

Frank Kelty
Fisheries Consultant
City of Unalaska

Date: 12-4-2023

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 27, 2023, Harvest Data, NPFMC Agenda and NOAA Reports.

Federal Water Groundfish Harvest 11-25-2023, State Water Fisheries on Sablefish, Cod, BSAI Crab and IFQ Halibut and Sablefish, for 12-4-23.

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 1st, 2024. The seasonal Pollock harvest is 1.260MMT (2.777 billion pounds) leaving 4.070MT (2.9 million pounds) unharvested, 99.8% of the A/B season allocation has been harvested.

The total groundfish harvest for the last week was 4,213MT (9.2 million pounds), a 200MT increase over the previous week's harvest, due to an increase in Yellowfin Sole harvests. The season totals are 1,770,220MMT harvested (3.90 billion pounds) leaving 227,782MT (502 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 15.07 million pounds 85% harvested from 18.6 million lbs. allocation leaving 2.72 million lbs. to harvest. Sablefish is at 37 million lbs. harvested, 60% harvested from the 62 million lbs. leaving 24.6 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.

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 1.2 million lbs. There have been forty landings for 454,853lbs all from the Eastern District leaving 266,00lbs to harvest from the Eastern District 50% of the allocation has been harvested. There have been five small landings from the Western District, has seen 11 landing for 136,000lbs leaving the Western District allocation is 1.12 million lbs. There are six vessels actively fishing ADF&G fishing is very slow in the Western District.

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 65 IFQ landings for the season, thirty-nine landings from the Eastern District and twenty-seven IFQ landings from the Western District. The total poundage for the Eastern District is 3.7 million lbs. With CDQ, the total landings with are estimated poundage of 2.75 million lbs. 74% harvested, leaving an estimated 950,000 lbs. to harvest. The Western District IFQ landings 24 for 1.1 million lbs. 54% harvested, leaving 700,000lbs. to harvest.

Overall Groundfish Harvest 11-25-2023: The harvest for the last week was 4,213MT (9.2 million pounds) 200MT increase over the previous week's harvest, due to an increase in the Yellowfin Sole fishery. The season totals are 1,770,220MMT harvested (3.90 billion pounds) leaving 227,782MT (502 million 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 11-25-23: Last week's harvest was 501MT for the season 49,759MT leaving 423MT to harvest 100% the annual allocation has been harvested.

Salmon bycatch 11-25-23: 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 11-18-23 numbers came in at 112,302 fish compared to 242,375 fish at the end of the 2022 Pollock season.

Pacific Cod: 11-23-2023: 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 695MT (1.5 million pounds) including CDQ harvest. The A/B season harvest with CDQ is at 126,341MT (278.4 million pounds) leaving 9,470MT to harvest (20.8million pounds). Including CDQ, 93.3% 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 215MT mostly as bycatch. The Amendment 80 sector, 162MT At Sea 20MT and CV sector 33MT A/B season harvest stands at 42,399MT (93.4 million pounds) leaving 3,054MT (6.7 million pounds) of A/B season trawl cod to harvest 83.5% 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 480MT hast week for the season 11,462MT (25 million lbs.) from an allocation of 14,470MT leaving 3,035MT (6.6 million lbs.) 79% 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 11-25 -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 4,735MT (10.4 million lbs.) a decrease of 51MT from the previous week's harvest. The total harvest stands 323,509MT (713 million lbs.) of various species including the CDQ harvest. The seasonal harvest totals by species are as follows, Yellowfin Sole 110,628MT, Rock Sole 27,110MT Alaska Plaice, 15,229MT, Flathead Sole 8,946MT, Arrowtooth Flounder 7,197MT, Kamchatka Flounder 6,946MT other Flatfish 3,019MT other species harvested this season including Perch and Rockfish,47,695MT Atka

Mackerel 66,011MT, Octopus 151MT Skate 25,183MT Greenland Turbot, 1,273MT and Sablefish Trawl 4,121MT

Halibut IFQ 12-4-2023: The Fishery opened on March 10th landings reported as of this morning, 3,451 landings for 15,76 million pounds. and leaving 2.72 million lbs. to harvest 85% of the fishery is complete. Fishing has been slow with 35,000lbs 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. of Halibut to harvest 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 3.21 million lbs. and Kodiak, 1.93 million lbs. Halibut ex-vessel prices for Halibut are in the \$5.50 to \$6.50 range depending on size. Season closes on December 7, 2023

Sablefish IFQ 12-4-2023: The Fishery opened on March 10th landings reported as of this morning show 2,003 landings for 37.4 million lbs. leaving 24.64 million pounds to harvest 60% of the allocation have been harvested, fishing has really slowed down last week's harvest was 700,000lbs. 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 closes on December 7, 2023

Aleutian Islands Golden King Crab 12-4-23: 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 65 IFQ landings for the season, thirty-nine landings from the Eastern District and twenty-seven IFQ landings from the Western District. The total poundage for the Eastern District is 3.7 million lbs. With CDQ, the total landings with are estimated poundage of 2.75 million lbs. 74% harvested, leaving an estimated 950,000 lbs. to harvest. The Western District IFQ landings 24 for 1.1 million lbs. 54% harvested, leaving 700,000lbs. to harvest.

Bristol Bay Red King Crab 12-4-23: 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 5,892lbs. unharvested. 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 12-24-23: 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 577,169 lbs. all from the Eastern District leaving 189,639lbs to harvest from the Eastern District 76% 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. There are six vessels actively fishing ADF&G fishing is very slow in the Western District.

Misc. Items: Another Slow week for meetings. The North Pacific Fishery Management Council meeting started on Monday with the science statistical Committie Meeting today. The industry advisory panel (AP) starts on Tuesday and the full Council goes to work on Thursday I will be arriving in Anchorage on Wednesday to attend the Council meeting sessions. We should know by Saturday the 2024 Groundfish allocations for the Bering Sea 2024 fishing season. I will forward the spread sheet to the City Mgr. and City Council members as the Council finalizes the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) allocations.

Regards Frank Kelty

Attachments:

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