

Frank Kelty
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City of Unalaska

Date: 11-13-2023

To: City Manager Bil Homka, Marjorie Veeder, Patricia Soule, Karen Magdaong, and Michelle Price, Mayor Vince, and City Council Members

From: Frank Kelty, Fisheries Consultant

Subject: Fishery Update Memo for November 13, 2023, Harvest Data, NPFMC Agenda and NOAA Reports.

Federal Water Groundfish Harvest 11-4-2023, State Water Fisheries on Sablefish, Cod, BSAI Crab and IFQ Halibut and Sablefish, for 11-13-23.

Fishery activity in Unalaska continues to be slow, with the Pollock B season completed. Most of the local plants have a minimal amount of crew onsite doing some lesser amounts Crab, Halibut and Sablefish. There may be a few more processors and harvesters leaving Unalaska by the end of November. This time of year is when facilities are doing major maintenance projects before the start of the Pollock A season in January. The Pollock B season harvest is 99.5% complete, last week's Pollock harvest of 1,147MT was from the offshore Mothership sector which still has 566MT left unharvested. The Pollock fleet left 4,047MT (8.9 million lbs.) unharvested fishery closed by regulation on November 1st, 2023. The total groundfish harvest last week was 8,969MT (19.7million lbs.) a 5,000MT decrease from the previous week's harvest. The total B season Pollock harvest is 711,741MT (1.56 billion lbs.) for all four harvesting sectors 99.7% of the harvest is completed leaving 4,070MT unharvested The seasonal Pollock harvest is 1.260MMT (2.777 billion pounds) leaving 4.070MT (8.9 million pounds) unharvested, 99.6% of the A/B season allocation has been harvested The Mothership fleet lead the way last week with a Pollock harvest of 1,147MT (2.5 million lbs.) The season was completed on November 1, 2023.

We continue to see Halibut and Sablefish landings; fishing continues to slow down with the onset of winter weather. 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 14.9 million pounds 84% harvested from 18.6 million lbs. allocation leaving 2.9 million lbs. to harvest. Sablefish is at 36.4 million lbs. harvested, 59% harvested from the 62 million lbs. leaving 25.6 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.

We have had one hundred-six landings Bristol Bay Red King Crab landings of 1.92 million lbs. including CDQ 97% of the harvest is complete leaving 89,000lbs. to harvest.

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 price rumors for Red King are \$8 dollars for opening prices. CPUE is nineteen crabs per pot, live weight 6.5 lbs. There are only two vessels fishing the season may be wrapped up in the next few days.

Bering Sea Tanner Crab Fishery, the 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. There have been twenty-eight landings for 270,000lbs all from the Eastern District leaving 494,000lbs to harvest from the Eastern District. There has been one small landing from the Western District, the amount is confidential. The Western District allocation is 1.260 million lbs. There are twenty vessels actively fishing ADF&G expects more Tanner crab landings later this week.

The Aleutian Island Golden King Crab fisheries re-opened on Tuesday August 1st, 2023, 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 48 IFQ landings for the season, thirty-three landings from the Eastern District and sixteen IFQ landings from the Western District. The total poundage for the Eastern District is 3.3 million lbs. IFQ landings with an estimated poundage of 2.3 million lbs. including CDQ harvested leaving an estimated 1.2 million lbs. to harvest. The Western District IFQ landings stand at 1.0 million lbs. leaving 834,000lbs. to harvest.

Overall Groundfish Harvest 11-4-2023: The harvest for the last week was 8,969MT (19.7 million pounds) 5,000MT decrease over the previous week's harvest, due to a decrease in all trawl and fixed gear harvests. The season totals are 1,755,140MMT harvested (3.86 billion pounds) leaving 235,862MT (519 million lbs.) to harvest; 88% of the overall annual harvest of 1,986,285MMT (4.37 billion pounds) has been completed.

Pollock: 11-4-2023: Last week we had harvest of 1,147MT (2.5 million lbs.) The total B season harvest is 711,741MT (1.56 billion lbs.) for all four harvesting sectors 99.7% of the harvest is completed leaving 4,070MT to harvest. (.4 million lbs.). The seasonal harvest is 1.2604MMT (2.777 billion pounds) leaving 4.070MT (8.9 million pounds) to harvest, 99.6% 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 left 2,035MT all shore-plant are done operating. The Mothership sector left 566MT unharvested. The Pollock trawl B season closed by regulation on November 1, 2023

Inshore CV: The harvested last week was 0MT (19,836 lbs.) from the B season allocation which puts the B season allocation at 321,787MT harvested (709.2 million lbs.) 103% of the B season allocation harvested. The seasonal harvest is 564,265MT (1.24 billion lbs.) -103% harvested. The B season allocation is 311,465MT leaving 2,035MT (4.4 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 1,147MT (2.5 million lbs.) the B season total is 62,413MT 137.5 million lbs.) 100% has been harvested. The seasonal harvest is at 112,694MT (248 million pounds) 100% of the harvest has been completed. The B season harvest allocation is 56,853MT leaving 566MT (1.2 million lbs.) to harvest 100% of the B/A season allocations has been harvested. The Pollock trawl B season close 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 11-4-23: Last week's harvest was 1,084MT for the season 47,854MT leaving 2,446MT to harvest 95% the annual allocation has been harvested.

Salmon bycatch 11-4-23: The bycatch total is 11,855 Chinook salmon fish taken as bycatch for the season. Chinook bycatch allocation is at 26% leaving 33,845fish of the cap amount of 45,700 fish. The Chum salmon bycatch totals no new figures from the previous week the 10-28-23 numbers came in at 112,302 fish compared to 242,000 fish at the end of the 2022 Pollock season.

Pacific Cod: 11-4-2023: 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 928MT (2.04 million pounds) including CDQ harvest. The A/B season harvest with CDQ is at 124,923MT (275.3 million pounds) leaving 11,606MT to harvest (25.5million pounds). Including CDQ, 92% of the Pacific Cod seasonal allocation of 135,867MT has been harvested.

Hook and Line C/Ps: This sector harvested 0MT last week. The B season harvests 27,964MT (61 million lbs.) leaving the B season allocation at 868MT to harvest, 97% of the B season allocation has been harvested by this sector. The total A/B season catch is 57,804MT (127million lbs.) 99% of the seasonal harvest has been taken, leaving 868MT (1.9 million lbs.) to harvest This sector may be done for the year.

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

November 4, 2023, last week harvest was 387MT mostly as bycatch. The Amendment 80 sector, 288MT At Sea 57MT and CV sector 42MT A/B season harvest stands at 41,853MT (92.2 million pounds) leaving 3,600MT (7.9 million pounds) of A/B season trawl cod to harvest 82.4% of the A/B season allocation has been harvested.

CV Pot/HL < 60'ft: harvested 0MT last week for the season 4,889MT leaving 151MT cod allocation to harvest, 97% of the seasonal allocation was harvested.

C/P Pot CPs 0MT 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 0MT 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 541hasast week for the season 9,875MT (21.7 million lbs.) from an allocation of 14,470MT leaving 4,622MT (10.1 million lbs.) 68% 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 11-4 -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 harvests of Perch and Mackerel. Last week's harvest was 5,718MT (12.6 million lbs.) a decrease of 1,200lbs from the previous week's harvest. The total harvest stands 313,995MT (692 million lbs.) of various species including the CDQ harvest. The seasonal harvest totals by species are as follows, Yellowfin Sole 104,745MT, Rock Sole 26,873MT Alaska Plaice, 15,002MT, Flathead Sole 8,738MT, Arrowtooth Flounder 6,902MT, Kamchatka Flounder 6,922MT other Flatfish 2,984MT other species harvested this season including Perch and Rockfish,46,508MT Atka Mackerel 65,348MT, Octopus 151MT Skate 24,465MT Greenland Turbot, 1,271MT and Sablefish Trawl 4,086MT

Halibut IFQ 11-13-2023: The Fishery opened on March 10th landings reported as of this morning, 3,386 landings for 14.9 million pounds. and leaving 2.9 million lbs. to harvest 84% of the fishery is complete. Fishing has been slow with 200,000lbs harvested in the past week. The IFQ allocation is 17.8 million pounds. The CDQ allocation for the 6 CDQ groups is at 121 landings for 440,435lbs. leaving 743,565lbs. of Halibut to harvest 37% 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 3.17million lbs. and Kodiak, 1.89 million lbs. Halibut ex-vessel prices for Halibut are in the \$5.50 to \$6.50 range depending on size.

Sablefish IFQ 11-13-2023: The Fishery opened on March 10th landings reported as of this morning show 1,973 landings for 36.4 million lbs. leaving 25.6 million pounds to

harvest 59% of the allocation have been harvested, fishing has really slowed down last week's harvest was 250,000lbs. The Sablefish allocation for Alaska is 62.04 million pounds. The leading Port for Sablefish landings is Seward at 5.96 million lbs. and Kodiak at 4.26 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 range for large fish, we understand the fleet is harvesting a lot of 1-2- and 2-3-pound fish which is driving down ex-vessel values and markets.

ADFG Aleutian Island State Water Sablefish, Aleutian Island State Water Pacific Cod, Dutch Harbor Sub District Pacific Cod Pot Fishery 11-13-23: as of this morning the Sablefish harvest is at 155 landing landings for 1.916million lbs. harvested, leaving -9,451lbs. over the allocation to harvest, 100% from the allocation 1.907 million lbs. The fishery closed on October 1st, 2023. There were 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 were 437 landings for 37.5 million lbs. landed, leaving 728,145lbs 2% remaining which is 98% of the state water fishery harvested from of 38.3 million lbs. We are waiting to see if ADFG will re-open the state water fishery after the federal water fishery is closed.

Aleutian Islands Golden King Crab 11-13-23: 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 5.3 million lbs. We had a total of 48 IFQ landings for the season, thirty-three landings from the Eastern District and sixteen IFQ landings from the Western District. The total poundage for the Eastern District is 3.3 million lbs. IFQ landings with an estimated poundage of 2.3 million lbs. including CDQ harvested leaving an estimated 1.2 million lbs. to harvest. The Western District IFQ landings stand at 1.0 million lbs. leaving 834,000lbs. to harvest.

Bristol Bay Red King Crab 11-13-23: We have had one hundred-six landings Bristol Bay Red King Crab landings of 1.92 million lbs. including CDQ 97% of the harvest is complete leaving 89,000lbs. to harvest. 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 price rumors for Red King are \$8 dollars for opening prices. CPUE is nineteen crabs per pot, live weight 6.5 lbs. There are only two vessels fishing the season may be done this week.

Bering Sea Tanner Crab 11-13-23: 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. There have been twenty-eight landings for 270,000lbs all from the Eastern District leaving 494,000lbs to harvest from the Eastern District. There have been one small landings from the Western District, the amount is confidential the Western District allocation is 1.260

million lbs. There are twenty vessels actively fishing ADF&G expects an increase in landings later this week.

Misc. Items: I spent four days in Seattle last week attending the Fish Expo Trade. It was not too exciting I was working on the show for Aleutian Airways. The show was slow for the second year in a row and there were not a lot of attendees for the three days of the show. I assume it had a lot to do with folks not having a lot of money to spend on new equipment with low ex-vessel fish prices and market conditions and prices across the board not being particularly good. There were some good seminars NOAA had a good one on the health of the Alaska Commercial fisheries. Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute had a good one on market updates and opportunities for the next few years. Safety issues and equipment updates are always on the agenda at Fish Expo. I heard that the panel on Offshore Wind farms off the Oregon and California coasts was interesting with not a lot of support from fishers that attended the seminar.

This week I will be listening in on the NPFMC BSAI Groundfish Plan team meeting that starts on Monday through Thursday this week as they work on the final recommendations for the December NPFMC December meeting on the groundfish allocations for the 2024 fishing season. On Thursday I also have a Bering Sea Fisheries Research Foundation Board of Directors meeting I will be attending.

Regards

Frank Kelty

Attachments:

1. Fishery Update Memo
2. Groundfish Harvest Data
3. NOAA Reports
4. NPFMC December Anchorage, AK meeting agenda and schedule