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**Date:** 4-24-2023

**To:** Acting City Manager Bill Homka, Clay Darnell, Marjorie Veeder, and Michelle Price

**From:** Frank Kelty, Fisheries Consultant

**Subject:** Fishery Update Memo

**Federal Water Groundfish Harvest 4-15-2023, State Water Pot Cod 58' < Under Fishery State Water Sablefish and IFQ Halibut and Sablefish, for 4-24-23.**

We have entered a slow period for fishing activity in the Bering Sea until the Pollock B season opens on June 10<sup>th</sup>. We should start seeing some activity will processors and harvesters start to arrive during the last week of May. The B season allocation which is 60% of the overall Pollock allocation of 1.3 million Metric tons. The B season allocation comes in at 780,000MT in pounds (1.7 billion pounds) Unalaska shoreside allocation is 248,000MT in pounds (547 million) for the four local plants. There is still 20,000MT (44 million pounds) of A season Pollock allocation. I expect some of the A season left over quota to be harvested in late May. The A season does not close until June 10<sup>th</sup> at noon, this extra time will allow shoreside catcher vessels to scout around for good areas to fish for the B season starts on June 10<sup>th</sup>. We will still see in the next few weeks some Halibut and Sablefish landings coming to the shore-plants and crew changes and offloads by the freezer longline catcher processors and the Amendment 80 Bottom trawl catcher processors as well during this slow period.

The Pollock A season opened on January 20<sup>th</sup>. Last week we had a harvest of 1,193MT (2.6 million lbs.) That was a 20,000MT reduction from the previous week's harvest. The total A season harvest is at 548,591MT (1.20 billion pounds) leaving 20,026MT (44.1 million pounds) to harvest 96.9% of the A season allocation has been harvested. The onshore sector has the largest share of the A season harvest to date 238,313MT. (525 million pounds).

Pacific Cod fishery, the pot gear fixed gear fisheries are wrapped up. The trawl harvest has reopened for 2,000MT; the freezer longline CPs continue to have strong fishing. Last week's harvest was 1,851MT (4.0 million pounds) including CDQ harvest. The A season harvest is at 74,014MT (163 million pounds) leaving 66,647MT to harvest (146 million pounds). including CDQ 54.8% of the Pacific Cod seasonal allocation of 135,354MT has been harvested.

Halibut IFQ opened on March 10<sup>th</sup> landings reported as of this morning, 420 landings for 1.78 million pounds. and leaving 16.02 million pounds to harvest 9.5% of the fishery is complete. Fishing has been slow, and the harvesters have a lot of harsh weather. The CDQ harvest is still confidential currently. The IFQ allocation is 17.8 million pounds. The CDQ allocation for the 6 CDQ groups is 1.18 million pounds of Halibut. The leading port for Halibut landings is Juneau with 427,391 lbs. and Homer 225,244lbs. Halibut ex-vessel prices for Halibut are in the \$6.00 to \$6.50 range depending on size.

Sablefish IFQ 4-24-2023: this fishery opened on March 10<sup>th</sup> landings reported as of this morning, 420 landings for 1.78 million pounds. and leaving 16.02 million pounds to harvest 9.5% of the fishery is complete. Fishing has been slow, and the harvesters have a lot of harsh weather. The CDQ harvest is still confidential currently. The IFQ allocation is 17.8 million pounds. The CDQ allocation for the 6 CDQ groups is 1.18 million pounds of Halibut. The leading port for Halibut landings is Juneau with 427,391 lbs. and Homer 225,244lbs. Halibut ex-vessel prices for Halibut are in the \$6.00 to \$6.50 range depending on size.

ADFG Aleutian Island State Water Sablefish 4-24-23 as of this morning forty-nine landings for 892,845lbs. leaving 1.04 million pounds to harvest 53% of the allocation remains to be harvested.

All crab fisheries are closed. The North Peninsula Dungeness crab fishery opens on May 1<sup>st</sup> and the Aleutian Island Golden King Crab fisheries re-open on August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023.

**Overall Groundfish Harvest 4-15-2023:** the A season harvest last week was 12,345MT (27 million pounds) 12,000MT decrease over the previous week's harvest due to the Pollock, Cod harvests being completed. The season totals are 735,918MT harvested (1.62 billion pounds) leaving 1,251,367MMT (2.75 billion pounds) to harvest; 37% of the overall annual harvest of 1,987,285MMT (4.37 billion pounds) to harvest.

**Pollock: 4-15-2023:** Pollock A season opened on January 20<sup>th</sup>. Last week we had a harvest of 1,193MT (2.6 million lbs.) That was a 20,000MT reduction from the previous week's harvest. The total A season harvest is at 548,591MT (1.20 billion pounds) leaving 20,026MT (44.1 million pounds) to harvest 96.9% of the A season allocation has been harvested. The onshore sector has the largest share of the A season harvest to date 238,313MT. (525 million pounds).

**Inshore CV:** this sector harvested 1,193MT last week, the A season seasonal harvest is 238,313MT (525 million pounds) the A season allocation is 252,000MT leaving 16,522MT (36 million pounds) of A season to harvest, with 94% of the A allocation having been harvested.

**At Sea Processors:** At Sea Sector harvested 0MT last week, the A season seasonal harvest is 201,118MT (443 million pounds) the A season allocation is 201,600MT leaving 2,816MT (4.8 million pounds) of the A season allocation to harvest. 99% of the A season is completed.

**Mothership Sector:** harvested last week was 0MT the A season seasonal harvest is at 50,281MT (110 million pounds) the A season harvest allocation is 50,400MT leaving 686MT (1.5 million pounds) to harvest 99% of the A season allocation has been harvested.

**CDQ Sector:** Harvested last week was 0MT the A season harvest is 58,945MT (129.9 million pounds). The A season allocation is 58,500MT leaving -445MT (-980,780 lbs.) having been harvested 101% is A season is harvested.

**Pollock Incidental Catch 4-15-23:** Last week's harvest was 1,042MT for the season 21,300MT leaving 28,700MT to harvest 43% the annual allocation has been harvested.

**Salmon bycatch 4-15-23:** The bycatch total is 10,594 Chinook salmon fish taken as bycatch for the season. Chinook bycatch allocation is at 23% leaving 35,106 fish of the cap amount of 45,700 fish. Chum salmon, the season total is 453 fish.

**Pacific Cod: 4-15-2023:** Pacific Cod fishery pot gear fixed gear fisheries are wrapped up. The trawl harvest and freezer longline CPs have strong fishing. Last week's harvest was 1,851MT (4.0 million pounds) including CDQ harvest. The A season harvest is at 74,014MT (163 million pounds) leaving 66,647MT to harvest (146million pounds). including CDQ 54.8% of the Pacific Cod seasonal allocation of 135,354MT has been harvested.

**Hook and Line C/Ps:** This sector harvested 1,007MT last week for the season 25,141MT from the A season allocation of 29,964MT leaving the A season allocation at 4,782MT to harvest, 84% of the A season allocation has been harvested.

**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 through April 15, 2023, last week 551MT. The Amendment 80 sector,308MT At Sea 41MT and CV sector 202MT A season harvest stands at 29,031MT (63.9 million pounds) leaving 7,168MT (15.7 million pounds) of A season trawl cod to harvest 58% of the A season allocation has been harvested. The CV trawl sector B season will reopen on April 13 to harvest and additional 2,200MT of trawl cod hopefully there will be enough vessels to harvest that amount.

**CV Pot/HL < 60'ft:** harvested 0MT last week for the season 3,336MT leaving 27MT cod allocation to harvest, 99% of the seasonal allocation was harvested.

**C/P Pot CPs** 0MT was harvested last week of A season Cod, for the season 828MT. The A season remaining allocation is 95MT 90% of the A season allocation of 923MT has been harvested.

**Pot Cod 60'>:** harvested 0MT last week for the season 5,087MT leaving 5,047MT of B season allocation to harvest 50% of the A season allocation has been harvested.

**Pacific Cod CDQ:** had a harvest 293MT last week for the season 5,493MT from an allocation of 14,470MT leaving 8,977MT 37% of the CDQ harvest has been taken.

**Pacific Cod Jig:** 0MT harvested last week, for the season 0MT harvested from the jig allocation of 748MT leaving 748MT 0% of the allocation has been harvested.

**Amendment 80 Bottom Trawl Fishery 4-15-2023:** The Amendment 80 sector fishing sector is off to a slow start this A season. The harvest last week was 8,548MT (18.8 million pounds) a 4,000MT decrease over last week's harvest due to the increase in Yellowfin Sole harvest. The total harvest stands 95,928MT (211 million pounds) of various species including the CDQ harvest. The seasonal harvest totals by species are as follows, Yellowfin Sole 38,802MT, Rock Sole 13,616MT Alaska Plaice, 5,546MT, Flathead Sole 4,662MT, Arrowtooth Flounder 578MT, Kamchatka Flounder 44MT other Flatfish 846MT other species harvested this season including Perch and Rockfish, 2,780MT Atka Mackerel 18,491MT, Octopus, 105MT Skate 10,381MT Greenland Turbot, 4MT and Sablefish Trawl 72MT.

**ADFG Pacific Cod State Water 58' < Pot Cod Fishery: 4-24-2023:** Pacific Cod 58' < fishery got off to a good start on January 23, 2023. fishing has been strong all season. The fishery closed at noon on Friday April 7, 2023, at noon. The total allocation Dutch Harbor sub-district is fishery is 38.3 million pounds, with twenty-six vessels participating so far, that number has increase as of Pot Cod fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska are completed. The fishing in this pot cod fishery has remained strong for most of the season. The final landings through this morning are at 437, for 37.58 million pounds harvested leaving 728,145lbs. unharvested this year 98% of the harvest was taken.

**Halibut IFQ 4-24-2023:** This Fishery opened on March 10<sup>th</sup> landings reported as of this morning, 420 landings for 1.78 million pounds. and leaving 16.02 million pounds to harvest 9.5% of the fishery is complete. Fishing has been slow, and the harvesters have a lot of harsh weather. The CDQ harvest is still confidential currently. The IFQ allocation is 17.8 million pounds. The CDQ allocation for the 6 CDQ groups is 1.18 million pounds of Halibut. The leading port for Halibut landings is Juneau with 427,391 lbs. and Homer 225,244lbs. Halibut ex-vessel prices for Halibut are in the \$6.00 to \$6.50 range depending on size.

**Sablefish IFQ 4-24-2023:** This Fishery opened on March 10<sup>th</sup> landings reported as of this morning show 405 for 9.09 million lbs. leaving 52.9 million pounds to harvest 15% of the allocation has been harvested. The Sablefish allocation for Alaska is 62.04 million pounds. The leading Port for Sablefish landings is Seward 1.2 million lbs. and Juneau at 611,075lbs. Sablefish prices range depending on size \$1.50-\$7.00 for large fish, we understand the fleet is harvesting many 1-2- and 2-3-pound fish which is driving down ex-vessel value.

**ADFG Aleutian Island State Water Sablefish 4-24-23:**as of this morning forty-nine landings for 892,845lbs. leaving 1.04 million pounds to harvest 53% of the allocation remains to be harvested. There are thirteen vessels registered for this fishery.  
Regards

**Misc. Items:** On Friday April 21<sup>st</sup> I attend online the Alaska Legislature Senate Judiciary Hearing, on Senator Don Olson Bill 128 that would close Area M to salmon fishing for the month of June that would impact the harvesters, processors, and communities that could lose 50% of the salmon revenues. Chairman Claman stated that in his nine years in the legislature he never seen so many e-mails, texts, and people signed up to testify on a bill. They took public testimony for an hour, about fifteen or more testified. Senator Claman is leaving testimony open. He also stated that he did not think the bill would go anywhere this session, not enough time in the session to tackle something so controversial. I checked the calendar for this week, and I did not see the bill on the Judiciary calendar. Since I did not think I would get a chance to testify I send an e-mail on behalf of myself opposing this bill that which is taking a fishery issue and making it political, undercutting ADFG and the Board of Fisheries who are the experts in fishery management. This is similar to the Texas Judge who thinks he knows more about medicine than the scientists and Doctors at the FDA. This is a dangerous game going.

Frank Kelty

Attachments:

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