

Frank Kelty
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City of Unalaska

Date: 12-11-2023

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 December 11, 2023, Harvest Data, NPFMC December Meeting Motions and NOAA Reports.

Federal Water Groundfish Harvest 12-2-2023, State Water Fisheries on Sablefish, Cod, BSAI Crab and IFQ Halibut and Sablefish, for 12-11-23.

Fishery activity in Unalaska continues to be very slow, with just a few Tanner Crab, and Golden King Crab landings coming into Unalaska. Most of the local plants have a minimal amount of crew onsite doing some matintence work and major maintenance projects before the start of the Pollock A season on January 20, 2024. The seasonal Pollock harvest for the BSAI is 1.300MMT (2.8 billion pounds). Shoreside allocation is 585,000MT (1.28 billion lbs.) Unalaska share for A/B seasons is 374,000MT (824million lbs.)

The total groundfish harvest for the last week was 2,855MT (6.2 million pounds), a 2,000MT decrease over the previous week's harvest, due to an decrease in Yellowfin Sole harvests. The season totals are 1,773,069MMT harvested (3.90 billion pounds) leaving 224,933MT (495 million lbs.) to harvest; 89% 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 15.12 million pounds 85% harvested from 18.6 million lbs. allocation leaving 2.68 million lbs. unharvested. Sablefish is at 37.4 million lbs. harvested, 60% harvested from the 62 million lbs. leaving 24.6 million lbs. unharvested the season closed on December 7th 2023 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.

Bristol Bay Red King Crab, we have had one hundred-ten landings Bristol Bay Red King Crab landings of 2.14 million lbs. including CDQ 100% of the harvest is complete leaving 5,8920lbs. available 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 no vessels fishing, the season is completed.

Bering Sea Tanner Crab, the Tanner Crab IFQ allocation is 1.87 million pounds for both the East and Western Districts. The CDQ totals 250,000lbs lbs. for both the East and West Districts for a total allocation of 2.02 million lbs. There have been forty landings for 659,000 lbs. all from the Eastern District leaving 101,082lbs to harvest from the Eastern District 85% of the allocation has been harvested. There have been twelve small landings from the Western District, for 196,000lbs leaving the Western District harvest at 1.1 million lbs. to harvest 17% harvested. There are 0 vessels actively fishing ADF&G fishing the harvesters will start fishing again in January.

The Aleutian Island Golden King Crab fisheries, 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 69 IFQ landings for the season, forty-one landings from the Eastern District and twenty-eight IFQ landings from the Western District. The total poundage for the Eastern District is 2.85 million lbs. With CDQ, the total landings with are estimated poundage of 3.3 million lbs.89% harvested, leaving an estimated 600,000 lbs. to harvest. The Western District IFQ forty-eight landings for 1.2 million lbs. 66% harvested, leaving 600,000lbs. to harvest.

Overall Groundfish Harvest 12-2-2023: The harvest for the last week was 2,855MT (6.2 million pounds) 2000MT decrease over the previous week's harvest, due to a decrease in the Yellowfin Sole fishery. The season totals are 1,773,069MMT harvested (3.90 billion pounds) leaving 224,933MT (495million lbs.) to harvest; 89% of the overall annual harvest of 1,986,285MMT (4.37 billion pounds) has been completed.

Pollock: 11-25-2023: 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. (8.9 million lbs.). The seasonal harvest is 1.2604MMT (2.777 billion pounds) leaving 4.070MT (8.9 million pounds) to harvest, 99.9% 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

Pollock Incidental Catch 12-2-23: Last week's harvest was 291MT for the season 50,047MT leaving -47MT to harvest 100% the annual allocation has been harvested.

Salmon bycatch 12-2-23: 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 12-2-23 numbers came in at 112,302 fish compared to 242,375 fish at the end of the 2022 Pollock season.

Pacific Cod: 12-2-2023: 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 719MT (1.58 million pounds) including CDQ harvest. The A/B season harvest with CDQ is at 127,779MT (281.6 million pounds) leaving 8,751MT to harvest (19.2million pounds). Including CDQ, 94% 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 27,967MT (61 million lbs.) leaving the B season allocation at 895MT to harvest, 98% of the B season allocation has been harvested by this sector. The total A/B season catch is 57,777MT (127million lbs.) 98% of the seasonal harvest has been taken, leaving 895MT (1.97 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 25, 2023, last week harvest was 98MT mostly as bycatch. The Amendment 80 sector, 90MT At Sea 5MT and CV sector 3MT A/B season harvest stands at 42,497MT (93.6 million pounds) leaving 2,956MT (6.5 million pounds) of A/B season trawl cod to harvest 83.7% 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 525MT hast week for the season 11,987MT (26 million lbs.) from an allocation of 14,470MT leaving 2,510MT (5.5 million lbs.) 83% 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 12-2-2023: 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 1,754MT (3.8 million lbs.) a decrease of 3,000MT from the previous week's harvest. The total harvest stands 325,263MT (716 million lbs.) of various species including the CDQ harvest. The seasonal harvest totals by species are as follows, Yellowfin Sole 111,859MT, Rock Sole 27,162MT Alaska Plaice, 15,258MT, Flathead Sole 8,984MT, Arrowtooth Flounder 7,255MT, Kamchatka Flounder 6,947MT other Flatfish 3,019MT

other species harvested this season including Perch and Rockfish, 47,806MT Atka Mackerel 66,063MT, Octopus 151MT Skate 25,363MT Greenland Turbot, 1,273MT and Sablefish Trawl 4,123MT

Halibut IFQ 12-11-2023: The Fishery opened on March 10th landings reported as of this morning, 3,467 landings for 15.12 million pounds. and leaving 2.68 million lbs. to harvest 85% of the fishery is complete. Fishing has been slow with 70,000lbs harvested in the past week. The IFQ allocation is 17.8 million pounds. The CDQ allocation for the 6 CDQ groups is at 122 landings for 448,675lbs. leaving 735,325lbs. unharvested 38% 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 3.23 million lbs. and Kodiak, 1.934 million lbs. Halibut ex-vessel prices for Halibut are in the \$5.50 to \$6.50 range depending on size. Season closed on December 7, 2023

Sablefish IFQ 12-11-2023: The Fishery opened on March 10th landings reported as of this morning show 2,008 landings for 37.41 million lbs. leaving 24.62 million pounds unharvested 60% of the allocation have been taken. fishing has really slowed down last week's harvest was 50,000lbs. 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. Season closed on December 7, 2023

Aleutian Islands Golden King Crab 12-11-23: 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 69 IFQ landings for the season, forty-one landings from the Eastern District and twenty-eight IFQ landings from the Western District. The total poundage for the Eastern District is 2.85 million lbs. With CDQ, the total landings with are estimated poundage of 3.3 million lbs. 89% harvested, leaving an estimated 600,000 lbs. to harvest. The Western District IFQ twenty-eight landings for 1.2 million lbs. 66% harvested, leaving 600,000lbs. to harvest.

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the East and West Districts for a total allocation of 2.02 million lbs. There have been forty landings for 659,000 lbs. all from the Eastern District leaving 101,082lbs to harvest from the Eastern District 85% of the allocation has been harvested. There have been twelve small landings from the Western District, for 196,000lbs leaving the Western District harvest at 1.1 million lbs. to harvest 17% harvested. There are 0 vessels actively fishing ADF&G fishing the harvesters will start fishing again in January.

Misc. Items: The North Pacific Council went into session on Thursday December 7th and wrap up on Monday noon December 11th, 2023, I was in attendance until Saturday afternoon. It was an uneventful meeting.

C-1 -2 Motions were on Crab Issues the Council took final action on straighten out the C-Shares for Captain and Crew Members due to the low crab allocations. C-2 the Council did away with the processing plant use caps, that were put in years ago when we had large crab allocations. These caps are no longer needed with such low crab allocations that have hurt processors and harvesters that want to custom processing agreements in Unalaska. This will help and increase custom processing opportunities in Unalaska for both harvesters and processors.

Groundfish Specification for 2024 fishing seasons the BSAI was C-3 and C-4 was the Gulf of Alaska

C-3 the BSAI Pollock for 2024 the Overfishing Limit (OFL) increased for the 2024 season to 3.1MMT the Allowable Biological Catch (ABC) increased to 2.3 MMT for 2024 the **Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for 2024 season is 1.3MMT (2.8 billion lbs.) same as last year's allocation** . The 2024 Eastern Bering Sea Pollock trawl season opens on January 20th 2024 as does all of the Amendment 80 bottom trawl Sole fisheries and Pacific Cod Trawl fisheries.

Eastern Bering Sea Pacific Cod TAC allocation for 2024 increased from 127,000MT. (279million lbs.) in 2023 **for the 2024 fishing season the Pacific Cod TAC allocation increased to 147,000MT (323 million lbs.) 15% increase**. On January 1st the fixed gear sector goes to work the hook and line catcher processor fleet of 25 vessel control 45% of the total Pacific Cod allocation the Pacific Cod pot boats also start fishing on January first so must on the shore plants will be operational in early January. The local plants will also be doing some Tanner Crab and Golden King Crab processing as well. On January 20th the trawl sector for Pacific Cod will open.

The Bottom Tawl Amendment 80 fleet of catcher processors also has some large allocations form 2024 season I will mention a few of the TAC's Yellowfin Sole 193,000MT Rock Sole 66,000MT Mackerel 95,000MT Pacific Ocean Perch 37,000MT and Flathead Sole 35,000MT

C-4 Gulf of Alaska Pollock and Pacific Cod 2024 Allocations:

I will share some of the Gulf of Alaska allocations for the 2024 season Total Allowable Catch (TAC) allocations as it pertains for the Sand Point, Falls Pass and King Cove

processing allocations. On Pollock for the Gulf of Alaska it is broken out in four regions the Western Gulf where landing of Pollock is mainly delivered. The total Gulf Pollack TAC allocation is 195,000MT (429 million lbs.) The Western Gulf allocation is 38,800MT (85 million lbs.) the allocation for Pollock in the Gulf is much smaller than the Bering Sea. On Pacific Cod the Gulf of Alaska TAC allocation is 23,700MT (52 million lbs.) the Western Gulf allocation on Pacific Cod is 6,100MT (13 million lbs.) The plants in the Western Gulf also process, Salmon, Sablefish, Halibut and some Perch and Rockfish species during the year. I heard at the Council meeting in Anchorage, that the Peter Pan plant in King Cove which control 2.5% of the Bering Sea Pollock allocation will not be processing Bering Sea Pollock this winter, and that their Pollock cooperative catcher vessels were transferred to Unalaska and Akutan Pollock fleets. This will mean additional Pollock for Unalaska plants and Akutan shore plants.

C-5 The Council took final action on the Essential Fish Habitat Fishery Management Plan Amendments nothing controversial on this issue.

C-6 was also an easy Housekeeping issue Crab FMP Amendments they choose Alt 2 as their Preferred alternative and adopted a purpose and need statement this item will be back up in 2024.

C-7 Charter Halibut Measures for 2024 were adopted by the Council. There are the red line changes included on the document.

Staff tasking Motion 1 the Council request and expand analysis on options 4-5 in the charter Halibut regulations and information how the performance of the Charter Halibut regulations.

Staff Tasking Motion 2 IRA Workplan and Climate workshop, the Council endorses the timeline and milestones in the staff work plan for this workshop.

Staff Tasking Motion 3 was Council appointments to the AP, SSC panels and Groundfish and Crab Plan teams Unalaska own Ethan Nichols, is now a member of Crab Plan Team and was promoted to lead the Unalaska ADFG office. Congratulations!

Regards Frank Kelty

Attachments:

1. Fishery Update Memo
2. Groundfish Harvest Data
3. NOAA Reports
4. NPFMC December Motions