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**Date:** 11-6-2023

**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 6, 2023, Harvest Data, NPFMC Agenda and NOAA Reports.

**Federal Water Groundfish Harvest 10-28-2023, State Water Fisheries on Sablefish, Cod, Dungeness Crab, Herring, and IFQ Halibut and Sablefish, for 11-6-23.**

Fishery activity in Unalaska continues to be slow, with the Pollock B season is completed. Most of the local plants have minimal amount of crew onsite doing some crab, Halibut and Sablefish. They are also doing major maintenance projects before the start of the Pollock A season. The Pollock B season harvest is 99% complete, and last week's harvest of 4.400MT was from the Mothership sector which still has 1,730MT to harvest. I believe they will leave some amount Pollock unharvested when the fishery closes by regulation on November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023. The total groundfish harvest last week was 13,907MT (30.6million lbs.) a 1,000MT increase from the previous week's harvest. The Pollock fishery B season totals for seventeen full weeks of harvest totals, is 710,594MT (1.56 billion lbs.) 99% of the B season harvest is complete. The Mothership fleet lead the way last week with a Pollock harvest of 4,411MT (9.7 million lbs.) we expect the season to be 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 14.75 million pounds 83% harvested from 18.6 million lbs. allocation leaving 3.0 million lbs. to harvest. Sablefish is at 36.2 million lbs. harvested, 58% harvested from the 62 million lbs. leaving 25.8 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; twenty vessels are registered to fish. We have had eighty-one landings Bristol Bay Red King Crab landings of 1.655 million lbs. including CDQ 77% of the harvest is complete leaving 450,000lbs. 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 per pound for opening prices. CPUE is nineteen crabs per pot, live weight 6.5 lbs. Bering Sea Tanner Crab Fishery, there have been eight landings for 176,368lbs all from the Eastern District leaving 507,632lbs to harvest from the Eastern District. There have been no landings from the Western District, the allocation for the Western District is 1.260 million lbs. There are eleven vessels actively fishing ADF&G expects more landings later this week.

The Aleutian Island Golden King Crab fisheries re-opened on Tuesday August 1<sup>st</sup>, 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 47 IFQ landings for the season, twenty-nine landings from the Eastern District and 18 IFQ landings from the Western District. The total poundage for the Eastern District is 29 IFQ landings with an estimated poundage of 2.2 million lbs. including CDQ leaving an estimated 1.5 million lbs. to harvest. The Western District IFQ landings stand at 1.0 million lbs. leaving 834,000lbs. to harvest.

**Overall Groundfish Harvest 10-28-2023:** The harvest for the last week was 13,907MT (30.6 million pounds) 1,500MT increase over the previous week's harvest due to an increase in Sole harvest. The season totals are 1,746,138MMT harvested (3.84 billion pounds) leaving 244,864MT (539 million lbs.) to harvest; 88% of the overall annual harvest of 1,986,285MMT (4.37 billion pounds) has been completed.

**Pollock: 10-28-2023:** Last week we had harvest of 4,411MT (972,184lbs.) The total B season harvest is 710,594MT (1.56 billion lbs.) for all four harvesting sectors 99.3% of the harvest is completed leaving 5,217MT to harvest. (11.4 million lbs.). The seasonal harvest is 1.260MMT (2.77 billion pounds) leaving 5,217MT (11.4 million pounds) to harvested, 99% 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 2,035MT all shore-plant are not operating. The Mothership sector still has 1,713MT 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 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 4,411MT (9.7 million lbs.) the B season total is 61,266MT (135 million lbs.) 98% has been harvested. The seasonal harvest is at 111,547MT (245 million pounds) 98% of the harvest has been completed. The B season harvest allocation is 56,853MT leaving 1,713MT (1.4 million lbs.) to harvest 98% 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 10-28-23:** Last week's harvest was 1,041MT for the season 46,650MT leaving 3,350MT to harvest 93% the annual allocation has been harvested.

**Salmon bycatch 10-28-23:** The bycatch total is 11,837 Chinook salmon fish taken as bycatch for the season. Chinook bycatch allocation is at 26% leaving 33,863 fish of the cap amount of 45,700 fish. The Chum salmon bycatch totals from last week came in at 112,302 fish compared to 242,000 fish at the end of the 2022 Pollock season.

**Pacific Cod: 10-28-2023:** 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 1,182MT (2.6 million pounds) including CDQ harvest. The A/B season harvest with CDQ is at 123,995MT (273.2 million pounds) leaving 12,534MT to harvest (27.6 million pounds). Including CDQ, 91% of the Pacific Cod seasonal allocation of 135,867MT has been harvested.

**Hook and Line C/Ps:** This sector harvested 0MT (566,428lbs.) Last week for 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 (127 million 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 October 28, 2023, last week 845MT mostly as bycatch. The Amendment 80 sector, 254MT At Sea 22MT and CV sector 55MT A/B season harvest stands at 41,466MT (91.3 million pounds) leaving 3,987MT (8.7 million pounds) of A/B season trawl cod to harvest 81.6% 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 845MT last week for the season 9,307MT (20.5 million lbs.) from an allocation of 14,470MT leaving 5,163MT (11.3 million lbs.) 64% 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 10-28-2023**: 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 6,956MT (15.3 million lbs.) a decrease of 400lbs from the previous week's harvest. The total harvest stands 308,277MT (679 million lbs.) of various species including the CDQ harvest. The seasonal harvest totals by species are as follows, Yellowfin Sole 102,637MT, Rock Sole 26,658MT Alaska Plaice, 14,862MT, Flathead Sole 8,620MT, Arrowtooth Flounder 6,730MT, Kamchatka Flounder 6,908MT other Flatfish 2,970MT other species harvested this season including Perch and Rockfish, 45,824MT Atka Mackerel 63,566MT, Octopus 151MT Skate 24,007MT Greenland Turbot, 1,269MT and Sablefish Trawl 4,075MT

**Halibut IFQ 11-6-2023**: The Fishery opened on March 10<sup>th</sup> landings reported as of this morning, 3,340 landings for 14.7 million pounds. and leaving 3.05 million lbs. to harvest 83% of the fishery is complete. Fishing has been slow with 250,000lbs harvested for the past week. The IFQ allocation is 17.8 million pounds. The CDQ allocation for the 6 CDQ groups is at 120 landings for 411,721lbs. leaving 772,279lbs. of Halibut to harvest 35% 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 3.13million lbs. and Kodiak, 1.82 million lbs. Halibut ex-vessel prices for Halibut are in the \$5.50 to \$6.50 range depending on size.

**Sablefish IFQ 11-6-2023**: The Fishery opened on March 10<sup>th</sup> landings reported as of this morning show 1,949 landings for 36.2 million lbs. leaving 25.8 million pounds to harvest 57% of the allocation have been harvested, fishing has really slowed down last week's harvest was 550,000lbs. 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 4.26 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 11-6-23:** 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 lbs. The fishery closed on October 1<sup>st</sup>, 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 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 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 11-6-23:** 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 47 IFQ landings for the season, twenty-nine landings from the Eastern District and 18 IFQ landings from the Western District. The total poundage for the Eastern District is 29 IFQ landings with an estimated poundage of 2.2 million lbs. including CDQ leaving an estimated 1.5 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 11-6-23:** We have had eighty-one landings Bristol Bay Red King Crab landings of 1.655 million lbs. including CDQ 77% of the harvest is complete leaving 450,000lbs. 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 still six vessels fishing the season may be done in about week.

**Bering Sea Tanner Crab 11-6-23:** 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 eight landings for 176,368lbs all from the Eastern District leaving 507,632lbs to harvest from the Eastern District. There have been no landings from the Western District yet, the allocation for the Western District is 1.260 million lbs. There are eleven vessels actively fishing ADF&G expects more landings later this week.

**Misc. Items:** We did not have any meetings to attend last week, it was slow. I will be going to Seattle on Tuesday. to attend the Pacific Fish Expo on Wednesday through Friday. We expect a big turnout this week, I will touch on the highlights in next week's report on how it went. Next week November 13-17-2023 is the final Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska Groundfish Plan team meetings for the year, they will make the final recommendations to the NPFMC at this meeting for the December Council meeting in Anchorage December 4<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> -2023 in Anchorage. I will be attending via Zoom next

week on the Bering Sea portion of the Groundfish Plan Team meeting. Also in December is the Interim International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) meeting in Seattle November 30-through December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023. This meeting gets the IPHC ready for the 10-day meeting in January where the 2024 Halibut allocations are set for USA and Canada.

Regards

Frank Kelty

Attachments:

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