate all the employees who had just begun working at the facility into all the processes; and ensure processing machinery worked.

To assist the *Northern Victor* start-up, the plan called for the *Progress* to wait to set their nets until the *Commodore* first delivered and the *Northern Victor* began processing 200,000 pounds of Pollock. Additionally, the *Progress* would not begin fishing, according to the cooperative manager, for two other reasons. First, the captain of the *Progress* would wait to hear if the *Commodore's* harvest included too many salmon, exceeding the salmon bycatch restrictions. If so, the *Progress* would not catch fish where the *Commodore* harvested fish but instead, fish in another area where there may be less salmon. Second, the *Progress* captain would decide when to harvest to minimize the time between harvesting and delivery, the time fish were kept in the vessel's holds, to improve the quality of the product delivered to the processor. Once harvested, the quality of fish declines over time.

The by-catch limit was only 1000 salmon for their 62,000 MT of pollock that the coop would harvest.

Progress has not returned to service and will be increased in size from 112 feet to 130 feet length overall and from 30 feet to 42 feet wide. Owner had not planned to increase the vessel size prior to the incident. Owner decided to increase capacity from 450,000 pounds of fish to 650,000 pounds and increase crew accommodation area and add berths.

The vessel owner sent the crew for training. The captain was trained as a drill instructor and the crew had attended damage control and firefighting courses in November of 2017.