Date 7/20/26

Re: July Market Update – *Portunus pelagicus* and *Monomia haanii*

Blue Swimming Crab / *Portunus pelagicus* (SE Asia)

Despite continuously rising prices, demand for blue crab meat remains high in the US market. We are in the heart of the summer season and product availability remains very tight across most grades. This is the result of both a late season in Indonesia with less product arriving in May/June, and the loss of both Venezuela and Philippine exports leaving a 25% supply gap. Importers continue to push for container commitments to support their fall/holiday needs. So far product continues to move despite near record high prices. However, we have seen a demand shift towards value grades (Lump, Special, Claw) as operators seek to manage rising food costs.

Indonesia is coming into low season with fishing expected to be at more modest levels soon. We expect the monsoon rains and milder temperatures to return in October, but that's up to Mother Nature. India's season has been good so far, but the fishery still supports only a limited number of importers so the overall impact isn't significant.

The outlook for blue swimming crab is going to be tight supplies with rising costs. With demand exceeding supply and new containers 90-120 days out, this reality won't change anytime soon.

Red Swimming Crab / *Monomia haanii* (Vietnam, China)

Conversely, Vietnam is in full swing with good mid-season production. Containers are being filled against steady US demand. China is on conservation and will remain out of the market for another 30+ days. Demand for higher quality Vietnamese haanii is very high, so prices have increased but are expected to stabilize through the duration of the season. Consistent, higher quality red crab provides operators with a great alternative to expensive and limited blue crab. That reality is likely behind some of this strong US demand. The absence of the Venezuelan fresh resource also increases interest in value-priced red crab options. That said, expect good supplies with price stability into the fall.

MMPA (Marine Mammal Protection Act) Update

Venezuela and Philippines remain unable to export into the US market. At this point, neither country has submitted new documentation to change that reality. The Philippines has been working with NOAA to move the process forward, but Venezuela has yet to engage. In both situations, we would expect formal evaluation and any official decision to take quite some time.

Supply Chain Update

The closure of the Strait of Hormuz continues to impact supply chain costs for the crab industry. Average diesel fuel pricing has increased by 37% YOY or $1.38/gallon. Pricing is volatile, impacted by negotiations that have not resulted in firm agreements. Until oil container ships are able to pass through unfettered, fuel prices will remain an issue. Furthermore, consumer gas prices also impact discretionary spending. The average regular gas price for consumers has risen by $0.86/gallon YOY to $4.00, adding to inflationary challenges for most American households.