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**Date:** 7-17-2023

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

**From:** Frank Kelty, Fisheries Consultant

**Subject:** Fishery Update Memo for June 26, 2023, Harvest Data and NOAA Reports

**Federal Water Groundfish Harvest 7-8-2023, 58' < Under Fishery State Water Sablefish and IFQ Halibut and Sablefish, for 7-17-23.**

Activity is continuing to be strong in the community with the Pollock B season ongoing; fishing last week continued to be strong. The total groundfish harvest last week increased to 59,972MT (130 million lbs.) due to the Pollock fishery having three straight weeks of overall harvest of over 50,000MT and four full weeks of harvest at 202,000MT 445 million pounds of 30% of the B season harvest is complete. The At Sea Catcher Processors fleet's lead the way last week with a Pollock harvest of 27,219MT (59 million lbs.)

The size of the Pollock continues to be good for the Pollock harvesters with fish sizes in the medium range of 550–650-gram range fish. We should see an increase in the next few weeks on Halibut and Sablefish landings as of now the landings are confidential coming to the local shore-plants. The 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 summer.

All crab BSAI fisheries are now closed. The North Peninsula Dungeness crab fishery opened on May 1<sup>st</sup> catch is small so far 159,617lbs. and the Aleutian Island Golden King Crab fisheries re-opens on August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023.

**Overall Groundfish Harvest 7-8-2023:** Overall Groundfish Harvest for the last week for the third full week of the B season 59,972MT (132.0 million pounds) 1,000MT decrease over the previous week's harvest due decrease in Pollock harvest. The season totals are 918,254 MT harvested (2.02 billion pounds) leaving 918,254MT (2.15 billion pounds) to harvest; 54% of the overall annual harvest of 1,986,285MMT (4.37 billion pounds) to harvest.

**Pollock: 7-8-2023:** Last week we had 53,107MT (117 million lbs.) The total B season harvest is 212,642MT (468 million lbs.) for all four harvesting sectors. For the seasonal

harvest 762,317MT (1.68 billion pounds) leaving 520,729MT (1.14 billion pounds) unharvested 67.4% of the A/B season allocation has been harvested. The B season harvest 212,642MT (468million lbs.) from 695,475MT leaving 520,729MT (1.14 billion lbs.) to harvest 30.5% of the B season allocation has been harvested.

**Inshore CV:** The harvested last week was 21,114MT from the B season allocation which puts the B season allocation at 87,911MT harvested (193 million lbs.) The seasonal harvest is 330,390MT (728 million lbs.) the B season allocation is 311,465MT leaving 235,910MT (519 million lbs.) of B season to harvest, with 28% of the B allocation having been harvested.

**At Sea Processors:** The At Sea fleet harvested 27,219MT last week, the seasonal harvest is 303,668MT (669 million lbs.) the B season allocation is 249,172MT (549 million lbs.) leaving 149,372MT (329 million pounds) of the B Season allocation to harvest.41% of the B season harvest is completed.

**Mothership Sector:** The harvested last week was 2,610MT the seasonal harvest is at 60,631MT (115 million pounds) the B season harvest allocation is 62,293MT leaving 52,629MT (116 million lbs.) to harvest 17% of the B season allocation has been harvested.

**CDQ Sector:** The harvested last week was 2,164MT the seasonal harvest is 67,629MT (149 million pounds). The B season allocation is 72,545MT (159 million lbs.) leaving 64,271MT (141 million lbs.) having been harvested12% of the B season Pollock has been harvested.

**Pollock Incidental Catch 7-8-23:** Last week's harvest was 246MT for the season 31,754MT leaving 18,546MT to harvest 63% the annual allocation has been harvested.

**Salmon bycatch 7-8-23:** The bycatch total is 11,120 Chinook salmon fish taken as bycatch for the season. Chinook bycatch allocation is at 24% leaving 34,580 fish of the cap amount of 45,700 fish. The Chum salmon, the season total 5,910 fish last week.

**Pacific Cod: 7-8-2023:** 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 1,880MT (4.1 million pounds) including CDQ harvest. The A/B season harvest is at 90,443MT (199 million pounds) leaving 51,115MT to harvest (112.6 million pounds). including CDQ 66% of the Pacific Cod seasonal allocation of 135,354MT has been harvested.

**Hook and Line C/Ps:** This sector harvested 1,792MT last week for the B season harvest of 29,825MT leaving the B season allocation at 21,220MT to harvest, 27% of the B season allocation has been harvested by this sector. The total A/B season catch is 37,452MT 64% of the seasonal harvest has been taken leaving 22,965 lbs. to harvest.

**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 July 8, 2023, last week 125MT. The Amendment 80 sector, 76MT At Sea 17MT and CV sector 32MT A/B season harvest stands at 34,488MT (76.0 million pounds) leaving 10,913MT (24.0 million pounds) of A/B season trawl cod to harvest 68.5% of the AB season allocation has been harvested.

**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 of 9MT last week for the season 7,392MT from an allocation of 14,470MT leaving 7,142MT 50.0 % 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 7-8-2023:** The Amendment 80 sector fishing sector is slow with decreased catch of Perch/Rockfish, and Sole as it does during the summer. Last week's catch was 4,889MT (10.7 million pounds) a 1,500MT increase over last week's harvest due to an increase in Perch and Mackerel harvests. The total harvest stands 181,024MT (398 million pounds) of various species including the CDQ harvest. The seasonal harvest totals by species are as follows, Yellowfin Sole 65,093MT, Rock Sole 21,622MT Alaska Plaice, 7,923MT, Flathead Sole 6,046MT, Arrowtooth Flounder 3,892MT, Kamchatka Flounder 4,063MT other Flatfish 2,401MT other species harvested this season including Perch and Rockfish, 15,877MT Atka Mackerel 35,500MT, Octopus 117MT Skate 15,637MT Greenland Turbot, 651MT and Sablefish Trawl 2,202MT.

**Halibut IFQ 7-17-2023:** The Fishery opened on March 10<sup>th</sup> landings reported as of this morning, 1,567 landings for 6.68 million pounds. and leaving 11.1 million lbs. to harvest 38% of the fishery is complete. The harvesters have had better weather, but fishing is slow. The CDQ harvest is still confidential currently. The IFQ allocation is 17.2 million pounds. The CDQ allocation for the 6 CDQ groups is at 26 landings for 26,947 lbs. leaving 1.15 million pounds of Halibut to harvest 2% 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 1.30 million lbs. and Seward, 743,316lbs. Halibut ex-vessel prices for Halibut are in the \$5.50 to \$6.50 range depending on size.

**Sablefish IFQ 7-17-2023:** The Fishery opened on March 10<sup>th</sup> landings reported as of this morning show 1,140 landings for 22.62 million lbs. leaving 39.4 million pounds to harvest 36% of the allocation have been harvested. The Sablefish allocation for Alaska is 62.04 million pounds. The leading Port for Sablefish landings is Seward 3.99 million lbs. and Kodiak at 2.90 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 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 7-17-23:** as of this morning ninety -eight landing landings for 1.23million lbs. harvested, leaving 687,508lbs. to harvest, 65% from the allocation 1.9 million pounds has been harvested. There are seventeen vessels registered for this fishery.

**North Peninsula Dungeness Crab 7-17-23:** this fishery is just getting started there have been nineteen landings for 159,617lbs. from nine vessels.

**Dutch Harbor Food and Bait Herring Fishery 7-17-23:** This fishery opened on June 24,2023 at noon. The allocation is set at 4,322Short Tons (8.6 million lbs.) There have been three landings reported for under 500,000lbs. from the one vessel registered to fish. The actual catch amounts are still confidential. This fishery is managed out of the Sand Point ADFG office.

**Misc. Items:** It was a slow week last without any meeting scheduled; due to a hangover from the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday. The Spend plan allocation letters were due to ADFG on Friday July 14<sup>th</sup> at the close of business. The various sectors could not come to agreement on the various percentages for each sector, so each sector sent in their recommendation to ADFG. The communities are holding together at 7% of the 191 million (\$13.7 million dollars) off the top, and additional 1% of the top for Saint Paul Island since their economy has been devastated with the Snow Crab fishery closure and the closure of the communities only processing plant. The communities are sending individual letters as well as a joint communities signed letter this week affirming the communities' position to the State of Alaska ADFG which you saw in last week's memo attachments. We expect the ADFG Commissioner staff to call a meeting to discuss this with all the sectors in a couple of weeks.

The Bering Sea Fisheries Research Foundation will be having a Board of Directors meeting on Thursday July 20<sup>th</sup>. We may get an update on what the Snow crab survey work is showing so far from one of the on-board scientists. Rumor has it survey was bleak ground the Pribilof Islands but better to the North and Northwest of St Matthew Island.

As a side note the Bristol Bay Red Salmon fishery as of this morning has harvested thirty-four. million fish x 5.0 lbs.=170 million pounds plus 10 million fish for escapement the projected commercial harvest is 37 million fish the harvest may reach 40 million or more for over 200 million pounds of Sockeye with fishing still going strong.

Regards

Frank Kelty

Attachments:

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