

Frank Kelty
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City of Unalaska

Date: 10-23-2023

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 23, 2023, Harvest Data and NOAA Reports.

Federal Water Groundfish Harvest 10-14-2023, State Water Fisheries on Sablefish, Cod, Dungeness Crab, Herring, and IFQ Halibut and Sablefish, for 10-23-23.

Fishery activity in Unalaska continues to be slow, with the Pollock B season basically completed. The Pollock B season harvest is 99% complete, and last week's harvest of 5,500MT declined by 4,000MT from the previous harvest due to harvest allocations almost completed. Trident Seafoods is the only shore plant still processing Pollock, the CV sector catcher vessels that shore plants receive Pollock from still has 2,044MT to harvest. The Mothership sector still has 8,656MT to harvest. I believe they will leave Pollock unharvested when the fishery closes by regulation on November 1st, 2023. The total groundfish harvest last week was 16,059MT (35million lbs.) a 4,000MT decline from the previous week's harvest. The Pollock fishery B season totals for sixteen full weeks of harvest totals, is 699,561(1.5 billion lbs.) of 96% of the B season harvest is complete leaving 12,119MT to harvest (26 million lbs.). The Mothership fleet lead the way last week with a Pollock harvest of 3,802MT (8.3 million lbs.) we expect the season to be completed on November 1, 2023.

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 14.08 million pounds 79% harvested from 18.6 million lbs. allocation leaving 3.7 million lbs. to harvest. Sablefish is at 34.7 million lbs. harvested, 56% harvested from the 62 million lbs. leaving 27.3 million lbs. to harvest. 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 Bristol Bay Red King Crab and Bering Sea Tanner Crab season opened at noon of Sunday October 15, 2023; 20 vessels are registered to fish. The Red King Crab allocation 2.1 million pounds and the Tanner Crab is at 2.08 million pounds. Last week we saw the first 9 small Red King Crab landings for 150,159lbs. leaving 1.79million lbs., to harvest. No Tanner Crab landing yet, CPUE is 20 crab per pot which is about

average, live weight 6.6 pounds ADF&G state they are seeing a lot of older shell barnacle crab, in their sampling.

The North Peninsula Dungeness crab fishery opened on May 1st caught is awfully slow so far 1.5 million lbs. have been harvested from seventy landings. The fishery closed on October 18th, 2023. The Aleutian Island Golden King Crab fisheries re-opened on Tuesday August 1st, 2023, the allocation is 5.6 million lbs. We had 41 IFQ Golden King Crab deliveries into Unalaska in the past month. The estimated poundage is 2.42 million lbs. from 31 IFQ landing from the Eastern/Western Districts. We have also had 9 CDQ landing from the Eastern District for 226,910lbs. leaving 145,000lbs to harvest.

Overall Groundfish Harvest 10-14-2023: The harvest for the last week was due to a,059MT (35.3 million pounds) 5,000MT decrease over the previous week's harvest due to a decrease in Pollock, Mackerel, Perch, and Sole harvest. The season totals are 1,719,020MMT harvested (3.78 billion pounds) leaving 271,982MT (599 million lbs.) to harvest; 86% of the overall annual harvest of 1,986,285MMT (4.37 billion pounds) has been completed.

Pollock: 10-14-2023: Last week we had harvest of 5,530MT (12.2 million lbs.) The total B season harvest is 699,561MT (1.54 billion lbs.) for all four harvesting sectors 99.9% of the harvest is completed leaving 12,119MT to harvest. (26.7 million lbs.). The seasonal harvest is 1.252MMT (2.74 billion pounds) leaving 17,712MT (39 million pounds) to harvested, 96% 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 side has 2,044MT Trident still has the Akutan plant shore-plant still operating the other shore plant have finished their allocations. The Mothership sector still has 7,970MT still to harvest; they may leave part of that allocation unharvested. The Pollock trawl B season closes by regulation on November 1,2023

Inshore CV: The harvested last week was 1,737MT (3.8 million lbs.) from the B season allocation which puts the B season allocation at 321,777MT harvested (709 million lbs.) 103% of the B season allocation harvested. The seasonal harvest is 564,256MT (1.20 billion lbs.) -103% harvested. The B season allocation is 311,465MT leaving 2,044MT (4.5 million lbs.) of B season to harvest, with 100% of the B allocation having been harvested the additional amount is carry over poundage from the Pollock A season. The Pollock trawl B season closes by regulation on November 1,2023

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 3,802MT (8.3 million lbs.) the B season total is 54,323MT 120 million lbs.) 87% has been harvested. The seasonal harvest is at 62,293MT (137 million pounds) 87% of the harvest. The B season harvest allocation is 27,707MT leaving 7,970MT (17.5 million lbs.) to harvest 92% of the B/A

season allocations has been harvested. The Pollock trawl B season closes by regulation on November 1,2023

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. The Pollock trawl B season closes by regulation on November 1,2023

Pollock Incidental Catch 10-14-23: Last week's harvest was 1,063MT for the season 43,989MT leaving 6,193MT to harvest 88% the annual allocation has been harvested.

Salmon bycatch 10-14-23: The bycatch total is 11,756 Chinook salmon fish taken as bycatch for the season. Chinook bycatch allocation is at 26% leaving 33,944 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: 10-14-2023: 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 1,863MT (7.6 million pounds) including CDQ harvest. The A/B season harvest with CDQ is at 120,223MT (265 million pounds) leaving 15,644MT to harvest (34.4 million pounds). Including CDQ, 89% of the Pacific Cod seasonal allocation of 135,867MT has been harvested.

Hook and Line C/Ps: This sector harvested 1,023MT (2.2 million lbs.) last week for the B season harvest 27,707MT (61 million lbs.) leaving the B season allocation at 1,045MT to harvest, 96% of the B season allocation has been harvested by this sector. The total A/B season catch is 57,546MT (126million lbs.) 98% of the seasonal harvest has been taken, leaving 1,126MT (2.4 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 last week through October 14, 2023, last week 330MT mostly as bycatch. The Amendment 80 sector, 275MT At Sea 18MT and CV sector 37MT A/B season harvest stands at 40,549MT (89.3 million pounds) leaving 4,906MT (10.8 million pounds) of A/B season trawl cod to harvest 80% of the A/B season allocation has been harvested.

CV Pot/HL < 60'ft: harvested 162MT last week for the season 4,889MT leaving 151MT cod allocation to harvest, 97% of the seasonal allocation was harvested.

C/P Pot CPs 95MT was harvested last week of A/B season Cod, for the season 1,545MT. The A season remaining allocation is 262MT 86% of the A season allocation of 1,807MT have been harvested.

Pot Cod 60’>: harvested 245MT last week for the season 9,632MT leaving 488MT of B season allocation to harvest 95% of the A/B season allocation has been harvested.

Pacific Cod CDQ: had a harvest of 9MT last week for the season 7,797MT from an allocation of 14,470MT leaving 6,673MT 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 10-14-2023: Amendment 80 sector fishing is slow with increased catch of Sole species as it traditionally is during at the end of the B season and less Perch and Mackerel harvest. Last week’s harvest was 7,441MT (16.3 million lbs.) The total harvest stands 293,984MT (647 million lbs.) of various species including the CDQ harvest. The seasonal harvest totals by species are as follows, Yellowfin Sole 96,089MT, Rock Sole 26,181MT Alaska Plaice, 14,374MT, Flathead Sole 8,317MT, Arrowtooth Flounder 6,438MT, Kamchatka Flounder 6,848MT other Flatfish 2,930MT other species harvested this season including Perch and Rockfish,44,366MT Atka Mackerel 59,728MT, Octopus 158MT Skate 23,269MT Greenland Turbot, 1,267MT and Sablefish Trawl 4,019MT

Halibut IFQ 10-23-2023: The Fishery opened on March 10th landings reported as of this morning, 3,205 landings for 14.08 million pounds. and leaving 3.7 million lbs. to harvest 79% of the fishery is complete. Fishing has been slow with 300,000lbs harvested for the past two weeks. The IFQ allocation is 17.8 million pounds. The CDQ allocation for the 6 CDQ groups is at 117 landings for 364,380lbs. leaving 819,620lbs. of Halibut to harvest 31% 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 2.9 million lbs. and Kodiak, 1.64 million lbs. Halibut ex-vessel prices for Halibut are in the \$5.50 to \$6.50 range depending on size.

Sablefish IFQ 10-23-2023: The Fishery opened on March 10th landings reported as of this morning show 1,845 landings for 34.7 million lbs. leaving 27.3 million pounds to harvest 56% of the allocation have been harvested, fishing has really slowed down last week’s harvest was 450,000lbs. The Sablefish allocation for Alaska is 62.04 million pounds. The leading Port for Sablefish landings is Seward at 5.95 million lbs. and Kodiak at 4.08 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 10-23-23: as of this morning the Sablefish harvest is at 154 landing landings for 1.962million lbs. harvested, leaving -55,068lbs. Over the allocation to harvest, 103% from the allocation 1.907 million pounds has been harvested four landings last week. The fishery closed on October 1st, 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 1st 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 10-23-23: 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 38 IFQ landings for the season, 27 landings from the Eastern District and 14 IFQ landings from the Western District. The total poundage for the Eastern District is 24 IFQ landings with an estimated poundage of close to 1.75 million lbs. leaving an estimated 1.6 million lbs. to harvest. The Western District IFQ landings stand at 670,651 leaving 1.1 million pounds to harvest. There have also been 9 CDQ landings from the Eastern district for 226,910lbs leaving 145,000lbs to harvest 61% of the harvest has been harvested.

Bristol Bay Red King Crab and Tanner Crab 10-23-23: We have had 9 small red King Crab landings of 150,159lbs 7% of the harvest is complete leaving 1.74 million lbs. to harvest. There have been no Tanner Crab landings yet. The fishery opened on Sunday at noon October 15, 2023. The Bristol Bay Red King allocation is IFQ 1.9 million lbs. and CDQ 215,000 for a total of 2.15 million lbs. The Tanner Crab IFQ allocation is 1.87 million pounds for both the East and Western Districts. The CDQ totals are 208,000lbs lbs. for both the East and West Districts for a total allocation of 2.08 million lbs. The price rumors for Red King are possibly between \$7 to \$8 dollars for opening prices on Tanner Crab no information yet.

Dungeness Crab 10-23-23: Since this fishery started in May, fishing has been awfully slow, there have been seventy-one landings of 1.55 million lbs. from eleven vessels. Last week's harvest was 50,000lbs. from five landings, most of crab landings have been landed and processed in Unalaska. ADFG announced the closure of the fishery on October 18, 2023.

Misc. Items: On Thursday October 19th I attended the Bering Sea Fisheries Research Foundation (BSFRF) Board of Directors meeting via zoom. The BSFRF approved the appointing of Wes Jones to the CDQ seat on the BSFRF board. Mr. Jones works for the Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation. The Board reviewed the NPFMC meeting (SSC) Science panels minutes as it pertains to crab issues at the October meeting. The BSFRF is having a tough time understanding the recommendations of the SSC and the Crab plan teams recommendations the on OFL and ABC amounts there is a huge disconnect on what the model's putout and the information from the surveys that the scientists use ignoring the models output. As an example, the Tanner Crab OFL was 36,000MT (79million lbs.) ABC 28.6MT (63 million lbs.) ADFG set the TAC amount

at (2.0 million lbs.) Snow Crab OFL of 15.4MT (33million lbs.) ABC 7.72(17 million lbs.) TAC is set at (0 lbs. season closed). The board directed the executive Director to work with NMFS and ADF&G staff to continue to work on understanding the process which isn't working as it should. The Board then review ADF&G TAC setting document that explains the process the use with setting the TAC amounts. It was informative but is still hard to understand why the TAC.s they recommend are so conservative in nature. most of the time. We then moved on to a review of the current research projects summaries we want to be involved in, and we reviewed the current cash flow amounts that are available from crab disaster funding and other NMFS approations, NPRB, and ADF&G funding that may be coming in for the next two years. Be discussed the need for and Opilio Tanner (Snow Crab) Workshop in the fall of 2024 the location and what experts we you invite to present. The board needs to firm up the 2024-2025 research priorities for the foundation as soon as possible we decided on a special meeting to finalize the priorities.

We then reviewed the NPFMC research priority list, we then discussed the current crab research funding spend plan material for ADFG that crab research funding could be in the \$18-\$24 million range. We should have more information in another month on the dollar amount. We finished up the meeting with an update on the REM Crab Industry certification project that the foundation funds that certifies all the crab fisheries finished product that is produced. We also discussed a joint research effort AK Crab Research and Rehabilitation group, this foundation, which is based on St Paul Island, has been trying to rehabilitate St Paul Islands Blue and Red King Crab stocks. The board was supportive of looking at some joint efforts and will send a letter to them. The board meeting was adjourned 11:30 AM on Thursday morning.

Regards

Frank Kelty

Attachments:

- 1.Fishery Update Memo
- 2.Groundfish Harvest Data
- 3.NOAA Reports
4. Opilio Snow Crab Information on the crash of the stock.