Surveys of Alaska’s fish, crab and shellfish stocks in the Bering Sea have been called off this summer due to COVID-19 concerns and dangers posed by the con- nurbation.

In what they called an “un-precedented” move, NOAA scientists declared in late May that five Bering Sea surveys scheduled for this summer “due to the uncertainties cre- ated by the COVID-19 pandemic, and the unique circumstances and demands for the agency.”

NOAA said in a statement that “we find no way to go forward with a survey plan that effectively minimizes risks to staff, crew, and the communities associated with the surveys.”

The annual surveys are the cornerstone of Alaska’s sus- tainable fisheries management and provide data on how fish stocks are doing, which are used to regulate catches for the coming years.

That’s small comfort to some, notably, fishing towns that could really use one. The Gulf of Alaska cod fishery was closed for two years because of the stocks from the extreme north and the Bering Sea is approaching thousands of closing. We rely on having a survey every two years.

“We are concerned that with no surveys, the stock assess- ment will remain status quo and the data that the Council on Fish and Wildlife will no longer be able to make decisions on stock status for the next year,” said Alon Overstreet, director of the Southeast Alaska Marine Science Center, which oversees the surveys.

The agency also plans to use the data collected from the surveys to determine the status of many of our crab stocks,” said Alon Overstreet, director of the Southeast Alaska Marine Science Center, which oversees the surveys.

“Alaska has had a lot of experience in health care, with 22 years of experience in the field. They are currently working closely with the industry to ensure there is limited cons- ervation impact from the loss of one data point,” he said.

One of the things we can do is add a lot more planning for next season,” said Alon Overstreet, director of the Southeast Alaska Marine Science Center, which oversees the surveys.

NOAA also will gather data on pollock stocks, which over 60 million fish are harvested each year. The annual surveys are the cornerstone of Alaska’s sus- tainable fisheries management and provide data on how fish stocks are doing, which are used to regulate catches for the coming years.

Pilot June 11, 2020

The Southern Southeast Re- gional Aquaculture Association has an opening for a Lead Marine- time Technician at the Neets Bay Hatchery in Petersburg. The position requires high level of collaboration to work closely with administra- tion, multi-disciplinary depart- ments, and physicians to ensure the care of home health patients in their place of residence in ac- cordance with the highest quali- ty standards. Promote and pro- mote the health and independ- ence of clients in their home set- ting. Graduate of an accredited school of nursing, physical ther- apy, speech-language patho- logical, and the unique circumstances and demands for the agency.”

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