

Frank Kelty
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City of Unalaska

Date: 5-22-2023

To: City Manager Bil Homka, Clay Darnell, Marjorie Veeder, and Michelle Price

From: Frank Kelty, Fisheries Consultant

Subject: Fishery Update Memo for May 22, 2023, Harvest Data and NOAA Reports

Federal Water Groundfish Harvest 5-13-2023, State Water Pot Cod 58' < Under Fishery State Water Sablefish and IFQ Halibut and Sablefish, for 5-22-23.

We continue in the slow period for fishing activity in the Bering Sea until the Pollock B season opens on June 10th. Last week groundfish harvest was only 9,371MT (20 million lbs.) we should start seeing increased activity with 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 19,277MT (41 million pounds) of A season Pollock allocation left the majority of that is in the shore side catcher vessel sector. I expect some the A season left over quota to harvest 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 Pacific Cod 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 no harvest. The total A season harvest is at 549,327MT (1.21 billion pounds) leaving 19,277MT (42.4 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 239,040MT. (526 million pounds).

Pacific Cod: the fishery pot gear fixed gear fisheries are basically wrapped up. The trawl harvest and freezer longline CPs have also slowed down. Last week's harvest was only 784MT (1.7 million pounds) including CDQ harvest. The A season harvest is at 81,815MT (180 million pounds) leaving 58,846MT to harvest (129 million pounds). including CDQ 60.4% of the Pacific Cod seasonal allocation of 135,354MT has been harvested.

Bottom Trawl Fishery: The Amendment 80 sector fishing sector is seeing better fishing and weather that is increasing their catch. The harvest last week was 6,226MT (13.7 million pounds) a 3,000MT decrease over last week's harvest due to the decrease in Yellowfin Sole harvest, and vessels in Unalaska doing offloads. The total harvest stands 126,957MT (279 million pounds) of various species including the CDQ harvest.

Halibut IFQ: The Fishery opened on March 10th landings reported as of this morning, 818 landings for 3.69 million pounds. and leaving 14.5 million lbs. to harvest 20.2% of the fishery is complete. Fishing has been slow, and the harvesters have had harsh weather. The CDQ harvest is still confidential currently. The IFQ allocation is 17.2 million pounds. The CDQ allocation for the 6 CDQ groups is 1.18 million pounds of Halibut for a total of 18.2 million pounds. The leading port for Halibut landings is Juneau with 585,562lbs. and Homer 562,000lbs. Halibut ex-vessel prices for Halibut are in the \$6.00 to \$6.50 range depending on size.

Sablefish IFQ: The Fishery opened on March 10th landings reported as of this morning show 756 landings for 16.1 million lbs. leaving 45.94 million pounds to harvest 26% of the allocation have been harvested. The Sablefish allocation for Alaska is 62.04 million pounds. The leading Port for Sablefish landings is Seward 2.9million lbs. and Kodiak at 1.9 million lbs. 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: as of this morning seventy-three landings for 991,014 lbs. leaving 915,986lbs. to harvest, 52% of the

allocation 1.9 million pounds has been harvested. There are thirteen vessels registered for this fishery.

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

Overall Groundfish Harvest 5-13-2023: the A season harvest last week was 9,371MT (20.6 million pounds) 4,000MT decrease over the previous week's harvest due increase in Yellowfin Sole harvest. The season totals are 786,691MT harvested (1.73 billion pounds) leaving 1,199,594MMT (2.64 billion pounds) to harvest; 40% of the overall annual harvest of 1,986,285MMT (4.37 billion pounds) to harvest.

Pollock: 5-13-2023: Pollock A season opened on January 20th. Last week we had no harvest. The total A season harvest is at 549,327MT (1.21 billion pounds) leaving 19,277MT (42.4 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 239,040MT. (526 million pounds).

Inshore CV: The harvested last week was 0MT the seasonal harvest is 239,049MT (526 million pounds) the A season allocation is 252,000MT leaving 15,786MT (34.7 million pounds) of A season to harvest, with 94% of the A allocation having been harvested.

At Sea Processors: The fleet harvested 0MT last week, there 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: The 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: The 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 has been harvested.

Pollock Incidental Catch 5-13-23: Last week's harvest was 929MT for the season 29,706MT leaving 20,594MT to harvest 59% the annual allocation has been harvested.

Salmon bycatch 5-13-23: The bycatch total is 10,607 Chinook salmon fish taken as bycatch for the season. Chinook bycatch allocation is at 23% leaving 35,093 fish of the cap amount of 45,700 fish. There was no Chinook bycatch last week. The Chum salmon, the season total is 451 fish.

Pacific Cod: 5-13-2023: Pacific Cod 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 784MT (1.7 million pounds) including CDQ harvest. The A season harvest is at 81,815MT (180 million pounds) leaving 58,846MT to harvest (129 million pounds). including CDQ 60.4% of the Pacific Cod seasonal allocation of 135,354MT has been harvested.

Hook and Line C/Ps: This sector harvested 316MT last week for the season 28,318MT from the A season allocation of 29,964MT leaving the A season allocation at 1,646MT to harvest, 94% of the A season allocation has been harvested by this sector.

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 May 13, 2023, last week 388MT. The Amendment 80 sector, 354MT At Sea 29MT and CV sector 5MT A season harvest stands at 32,606MT (71 million pounds) leaving 3,593MT (7.9 million pounds) of A season trawl cod to harvest 64.2% 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 have 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 64MT last week for the season 6,343MT from an allocation of 14,470MT leaving 8,127MT 47% of the CDQ harvest have 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 5-13-2023: The Amendment 80 sector fishing sector is seeing better fishing and weather that is increasing their catch. The harvest last week was 6,226MT (13.7 million pounds) a 3,000MT decrease over last week’s harvest due to the decrease in Yellowfin Sole harvest, and vessels in Unalaska doing offloads. The total harvest stands 126,957MT (279 million pounds) of various species including the CDQ harvest. The seasonal harvest totals by species are as follows, Yellowfin Sole 51,641MT, Rock Sole 20,104MT Alaska Plaice, 6,727MT, Flathead Sole 4,912MT, Arrowtooth Flounder 987MT, Kamchatka Flounder 470MT other Flatfish 1,198MT other species harvested this season including Perch and Rockfish,4,880MT Atka Mackerel 24,557MT, Octopus,77MT Skate 12,042MT Greenland Turbot, 33MT and Sablefish Trawl 218MT.

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Misc. Items: The NPFMC Crab Plan team met in Juneau last week for three days. They recommended to the NPFMC an Aleutian Island Golden King Crab 23/24 season Overfishing Limit of (OFL 9.5 million pounds) the Allowable Biological Catch (ABC amount was 6.9million pounds) we up from the 22/23 amounts. The NPFMC will approve the OFL and TAC at their June meeting in Sitka, Alaska. The Total Allowable Catch (TAC) is set by ADFG in July, last year the TAC was 4.9 million pounds I expect it might be increased slightly increased for the 23/24 season which opens on August 1st, 2023.

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) announced the Crab disaster funding for amounts for the 21/22 season \$94.5 million for King Crab and Snow Crab for the 22/23 seasons \$96.6 million for King Crab and Snow Crab total is \$191.01million the communities share in the 2019 Tanner Crab disaster was 4% for communities in the funding schedule Unalaska should receive close to 50% of the community total, since we are the largest crab processing community that amount would be estimated to be in the \$3.8 to \$4.0 million dollars range for the general fund if the percentage of the total stays the same. That funding is still 8-10 months out before we see a check.

Regards

Frank Kelty

Attachments:

- 1.Fishery Update Memo
- 2.Groundfish Harvest Data

3. NOAA Reports