

Frank Kelty
Fisheries Consultant
City of Unalaska

Date: 5-1-2023

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 4-22-2023, State Water Pot Cod 58' < Under Fishery State Water Sablefish and IFQ Halibut and Sablefish, for 5-1-23.

We are in the slow period for fishing activity in the Bering Sea until the Pollock B season opens on June 10th. 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 19,400MT (42 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 10th 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 10th. 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 20th. Pollock A season opened on January 20th. Last week we had a harvest of 570MT (1.2 million lbs.) That was a 600MT reduction from the previous week's harvest. The total A season harvest is at 549,148MT (1.21 billion pounds) leaving 19,456MT (42.8 million pounds) to harvest 97.1% of the A season allocation has been harvested. The onshore sector has the largest share of the A season harvest to date 238,870MT. (525.8 million pounds).

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 2,858MT (6.2 million pounds) including CDQ harvest. The A season harvest is at 76,872MT (169 million pounds) leaving 63,789MT to harvest (140 million pounds). including CDQ 56.8% of the Pacific Cod seasonal allocation of 135,354MT has been harvested.

Bottom Trawl Fishery 4-22-2023: The Amendment 80 sector fishing sector is seeing better fishing and improved weather, which is increasing their catch. The harvest last week was 11,221MT (24.7 million pounds) a 3,000MT increase over last week's harvest

due to the increase in Yellowfin Sole harvest. The total harvest stands 107,149MT (236 million pounds) of various species including the CDQ harvest.

Halibut 5-1-23, This Fishery opened on March 10th landings reported as of this morning, 491 landings for 2.16 million pounds. and leaving 16.09 million pounds to harvest 11.8% 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 18.2 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 480,196 lbs. and Homer 324,286lbs. Halibut ex-vessel prices for Halibut are in the \$6.00 to \$6.50 range depending on size.

Sablefish IFQ 5-1-2023: This Fishery opened on March 10th landings reported as of this morning show 471 for 10.54 million lbs. leaving 51.50 million pounds to harvest 17% of the allocation has been harvested. The Sablefish allocation for Alaska is 62.04 million pounds. The leading Port for Sablefish landings is Seward 1.59 million lbs. and Juneau at 672,872lbs. 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 5-1-23 as of this morning fifty-six landings for 987,449lbs. leaving 919,551 million pounds to harvest 52% of the allocation remains to be harvested. There are thirteen vessels registered for this fishery.

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

Overall Groundfish Harvest 4-22-2023: 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: 4-22-2023: Pollock A season opened on January 20th. Last week we had a harvest of 570MT (1.2 million lbs.) That was a 600MT reduction from the previous week's harvest. The total A season harvest is at 549,148MT (1.21 billion pounds) leaving 19,456MT (42.8 million pounds) to harvest 97.1% of the A season allocation has been harvested. The onshore sector has the largest share of the A season harvest to date 238,870MT. (525.8 million pounds).

Inshore CV: this sector harvested 570MT last week, the A season seasonal harvest is 238,870MT (525 million pounds) the A season allocation is 252,000MT leaving 15,965MT (35.1 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 4-22-23: Last week's harvest was 3,537MT for the season 24,837MT leaving 25,13MT to harvest 50% the annual allocation has been harvested.

Salmon bycatch 4-22-23: The bycatch total is 10,606 Chinook salmon fish taken as bycatch for the season. Chinook bycatch allocation is at 23% leaving 35,094 fish of the cap amount of 45,700 fish. Chum salmon, the season total is 451 fish.

Pacific Cod: 4-22-2023: 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 2,858MT (6.2 million pounds) including CDQ harvest. The A season harvest is at 76,872MT (169 million pounds) leaving 63,789MT to harvest (140 million pounds). including CDQ 56.8% of the Pacific Cod seasonal allocation of 135,354MT has been harvested.

Hook and Line C/Ps: This sector harvested 1,085MT last week for the season 26,226MT from the A season allocation of 29,964MT leaving the A season allocation at 3,697MT to harvest, 88% 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 22, 2023, last week 1,401MT. The Amendment 80 sector,993MT At Sea 16MT and CV sector 392MT A season harvest stands at 30,432MT (67 million pounds) leaving 5,767MT (12.7 million pounds) of A season trawl cod to harvest 60% 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 372MT last week for the season 5,865MT from an allocation of 14,470MT leaving 8,605MT 43% 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 4-22-2023: The Amendment 80 sector fishing sector is seeing better fishing and weather that is increasing their catch. The harvest last week was 11,221MT (24.7 million pounds) a 3,000MT increase over last week’s harvest due to the increase in Yellowfin Sole harvest. The total harvest stands 107,149MT (236 million pounds) of various species including the CDQ harvest. The seasonal harvest totals by species are as follows, Yellowfin Sole 43,368MT, Rock Sole 16,139MT Alaska Plaice, 5,882MT, Flathead Sole 4,786MT, Arrowtooth Flounder 627MT, Kamchatka Flounder 53MT other Flatfish 1,012MT other species harvested this season including Perch and Rockfish, 3,004MT Atka Mackerel 21,134MT, Octopus, 107MT Skate 10,956MT Greenland Turbot, 5MT and Sablefish Trawl 76MT.

ADFG Pacific Cod State Water 58’< Pot Cod Fishery: 5-1-2023: 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 5-1-2023: This Fishery opened on March 10th landings reported as of this morning, 491 landings for 2.16 million pounds. and leaving 16.09 million pounds to harvest 11.8% 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 18.2 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 480,196 lbs. and Homer 324,286lbs. Halibut ex-vessel prices for Halibut are in the \$6.00 to \$6.50 range depending on size.

Sablefish IFQ 5-1-2023: This Fishery opened on March 10th landings reported as of this morning show 471 for 10.54 million lbs. leaving 51.50 million pounds to harvest 17% of the allocation has been harvested. The Sablefish allocation for Alaska is 62.04 million pounds. The leading Port for Sablefish landings is Seward 1.59 million lbs. and

Juneau at 672,872lbs. 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 5-1-23: as of this morning fifty-six landings for 987,449lbs. leaving 919,551 million pounds to harvest 52% of the allocation remains to be harvested. There are thirteen vessels registered for this fishery.

Misc. Items: This morning I attended the State of Alaska Bycatch Council meeting for two and half hours. This 6-member panel takes direction from the Commissioner of ADFG and will meet 4-5 times a year. They are still in the organizational mode taking the 6-page document and working through the various sections by sub committees. They will meet again in late May.

On Friday, the Senate Resources Committee held a hearing on the Area M Salmon fishery the only testifier was ADFG Commissioner Vincent – Lange who gave an overview of the management of the fishery and how ADFG manages it and the changes made by the Board of Fisheries in February 2023. The overview had nothing to do with SB 128 Senator Olson bill and Senate Resources will not be taking testimony on SB128. They will have some additional invitation testimony only this week on the management of the Area M Fishery. I have attached the Commissioners Power Point Presentation with this memo. I have also Attached NOAA Report to Congress for 2022 Status of US Fisheries for your review, it is a 12 pager, but it is interesting reading of the status of the nation's fisheries.

Frank Kelty

Attachments:

1. Fishery Update Memo
2. Groundfish Harvest Data
3. NOAA Reports
4. ADFG Area M Management Power Point Presentation