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**Date:** 10-2-2023

**To:** City Manager Bil Homka, Marjorie Veeder, Patricia Soule, Karen Magdaong, and Michelle Price

**From:** Frank Kelty, Fisheries Consultant

**Subject:** Fishery Update Memo for October 2, 2023, Harvest Data and NOAA Reports.

**Federal Water Groundfish Harvest 9-23-2023, State Water Fisheries on Sablefish, Cod, Dungeness Crab, Herring, and IFQ Halibut and Sablefish, for 10-2-23.**

Fishery activity in Unalaska continues to slow, with the Pollock B season almost completed. The Pollock B season harvest is 97% complete, and last week's harvest declined by 5,000MT from the previous week to 8,752MT due to harvest IFQ allocations almost completed. The total groundfish harvest last week was 24,025MT (52 million lbs.) an 18,000MT decline from the previous week's harvest. The Pollock fishery B season totals for fourteen full weeks of harvest totals, is 678,227(1.49 billion lbs.) of 97.5% of the B season harvest is complete leaving 33,616MT to harvest (74.0 million lbs.). The catcher vessel fleet lead the way last week with a Pollock harvest of 6,391MT (14 million lbs.) we expect the season to be completed during the next few weeks of September.

We continue to see Halibut and Sablefish landings; fishing continues to be slow. We have had landings of Halibut and Sablefish to Unalaska the landings are still held confidential until one more buyer purchase Halibut and Sablefish. Halibut Statewide landings are at 12.9 million pounds 73% harvested from 18.6 million lbs. allocation. Sablefish is at 32 million lbs. harvested, 52% harvested from the 62 million lbs. allocation. Crew changes and offloads by the Pacific Cod freezer longline fleet and the Amendment 80 Bottom trawl catcher processors as well will continue during the fall.

The North Peninsula Dungeness crab fishery opened on May 1<sup>st</sup> caught is awfully slow so far 1.4 million lbs. have been harvested from sixty-five landings. The Aleutian Island Golden King Crab fisheries re-opened on Tuesday August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023, the allocation is 5.6 million lbs. We had 20 IFQ Golden King Crab deliveries into Unalaska in the past month. The estimated poundage is 2.0 million lbs. from 32 IFQ landing from the Eastern/Western Districts and 7 CDQ landing from the Eastern District.

**Overall Groundfish Harvest 9-23-2023:** The harvest for the last week was 24,025MT (52.9 million pounds) 5,000MT decrease over the previous week's harvest due decrease in Pollock and flatfish harvest. The season totals are 1,656,695MMT

harvested (3.64 billion pounds) leaving 334,307MT (736 million lbs.) to harvest; 83% of the overall annual harvest of 1,986,285MMT (4.37 billion pounds) has been completed.

**Pollock: 9-23-2023:** Last week we had harvest of 8,752MT (19.2 million lbs.) The total B season harvest is 690,042MT (1.52 billion lbs.) for all four harvesting sectors 99.2% of the harvest is completed leaving 33,616MT to harvest. (74 million lbs.). We had a 12,000MT decline from the previous week's harvest, due to allocations being reached from catcher vessels. The seasonal harvest is 1.264MMT (2.78 billion pounds) leaving 33,616MT (74 million pounds) to harvested, 98% of the A/B season allocation has been harvested. The At Sea Catcher Processor, and CDQ sector allocations are done. The Catcher Vessel sector that delivers to the shore has one week to finish up their allocation. The Mothership sector, which got a late start on B season, may have another two to three weeks to finish up their allocations.

**Inshore CV:** The harvested last week was 6,391MT (14.0 million lbs.) from the B season allocation which puts the B season allocation at 309,886MT harvested (682 million lbs.) 98% of the B season allocation harvested. The seasonal harvest is 552,365MT (1.21 billion lbs.) 98% harvested. The B season allocation is 311,465MT leaving 13,935MT (30.7 million lbs.) of B season to harvest, with 98% of the B allocation having been harvested.

**At Sea Processors:** The At Sea fleet harvested 0MT last week, the B season total is at 250,974MT (553 million lbs.) 101% of the B season harvest is complete. The seasonal harvest is 451,680MT (995 million lbs.) 100% of the harvest is complete. The B season allocation is 249,172MT (549 million lbs.) leaving 1,360MT (2.9 million pounds) of the B Season allocation to harvest, 100% of the B season harvest is completed.

**Mothership Sector:** The harvested last week was 2,361MT (5.2 million lbs.) the B season total is 44,871MT (99.8 million lbs.) 73% has been harvested. The seasonal harvest is at 95,152MT (209 million pounds) 84% of the harvest. The B season harvest allocation is 62,293MT leaving 18,108MT (39.9 million lbs.) to harvest 84% of the B season allocation has been harvested.

**CDQ Sector:** The harvested last week was 0MT. The B season harvest is at 72,842MT (160 million lbs.) seasonal harvest is 131,787MT (290 million pounds) 100% of the harvest is completed. The B season allocation is 70,026MT (154 million lbs.) leaving 113MT (249,052lbs) to harvested 100% of the B season Pollock allocation has been harvested.

**Pollock Incidental Catch 9-23-23:** Last week's harvest was 1,128MT for the season 39,714MT leaving 10,286MT to harvest 79% the annual allocation has been harvested.

**Salmon bycatch 9-23-23:** The bycatch total is 11,694 Chinook salmon fish taken as bycatch for the season. Chinook bycatch allocation is at 26% leaving 34,006 fish of the cap amount of 45,700 fish. The Chum salmon bycatch totals no new totals from last week still at 108,002 fish compared to 240,000 fish at the end of the 2022 Pollock season.

**Pacific Cod: 9-23-2023:** the fishery pot gear fixed gear fisheries are wrapped up. The trawl harvest and freezer longline CPs have also slowed down. Last week's harvest was only 3,305MT (7.2 million pounds) including CDQ harvest. The A/B season harvest with CDQ is at 113,800MT (250.8 million pounds) leaving 27,776MT to harvest (61.2 million pounds). Including CDQ 83% of the Pacific Cod seasonal allocation of 135,867MT has been harvested.

**Hook and Line C/Ps:** This sector harvested 1,757MT (3.8 million lbs.) last week for the B season harvest 24,110, MT (53 million lbs.) leaving the B season allocation at 4,739MT to harvest, 89% of the B season allocation has been harvested by this sector. The total A/B season catch is 53,934MT (118 million lbs.) 92% of the seasonal harvest has been taken, leaving 4,7381MT (10.4 million lbs.) to harvest.

**Pacific Cod Trawl:** This fishery will be opened on January 20,2023, with the A season allocation of 50,722MT. (111.9 million pounds) We had a harvest through September 23, 2023, last week 432MT mostly as bycatch in the Pollock fishery. The Amendment 80 sector, 302MT At Sea 44MT and CV sector 86MT A/B season harvest stands at 38,164MT (84.1 million pounds) leaving 7,197MT (15.8 million pounds) of A/B season trawl cod to harvest 76% of the A/B season allocation has been harvested.

**CV Pot/HL < 60'ft:** harvested 250MT last week for the season 4,235MT leaving 505MT cod allocation to harvest, 89% of the seasonal allocation was harvested.

**C/P Pot CPs** 170MT was harvested last week of A/B season Cod, for the season 1,298MT. The A season remaining allocation is 509MT 72% of the A season allocation of 1,807MT have been harvested.

**Pot Cod 60'>:** harvested 685MT last week for the season 7,161MT leaving 2,959MT of B season allocation to harvest 71% of the A/B season allocation has been harvested.

**Pacific Cod CDQ:** had a harvest of 11MT last week for the season 7,732MT from an allocation of 14,470MT leaving 6,892MT 55% of the CDQ harvest have been taken.

**Pacific Cod Jig:** 0MT harvested last week, for the season 0MT harvested from the jig allocation of 98MT leaving 98MT 0% of the allocation has been harvested.

**Amendment 80 Bottom Trawl Fishery 9-23-2023:** Amendment 80 sector fishing is slow with decreased catch of Sole species as it traditionally is during the B season. Last week's catch was 10,779MT (23 million lbs.). The total harvest stands 266,192MT (586 million lbs.) of various species including the CDQ harvest. The seasonal harvest totals by species are as follows, Yellowfin Sole 80,603MT, Rock Sole 23,694MT Alaska Plaice, 11,211MT, Flathead Sole 7,897MT, Arrowtooth Flounder 6,191MT, Kamchatka Flounder 6,786MT other Flatfish 2,902MT other species harvested this season including Perch and Rockfish,43,107MT Atka Mackerel 56,942MT, Octopus 123MT Skate 21,491MT Greenland Turbot, 1,256MT and Sablefish Trawl 3,989

**Halibut IFQ 10-2-2023:** The Fishery opened on March 10<sup>th</sup> landings reported as of this morning, 2,973 landings for 13.01million pounds. and leaving 4.7 million lbs. to harvest 73% of the fishery is complete. The harvesters have been getting better weather to fish, but fishing improved last week, with 900,000lbs harvested. The IFQ allocation is 17.8 million pounds. The CDQ allocation for the 6 CDQ groups is at 110 landings for 291,796lbs. leaving 892,204lbs. of Halibut to harvest 25% of the harvest has been taken. Landings of Halibut have been made in Unalaska, but the totals are still confidential. The leading port for Halibut landings is Homer with 2.64 million lbs. and Kodiak, 1.38 million lbs. Halibut ex-vessel prices for Halibut are in the \$5.50 to \$6.50 range depending on size.

**Sablefish IFQ 10-2-2023:** The Fishery opened on March 10<sup>th</sup> landings reported as of this morning show 1,704 landings for 32.4 million lbs. leaving 29.6 million pounds to harvest 52% of the allocation have been harvested, fishing has really slowed down last week's harvest was 1.49 million lbs. The Sablefish allocation for Alaska is 62.04 million pounds. The leading Port for Sablefish landings is Seward at 5.8 million lbs. and Kodiak at 3.6 million lbs. Landings of Sablefish have been made in Unalaska, but the totals are still confidential. Sablefish prices range depending on size \$0.50-\$7.00 for large fish, we understand the fleet is harvesting many 1-2- and 2-3-pound fish which is driving down ex-vessel values.

**ADFG Aleutian Island State Water Sablefish, Aleutian Island State Water Pacific Cod, Dutch Harbor Sub District Pacific Cod Pot Fishery 10-2-23:** as of this morning the Sablefish harvest is at 148 landing landings for 1.85 million lbs. harvested, leaving 55,957lbs. to harvest, 97% from the allocation 1.9 million pounds has been harvested four landings last week. The fishery will close on October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023. There are twenty-seven vessels registered for this fishery. The Pacific Cod Aleutians Islands State water fishery is at 140 landings for 9.9 million lbs. from and allocation 11.8 million lbs. leaving 1.9 million lbs. to harvest 84% of the harvest is complete. There were no landings last week. The Dutch Harbor State Water Pacific Cod fishery may reopen after the September 1<sup>st</sup> 60' and under pot cod federal water fishery closes. There is 728,145lbs 2% remaining which is 98% of the state water fishery harvest amount of 38.3 million lbs. We are waiting to see if ADFG will open after the federal water fishery is closed.

**Aleutian Islands Golden King Crab 10-2-23:** The fishery opens on Tuesday August 1, 2023, at noon. There were four vessels registered to fish. The Eastern District allocation including CDQ is 3.7 million lbs. the Western District allocation including the City of Adak allocation is 1.8 million lbs. for a total allocation of 5.6 million lbs. We had a total of 21 IFQ landings for the season, from the Eastern District and 11 IFQ landings from the Western District. The total poundage for the Eastern District is 21 IFQ landings with an estimated poundage of close to 1.4 million lbs., this poundage includes the 7 CDQ landings. The Western District, poundage amounts for eleven landings are still confidential but are estimated at close to 550,00lbs. The landings are at 2.0 million pounds the landings have all been made in Unalaska.

**North Peninsula Dungeness Crab 10-2-23:** since this fishery started in May, fishing has been awfully slow, there have been sixty-five landings of 1.416 million lbs. from eleven vessels. Last week's harvest was 200,000lbs. from one landing, most of crab landings have been landed and processed in Unalaska. ADFG announced the closure of the fishery on October 18, 2023

**Misc. Items:** I attended via zoom the Bering Sea Fisheries Research Foundation (BSFRF) September Board Meeting last week. After approving the minutes and reviewing the financials are still in good which still show the BSFRF at close to 1.1 million in reserves, were expenses were the usual we did increase contactor salaries line items by \$30 K to have enough funding until year end due to increased work on research projects. The board also reviewed a spread sheet on the foundation cash flow outlook for the rest of the year. We also discussed the possibility of hiring increased staff in 2024 to assist with increased survey work we expect to be involved with. Executive Director Goodman gave another overview of the Crab Plan Team meeting. I have already shared with the Mayor and Council information at the meeting. He also discussed with the board the presentation he made to Crab Plan team of the BSFRF spring Red King Crab tagging study of Red King Crab in the Bristol Bay area. I will attach the presentation with this memo. He also discussed the Science Symposium meeting held in Ballard sponsored by the Research Foundation and the Alaska Bering Sea Crab Group. I have already addressed that in a previous memo. It was well attended with almost one hundred people in attendance.

The meeting had great speakers from NOAA, ADFG, BSFRF and Alaska Bering Sea Crabbers and a lot of valuable information on the status of the crab fisheries was shared with the public. Executive Director Goodman discussed upcoming research planning, on Snow Crab and Red King Crab. The board approved his travel to Anchorage to testify to the SSC panel at the NPFMC meeting on October 2<sup>nd</sup> on the BSFRF Crab Research efforts. The BSFRF board also needs to provide the priorities we should be working on upcoming research projects. We also discussed the need to have another Snow Crab Workshop in Anchorage or Seattle in 2024. The North Pacific Fishery Management Council research priorities on crab were discussed and what it looks like for projects to be approved by the North Pacific Research Board of Directors for funding, we just learned two projects were approved for funding The confirmation is listed below.  
Bristol Bay Red King Crab Movement (NPRB Project #2309)  
Bristol Bay Red King Crab settlement potential (NPRB Project# 2308)  
will be set to begin soon (early 2024).

We also discussed continuing crab disaster relief coordination funding and priorities. The next BSFRF meeting will be on October 19, 2023, we adjourned the BSFRF meeting at noon.

Regards

Frank Kelty

Attachments:

- 1.Fishery Update Memo
- 2.Groundfish Harvest Data
- 3.NOAA Reports
- 4.BSFRF Crab Research Update