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Date: 8-28-2023

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 28, 2023, Harvest Data and NOAA Reports.

Federal Water Groundfish Harvest 8-19-2023, State Water Fisheries on Sablefish, Cod, Dungeness Crab, Herring, and IFQ Halibut and Sablefish, for 8-28-23.

Activity in the community continues to be strong with the Pollock B season ongoing, at a fast clip. The total groundfish harvest last week was 64,147MT (141 million lbs.) The Pollock fishery having nine straight weeks of overall harvest of over 50,000MT. The B season totals for nine full weeks of harvest totals, is 543,484 (1.19 billion lbs.) of 76% of the B season harvest is complete. The shore-based Catcher Vessel fleet lead the way last week with a Pollock harvest of 23,570MT (51.9 million lbs.) we expect the season to be completed during the third week of September.

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 1st catch is awfully slow so far 607,038lbs have been harvested. The Aleutian Island Golden King Crab fisheries re-opened on Tuesday August 1st, 2023, the allocation is 5.6 million lbs. We had the first four Golden King Crab deliveries into Unalaska last week, one IFQ landing from the Western District and one from the Eastern District. We have also had two CDQ landings, both deliveries are from the Eastern District and the poundage is still confidential on all landings until three buyers purchase crab.

Overall Groundfish Harvest 8-19-2023: The Harvest for the last week for the seventh full week of the B season 64,147MT (141.3 million pounds) 4,000MT decrease over the previous week's harvest due increase in Pollock harvest. The season totals are 1.450MMT harvested (3.195 billion pounds) leaving 535,334MT (1.17 billion pounds) to

harvest; 73% of the overall annual harvest of 1,986,285MMT (4.37 billion pounds) is completed.

Pollock: 8-19-2023: Last week we had 52,726MT (116 million lbs.) The total B season harvest is 543,484MT (1.19 billion lbs.) for all four harvesting sectors 70.6% of the harvest is completed leaving 277,546MT to harvest. (611 million lbs.) For the seasonal harvest 1.093MMT (2.40 billion pounds) leaving 171,342MT (377.6 million pounds) unharvested 84% of the A/B season allocation has been harvested.

Inshore CV: The harvested last week was 23,570MT from the B season allocation which puts the B season allocation at 236,129MT harvested (520 million lbs.) 76% of the B season Allocation harvested. The seasonal harvest is 478,608MT (1.05 billion lbs.) 85% harvested. The B season allocation is 311,465MT leaving 87,692MT (192 million lbs.) of B season to harvest, with 76% of the B allocation having been harvested.

At Sea Processors: The At Sea fleet harvested 19,173MT last week, the B season total is at 205,148MT (452 million lbs.) 82% of the B season harvest is complete. The seasonal harvest is 406,200MT (895 million lbs.) 90% of the harvest is complete. The B season allocation is 249,172MT (549 million lbs.) leaving 46,840MT (103 million pounds) of the B Season allocation to harvest 82% of the B season harvest is completed.

Mothership Sector: The harvested last week was 5,403MT the B season total is 29,098MT (64.1 million lbs.) seasonal harvest is at 79,379MT (174 million pounds) 70% of the harvest. The B season harvest allocation is 62,293MT leaving 33,881MT (74.6 million lbs.) to harvest 47% of the B season allocation has been harvested.

CDQ Sector: The harvested last week was 4,579MT. The B season harvest is at 70,026MT (154 million lbs.) seasonal harvest is 128,971MT (284 million pounds) 98% of the harvest is completed. The B season allocation is 70,026MT (154 million lbs.) leaving 2,929MT (6.4 million lbs.) to harvested 97% of the B season Pollock allocation has been harvested.

Pollock Incidental Catch 8-19-23: Last week's harvest was 675MT for the season 35,078MT leaving 15,897MT to harvest 70% the annual allocation has been harvested.

Salmon bycatch 8-19-23: 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 bycatch totals stand at 77,868.

Pacific Cod: 8-19-2023: 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 1,893MT (4.1 million pounds) including CDQ harvest. The A/B season harvest is at 101,030MT (222.6 million pounds) leaving 40,546MT to harvest (89.3 million pounds). including CDQ 74.8% of the Pacific Cod seasonal allocation of 135,354MT has been harvested.

Hook and Line C/Ps: This sector harvested 1,397MT last week for the B season harvest of 16,743MT leaving the B season allocation at 12,007MT to harvest, 58% of the B season allocation has been harvested by this sector. The total A/B season catch is 46,568MT (102 million lbs.) 79% of the seasonal harvest has been taken, leaving 12,104MT (26.6 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 19, 2023, last week 488MT mostly as bycatch in the Pollock fishery. The Amendment 80 sector, 162MT At Sea 13MT and CV sector 313MT A/B season harvest stands at 35,936MT (79.2 million pounds) leaving 9,425MT (20.7 million pounds) of A/B season trawl cod to harvest 71.0% 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 8MT last week for the season 7,563MT from an allocation of 14,470MT leaving 7,068MT 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 8-19-2023: 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 5,701MT (12.5 million pounds) a 200MT increase over last week's harvest due to Perch harvest increase. The total harvest stands 218,295MT (481 million pounds) of various species including the CDQ harvest. The seasonal harvest totals by species are as follows, Yellowfin Sole 65,473MT, Rock Sole 21,748MT Alaska Plaice, 7,953MT, Flathead Sole 7,020MT, Arrowtooth Flounder 5,416MT, Kamchatka Flounder 6,195MT other Flatfish 2,690MT other species harvested this season including Perch and Rockfish, 31,623MT Atka Mackerel 47,153MT, Octopus 115MT Skate 18,397MT Greenland Turbot, 1,082MT and Sablefish Trawl 3,430MT.

Halibut IFQ 8-28-2023: The Fishery opened on March 10th landings reported as of this morning, 2,333 landings for 10.01 million pounds. and leaving 7.78 million lbs. to harvest 56% of the fishery is complete. The harvesters have been getting better weather to fish, but fishing picked up last week with 800,000lbs harvested. The IFQ allocation is 17.8 million pounds. The CDQ allocation for the 6 CDQ groups is at 92

landings for 187,306lbs. leaving 996,694lbs. of Halibut to harvest 16% 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 1.95 million lbs. and Seward, 1.07 million lbs. Halibut ex-vessel prices for Halibut are in the \$5.50 to \$6.50 range depending on size.

Sablefish IFQ 8-28-2023: The Fishery opened on March 10th landings reported as of this morning show 1,400 landings for 27.3 million lbs. leaving 34.6 million pounds to harvest 44% 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 4.9 million lbs. and Kodiak at 3.2 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 8-28-23: as of this morning the Sablefish harvest is at 127 landing landings for 1.63 million lbs. harvested, leaving 275,988lbs. to harvest, 86% from the allocation 1.9 million pounds has been harvested three landings last week. 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 8-28-23: 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 IFQ landings last week, one from the Eastern District, one landing from the Western District, the amounts are confidential. We also have had two landings of CDQ crab from the Eastern District which is also confidential. We need one more buyer to purchase crab.

North Peninsula Dungeness Crab 8-28-23: since this fishery started in May, fishing has been awfully slow, there have been forty-two landings of 679,976lbs. from eleven vessels. Last week's harvest was 74,000lbs. from three landings.

Dutch Harbor Food and Bait Herring Fishery 8-28-23: 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. With limited markets they think the fishery may be over. There were no landings made last week. The fishery is still open, but no one is registered. The actual catch amounts are still confidential. This fishery is managed out of the Sand Point ADFG office.

Misc. Items:

The Bering Sea Fisheries Research Foundation Board met with ADFG last Thursday and received preliminary information on the crab stock nothing is finalized as of yet, yet they are still working on the survey data. Some good news; but more not so good news as well. If the ADFG isn't going to open a fishery they will try and announce it sometime in early September so harvesters and processors can plan for the October 15th, 2023, crab openings. Please keep this information confidential as it is not final.

Bristol Bay Red King: has been closed for two years and it is still a depressed fishery. Mature females increased to 46% but most of the increase was from one stat area. Mature legal males -23% Preferred Size legal males Crab -19% Male Crab Bio mass -22% Mature Female Biomass up 63% which is good news. We may have a 50% chance for a small fishery, it will be close we will have to await the final analyses.

Snow Crab: still a major problem a very depressed fishery, 4' preferred size Male Crab -19% large legal males down -28% Large Mature Females down -29% Immature Females down -1% Immature males up 43%. Biomass Totals Legal Males -37% Immature males-6% Mature Female -29 Immature Female -15%. It would take a miracle for the Snow Crab Fishery to open in October.

Tanner Crab Eastern District: this area still has problems. Preferred Size 5'in crab down -25% large males down -31% Mature Females down -6% Immature Females down—10% Biomass Large Males 34% Preferred Size -24% Females Immature up 47% Mature Females down -11%

Tanner Crab Western District: the major bright spot. Tanner Crab preferred size 5'inch male crab up 50% lg males up 33% small Immature Males up 163% Female Mature up 30% Immature Females up 235% Biomass Totals: Males Preferred size up 50% Immature Males up 91% Female Mature up 18% Immature Females up 310%

We expect a Tanner Crab fishery in both districts in the fall probably in 2–3-million-pound range like last year's allocation.

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 four landings in Unalaska the amounts are still confidential until one more buyer 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 no vessel is still registered to fish, but the fishery is still open. 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.

Alaska Peninsula Salmon harvest from August 27th. Sockeye harvest for the South and North districts is at 2.84 million fish, Pinks 14.7 million fish and Chum 1.03 million fish, and Coho 181,000 fish total harvest is 18.8 million fish the fisheries are wrapping up

with processors not wanting to still purchase much more salmon. The summertime is always a slow time for meetings; September thing will start getting busy again, we have both the Groundfish 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
3. NOAA Reports