

Frank Kelty
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City of Unalaska

Date: 11-20-2023

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 11-11-2023, State Water Fisheries on Sablefish, Cod, BSAI Crab and IFQ Halibut and Sablefish, for 11-20-23.

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 is completed. The Pollock fleet left 4,047MT (8.9 million lbs.) unharvested fishery closed by regulation on November 1st, 2023. 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 total groundfish harvest for the last week was 6,790MT (14.9 million pounds) 3,000MT decrease over the previous week's harvest, due to a decrease in all trawl and fixed gear harvests. The season totals are 1,761,953MMT harvested (3.88 billion pounds) leaving 236,049MT (520 million lbs.) to harvest; 88% of the overall annual harvest of 1,986,285MMT (4.37 billion pounds) has been completed

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 14.97 million pounds 84% harvested from 18.6 million lbs. allocation leaving 2.82 million lbs. to harvest. Sablefish is at 36.6 million lbs. harvested, 59% harvested from the 62 million lbs. leaving 25.3 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.

We have had one hundred-ten landings Bristol Bay Red King Crab landings of 2.12 million lbs. including CDQ 99% of the harvest is complete leaving 26,000lbs. to harvest. The last vessel on the grounds will be delivering this week. 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 one vessel fishing the season may be done this week.

Bering Sea Tanner Crab Fishery, 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 thirty - one landings for 343,000lbs all from the Eastern District leaving 341,00lbs to harvest from the Eastern District 50% of the allocation has been harvested. There have been five small landings from the Western District, the amount is confidential the Western District allocation is 1.260 million lbs. There are six vessels actively fishing ADF&G expects an increase in landings later this week.

The Aleutian Island Golden King Crab fisheries, the fishery opened 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-seven landings from the Eastern District and eighteen IFQ landings from the Western District. The total poundage for the Eastern District is 3.3 million lbs. IFQ lands with an estimated poundage of 2.45 million lbs. including CDQ harvested leaving an estimated 1.25 million lbs. to harvest. The Western District IFQ landings stand at 1.1 million lbs. leaving 734,000lbs. to harvest

Overall Groundfish Harvest 11-11-2023: The harvest for the last week was 6,790MT (14.9 million pounds) 3,000MT decrease over the previous week's harvest, due to a decrease in all trawl and fixed gear harvests. The season totals are 1,761,953MMT harvested (3.88 billion pounds) leaving 236,049MT (520 million lbs.) to harvest; 88% of the overall annual harvest of 1,986,285MMT (4.37 billion pounds) has been completed.

Pollock: 11-11-2023: Last week we had harvest of 0MT (0 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 closed 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 11-11-23: Last week's harvest was 1,056MT for the season 48,795MT leaving 1,387MT to harvest 98% the annual allocation has been harvested.

Salmon bycatch 11-11-23: 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 242,375 fish at the end of the 2022 Pollock season.

Pacific Cod: 11-11-2023: 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 800MT (1.76 million pounds) including CDQ harvest. The A/B season harvest with CDQ is at 125,646MT (276.9 million pounds) leaving 10,806MT to harvest (23.8million pounds). Including CDQ, 92.4% 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 11, 2023, last week harvest was 237MT mostly as bycatch. The Amendment 80 sector, 188MT At Sea 31MT and CV sector 18MT A/B season harvest stands at 42,090MT (92.7 million pounds) leaving 3,363MT (7.4 million pounds) of A/B season trawl cod to harvest 83% 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 563 last week for the season 10,438MT (23 million lbs.) from an allocation of 14,470MT leaving 4,059MT (8.9 million lbs.) 74% 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 11-11 -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 4,779MT (10.5 million lbs.) a decrease of 1,000lbs from the previous week's harvest. The total harvest stands 318,774MT (702 million lbs.) of various species including the CDQ harvest. The seasonal harvest totals by species are as follows, Yellowfin Sole 107,494MT, Rock Sole 27,011MT Alaska Plaice, 15,117MT, Flathead Sole 8,826MT, Arrowtooth Flounder 7,041MT, Kamchatka Flounder 6,936MT other Flatfish 3,009MT other species harvested this season including Perch and Rockfish, 47,407MT Atka Mackerel 65,658MT, Octopus 151MT Skate 24,747MT Greenland Turbot, 1,272MT and Sablefish Trawl 4,105MT

Halibut IFQ 11-20-2023: The Fishery opened on March 10th landings reported as of this morning, 3,418 landings for 14.97 million pounds. and leaving 2.82 million lbs. to harvest 84% of the fishery is complete. Fishing has been slow with 80,000lbs 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 3.18million lbs. and Kodiak, 1.92 million lbs. Halibut ex-vessel prices for Halibut are in the \$5.50 to \$6.50 range depending on size.

Sablefish IFQ 11-20-2023: The Fishery opened on March 10th landings reported as of this morning show 1,989 landings for 36.6 million lbs. leaving 25.37 million pounds to

harvest 59% of the allocation have been harvested, fishing has really slowed down last week's harvest was 200,000lbs. 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 4.29 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 11-20-23: as of this morning the Sablefish harvest is at 155 landing landings for 1.916 million 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 11-20-23: 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-seven landings from the Eastern District and eighteen IFQ landings from the Western District. The total poundage for the Eastern District is 3.3 million lbs. IFQ lands with an estimated poundage of 2.45 million lbs. including CDQ harvested leaving an estimated 1.25 million lbs. to harvest. The Western District IFQ landings stand at 1.1 million lbs. leaving 734,000lbs. to harvest.

Bristol Bay Red King Crab 11-20-23: We have had one hundred-ten landings Bristol Bay Red King Crab landings of 2.12 million lbs. including CDQ 99% of the harvest is complete leaving 26,000lbs. to harvest. The last vessel on the grounds will be delivering this week. 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 one vessel fishing the season may be done this week.

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have been five small landings from the Western District, the amount is confidential the Western District allocation is 1.260 million lbs. There are six vessels actively fishing ADF&G expects an increase in landings later this week.

Misc. Items:

Last week I attended via Zoom the NPFMC BSAI Groundfish Plan team meeting that started on Monday through Thursday last week in Seattle. They have completed their final recommendations that will go to the NPFMC Science and Statistical Panel for review at December NPFMC December meeting for the groundfish allocations for the 2024 fishing season which will be approved by the full NPFMC. The Pollock Allocation for the 2024 season looks to be the same as in 2023 1,300MMT (2.8 billion pounds) Total Allowable Catch (TAC) the fishery continues to have strong classes. The Overfishing Limit(OFL) for Pollock came in at 4.6MMT the Allowable Biological Catch (ABC)was 2.2MMT . Pacific Cod for the Eastern Bering Sea was slightly reduced by 4,000MTfor the 2024 to 123,000MT(271 million lbs.) the Pacific Cod was OFL166,000MT ABC 144,000MT. Some of the other species saw some reductions such as Mackerel and Perch that Amendment 80 bottom trawlers fish were mostly at status quo levels for 2023. Yellowfin Sole and Rock Sole appear to be in good shape for 2024 fishing year. I have attached the BSAI spread sheet for your review with this memo.

I have also included with this memo the November Alaska Dept. of Labor Economic Report for 2023 good information on information of the 2022 fishing year and impacts on employment in the seafood industry, market conditions, for processors and ex-vessel values for harvesters. I encourage you to review the information. I have also included the ADF&G Alaska Bycatch Advisory Council Annual Report to ADF&G Commissioner Vincent-Lang. This document lays out the Advisory Council recommendations to the Commissioner on opportunities to provide advice on the how implementation of the recommendations that could move forward. Many of the recommendation address research, by species, and gear modifications as well for trawl and fixed gears. Lastly the Alaska Bering Sea Research Foundation met last Thursday but did not have a quorum to do business. So, we just reviewed potential survey projects for 2024. We had a presentation for ADF&G on there new trawl sled that can be towed behind a fishing survey vessels that has high definition cameras aboard to take pictures of the Bering Sea bottom crab habitat areas in the Bering Sea. They expect to some a few month long charters in the spring and summer months in 2024

Regards Frank Kelty

Attachments:

- 1.Fishery Update Memo
- 2.Groundfish Harvest Data
- 3.NOAA Reports
- 4.Groundfish Plan Team 2024 Recommended BSAI Groundfish Allocations
5. Alaska Department of Labor November Economic Trends
6. ADF&G Alaska Bycatch Advisory Council Report To Commissioner Vincent -Lang

