

Frank Kelty
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City of Unalaska

Date: 12-26-2023

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

From: Frank Kelty, Unalaska Fisheries Consultant

Subject: Fishery Update Memo for December 26, 2023, Harvest Data, NOAA Reports.

Federal Water Groundfish Harvest 12-16-2023, BSAI Crab for 12-26-23.

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 1,175MT (2.5 million pounds), a 500MT decrease over the previous week's harvest, due to an decrease in harvests of all groundfish. The season totals are 1,775,638MMT harvested (3.91 billion pounds) leaving 222,364MT (490 million lbs.) to harvest; 89% of the overall annual harvest of 1,986,285MMT (4.37 billion pounds) has been completed. There are a few Amendment 80 bottom trawlers still doing offloads but most vessels have tied up for holidays.

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-eight 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 12 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 fishery opens on Tuesday August 1, 2023, at noon. There are 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-two landings from the Eastern District and twenty-nine IFQ landings from the Western District. The total poundage for the Eastern District is 3.4 million lbs. With CDQ, the total landings with are estimated poundage of 3.3 million lbs.92% harvested, leaving an estimated 300,000 lbs. to harvest there were no landings from the Eastern District last week. The Western District IFQ had one landing last week for 170,000lbs. the season total is twenty-nine landings for 1.37 million lbs. 76% harvested, leaving 470,000lbs. to harvest.

Overall Groundfish Harvest 12-16-2023: The harvest for the last week was 1,175MT (2.5 million pounds) 500MT decrease over the previous week's harvest, due to a decrease in all groundfish fishery. The season totals are 1,775,638MMT harvested (3.91 billion pounds) leaving 222,364MT (490 million lbs.) to harvest; 89% of the overall annual harvest of 1,986,285MMT (4.37 billion pounds) has been completed.

Pollock Incidental Catch 12-16-23: Last week's harvest was 77MT for the season 50,307MT leaving -189MT to harvest 100% the annual allocation has been harvested.

Salmon bycatch 12-16-23: 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: 12-16-2023: 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 397MT (874,988lbs.) including CDQ harvest. The A/B season harvest with CDQ is at 129,654MT (285.7 million pounds) leaving 7,818MT to harvest (17.2million pounds). Including CDQ, 95.4% 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 27,967MT (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 December 16th 2023, last week harvest was 3MT mostly as bycatch. The Amendment

80 sector, 3MT At Sea 0MT and CV sector 0MT A/B season harvest stands at 42,552MT (93.7 million pounds) leaving 2,903MT (6.39 million pounds) of A/B season trawl cod to harvest 83.8% 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 393MT last week for the season 12,863MT (28 million lbs.) from an allocation of 14,470MT leaving 1,634MT (3.5 million lbs.) 88% 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 12-16-2023: Amendment 80 sector fishing is very slow with decreased catches of all species as it traditionally is during at the end of the B season. Last week's harvest was 704MT (1.5 million lbs.) a decrease of 40MT from the previous week's harvest. The total harvest stands 326,740MT (720 million lbs.) of various species including the CDQ harvest. The seasonal harvest totals by species are as follows, Yellowfin Sole 111,863MT, Rock Sole 27,163MT Alaska Plaice, 15,252MT, Flathead Sole 8,987MT, Arrowtooth Flounder 7,269MT, Kamchatka Flounder 6,948MT other Flatfish 3,020MT other species harvested this season including Perch and Rockfish, 48,407MT Atka Mackerel 66,564MT, Octopus 152MT Skate 25,711MT Greenland Turbot, 1,273MT and Sablefish Trawl 4,131MT

Halibut IFQ 12-26-2023: The Fishery opened on March 10th landings reported as of this morning, 3,469 landings for 15.125 million pounds. and leaving 2.68 million lbs. to harvest 85% of the fishery is complete. Fishing has been slow 2 cleanup landing of with 10,000lbs 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 12-26-2023: The Fishery opened on March 10th landings reported as of this morning show 2,010 landings for 37.43 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 20,000lbs. from 2 cleanup landings. 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

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Misc. Items:

I attended a meeting last week of the Bering Sea Fisheries Research Foundation (BSFRF) had been December Board of Directors meeting last week meeting last Thursday. We reviewed the financials the BSFRF is still in good shape reserves are about \$1.0 million with net assets we are at \$1.25 million. We appointed a new Board Member to the CDQ seat Wes Jones who works for Norton Sound Development Corporation. We then moved on to review research planning, for the vessel charters this spring/summer for Red King Crab and Snow Crab Vessel Charters possibly four vessels two crabbers and two trawlers working various areas and fisheries in the

Bering Sea. The cost for 4 vessels doing a 30 day charter could run up to \$1.2 million dollars. The funding will be coming from federal disaster funding , ADFG funds and BSFRF funds or in kind work. The Executive Director update on the research work that the North Pacific Research Board upcoming projects and a briefing planning that BSFRF science team will be attending. We also discussed the Opilio Tanner Crab Workshop with Canadian scientists from Eastern Canada they will be having a planning meeting in mid-January. We also discussed additional staffing needs of at least two or three positions to handle the all of the additional research charter work over the next two years. The NPFMC Crab Plan team group will be meeting in Anchorage for three day January 8-12-2024 and the Alaska Marine Science Symposium 1-29-2-2-2024 in Anchorage Executive Director Goodman will be attending both meetings in Anchorage.

Regards

Frank Kelty

Attachments:

- 1.Fishery Update Memo
- 2.Groundfish Harvest Data
- 3.NOAA Reports