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**Date:** 8-21-2023

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

**From:** Frank Kelty, Fisheries Consultant

**Subject:** Fishery Update Memo for August 21, 2023, Harvest Data and NOAA Reports.

**Federal Water Groundfish Harvest 8-12-2023, State Water Fisheries on Sablefish, Cod, Dungeness Crab, Herring, and IFQ Halibut and Sablefish, for 8-21-23.**

Activity in the community continues to be strong with the Pollock B season ongoing, at a fast clip. The total groundfish harvest last week 66,194657MT (146 million lbs.) The Pollock fishery having eight straight weeks of overall harvest of over 50,000MT. The B season eight full weeks of harvest total is 491,870 (1.08 billion lbs.) of 70% of the B season harvest is complete. The shore-based Catcher Vessel fleet lead the way last week with a Pollock harvest of 25,389MT (58.1 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 continue to see Halibut and Sablefish landings; fishing continues to be slow. We have had landings of Halibut and Sablefish to Unalaska the landings are still by held by NOAA Fisheries is held confidentially until one more buyer purchase Halibut and Sablefish. 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.

The North Peninsula Dungeness crab fishery opened on May 1<sup>st</sup> catch is awfully slow so far 607,038lbs have been harvested. The Aleutian Island Golden King Crab fisheries re-opened on Tuesday August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023, the allocation is 5.6 million lbs. We had the first two Golden King Crab deliveries into Unalaska last week, one from the West District and one from the Eastern District a CDQ landing, both deliveries are confidential until three buyers purchase crab.

**Overall Groundfish Harvest 8-12-2023:** The Harvest for the last week for the seventh full week of the B season 66,657MT (146.9 million pounds) 3,000MT increase over the previous week's harvest due increase in Pollock harvest. The season totals are 1.380MMT harvested (3.04 billion pounds) leaving 598,819MT (1.31 billion pounds) to harvest; 70% of the overall annual harvest of 1,986,285MMT (4.37 billion pounds) is completed.

**Pollock: 8-12-2023:** Last week we had 59,048MT (130 million lbs.) The total B season harvest is 491,870MT (1.08 billion lbs.) for all four harvesting sectors 70.6% of the harvest is completed leaving 330,272MT to harvest. For the seasonal harvest 1.04MMT (2.29 billion pounds) leaving 222,636MT (490.6 million pounds) unharvested 80% of the A/B season allocation has been harvested.

**Inshore CV:** The harvested last week was 26,389MT from the B season allocation which puts the B season allocation at 213,434MT harvested (470 million lbs.) The seasonal harvest is 455,913MT (1.0 billion lbs.) 81% harvested. The B season allocation is 311,465MT leaving 110,387MT (243 million lbs.) of B season to harvest, with 69% of the B allocation having been harvested.

**At Sea Processors:** The At Sea fleet harvested 19,319MT last week, the B season total is at 185,974MT (409 million lbs.) seasonal harvest is 387,027MT (853 million lbs.) 85% of the harvest. The B season allocation is 249,172MT (549 million lbs.) leaving 66,013MT (145 million pounds) of the B Season allocation to harvest 75% of the B season harvest is completed.

**Mothership Sector:** The harvested last week was 3,856MT the B season total is 23,695MT (52.2 million lbs.) seasonal harvest is at 73,976MT (163 million pounds) 65% of the harvest. The B season harvest allocation is 62,293MT leaving 39,284MT (86.5 million lbs.) to harvest 38% of the B season allocation has been harvested.

**CDQ Sector:** The harvested last week was 9,484MT. The B season harvest is at 65,447MT (144 million lbs.) seasonal harvest is 124,392MT (274 million pounds) 94% of the harvest is completed. The B season allocation is 72,545MT (159 million lbs.) leaving 7,508MT (16.5 million lbs.) to harvested 90% of the B season Pollock allocation has been harvested.

**Pollock Incidental Catch 8-12-23:** Last week's harvest was 365MT for the season 33,827MT leaving 16,572MT to harvest 68% the annual allocation has been harvested.

**Salmon bycatch 8-12-23:** The bycatch total is 11,237 Chinook salmon fish taken as bycatch for the season. Chinook bycatch allocation is at 25% leaving 34,463 fish of the cap amount of 45,700 fish. The Chum salmon, the season bycatch total, we did not receive harvest data for Chum bycatch last week.

**Pacific Cod: 8-12-2023:** 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 1,596MT (3.5 million pounds) including CDQ harvest. The A/B season harvest is at 99,137MT (218.5 million pounds) leaving 42,439MT to harvest (93.5 million pounds). including CDQ 73.2% of the Pacific Cod seasonal allocation of 135,354MT has been harvested.

**Hook and Line C/Ps:** This sector harvested 1,299MT last week for the B season harvest of 15,318MT leaving the B season allocation at 13,530MT to harvest, 53% of

the B season allocation has been harvested by this sector. The total A/B season catch is 45,142MT (99 million lbs.) 77% of the seasonal harvest has been taken, leaving 13,530MT (29.8 million 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 August 12, 2023, last week 263MT mostly as bycatch in the Pollock fishery. The Amendment 80 sector, 108MT At Sea 7MT and CV sector 148MT A/B season harvest stands at 35,448MT (77.6 million pounds) leaving 9,913MT (21.8 million pounds) of A/B season trawl cod to harvest 70.1% 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 22MT last week for the season 7,555MT from an allocation of 14,470MT leaving 7,076MT 52% 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 8-12-2023:** The Amendment 80 sector fishing sector is slow with decreased catch of Sole species as it does during the summer fishing season. Last week's catch was 5,659MT (12.4 million pounds) a 7,000MT decrease over last week's harvest due to catcher processor vessels in town doing offloads and crew changes. The total harvest stands 212,594MT (468 million pounds) of various species including the CDQ harvest. The seasonal harvest totals by species are as follows, Yellowfin Sole 65,281MT, Rock Sole 21,682MT Alaska Plaice, 7,935MT, Flathead Sole 6,854MT, Arrowtooth Flounder 5,166MT, Kamchatka Flounder 5,671MT other Flatfish 2,601MT other species harvested this season including Perch and Rockfish, 29,130MT Atka Mackerel 46,150MT, Octopus 113MT Skate 17,863MT Greenland Turbot, 952MT and Sablefish Trawl 3,196MT.

**Halibut IFQ 8-21-2023:** The Fishery opened on March 10<sup>th</sup> landings reported as of this morning, 2,143 landings for 9.1 million pounds. and leaving 8.6 million lbs. to harvest 52% of the fishery is complete. The harvesters have been getting better weather to fish, but fishing was still a bit slow last week with 300,000lbs harvested. The IFQ allocation is 17.8 million pounds. The CDQ allocation for the 6 CDQ groups is at 83 landings for 129,514 lbs. leaving 1.05 million pounds of Halibut to harvest 11% 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 1.7 million lbs. and Seward, 965,494lbs. Halibut ex-vessel prices for Halibut are in the \$5.50 to \$6.50 range depending on size.

**Sablefish IFQ 8-21-2023:** The Fishery opened on March 10<sup>th</sup> landings reported as of this morning show 1,337 landings for 25.98 million lbs. leaving 36.06 million pounds to harvest 42% of the allocation have been harvested, fishing has really slowed down the past two weeks. The Sablefish allocation for Alaska is 62.04 million pounds. The leading Port for Sablefish landings is Seward at 4.65 million lbs. and Kodiak at 3.1 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 values.

**ADFG Aleutian Island State Water Sablefish and Aleutian Island State Water Pacific Cod 8-21-23:** as of this morning the Sablefish harvest is at 124 landing landings for 1.83 million lbs. harvested, leaving 68,267lbs. to harvest, 96% from the allocation 1.9 million pounds has been harvested. There are twenty-four vessels registered for this fishery. The Pacific Cod Aleutians Islands State water fishery is at 140 landings for 9.9 million lbs. from and allocation 11.8 million lbs. leaving 1.9 million lbs. to harvest 84% of the harvest is complete. There were no landings last week.

**Aleutian Islands Golden King Crab 8-21-23:** 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 5.6 million lbs. We had two landings last week, one landing from the Western District, the amount is confidential; we also had one landing of CDQ crab from the Eastern District which is also confidential.

**North Peninsula Dungeness Crab 8-21-23:** since this fishery started in May, fishing has been awfully slow, there have been thirty-nine landings of 607,038lbs. from ten vessels. Last week's harvest was 200,000lbs. from four landings.

**Dutch Harbor Food and Bait Herring Fishery 8-21-23:** This fishery opened on June 24, 2023, at noon. The allocation is set at 4,322 Short Tons (8.6 million lbs.) There have been twenty-six deliveries total, the harvest is estimated at 1,350 short tons, (2.7 million lbs.) from the two vessels registered to fish. Fishing continues to be slow and with limited markets they are expecting one more delivery. There were no landings made last week. The fishery is still open and only 1 vessel is still registered. The actual catch amounts are still confidential. This fishery is managed out of the Sand Point ADFG office.

**Misc. Items:** I understand that the Chairmen of the National Fisheries Institute will be touring Unalaska this week with longtime and former Unalaska resident, and Executive Director of the At Sea Processors Association Stephanie Madsen when you meet with her please expand on what great and dynamic community Unalaska is. The Aleutian

Island Golden King Crab is open for 5.6 million lbs. 3.7 million in the Eastern District and the Western is at 1.87million lbs. Four vessels are registered for the fishery we had two landing in Unalaska the amounts are still confidential until two more buyers purchase crab. Last week the Dutch Harbor Herring Fishery we had no deliveries, the fishery is still at 1,350Tons (2.7 million lbs.) landed the fishery may be wrapped up only 1 seiner is still registered for them fishery. So far, no word from ADFG Juneau when the next Crab Spend Plan meeting to discuss the Crab Disaster funding allocations between various impacted sectors. I hope to get some information from the Bering Sea Fisheries Research Foundation we have a meeting set for next week on Wednesday August 23<sup>rd</sup>, and hopefully we will get some of the preliminary results from ADFG and NOAA staff are going to attend the BSFRF meeting. I have also included salmon harvest information for the Alaska Peninsula from August 2nd. Sockeye harvest for the South and North districts is at 2.7 million fish, Pinks 8.7 million fish and Chum 881,000 fish, and Coho 138,000 fish total harvest is 12.5 million fish. The summertime is always a slow time for meetings; in September thing will start getting busy again, we have both the Goundfish and Crab NPFMC Plan teams meeting in Seattle. The first week of October we have the NPFMC meeting in Anchorage, Alaska at the Hilton.

Regards

Frank Kelty

Attachments:

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