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**Date:** 8-7-2023

**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 7, 2023, Harvest Data and NOAA Reports.

**Federal Water Groundfish Harvest 7-29-2023, State Water Fisheries on Sablefish, Dungeness Crab, Herring, and IFQ Halibut and Sablefish, for 8-7-23.**

Activity in the community continues to be strong with the Pollock B season ongoing, at a fast clip. The total groundfish harvest last week increased to 66,829MT (147 million lbs.) due to the Pollock fishery having six straight weeks of overall harvest of over 50,000MT and seven full weeks of harvest at 381,000MT (839 million lbs.) of 54% of the B season harvest is complete. The shore-based Catcher Vessel fleet lead the way last week with a Pollock harvest of 25,845MT (56.9 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 for Unalaska are confidential 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 330,399lbs 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 expect the first Golden King Crab deliveries into Unalaska the week of August 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Overall Groundfish Harvest 7-29-2023:** The Harvest for the last week for the sixth full week of the B season 66,827MT (147.2 million pounds) 700MT increase over the previous week's harvest due increase in Pollock harvest. The season totals are 1.26MMT harvested (2.77 billion pounds) leaving 725,483MT (1.59 billion pounds) to harvest; 63% of the overall annual harvest of 1,986,285MMT (4.37 billion pounds) to harvest.

**Pollock: 7-29-2023:** Last week we had 56,721MT (125 million lbs.) The total B season harvest is 381,592MT (841 million lbs.) for all four harvesting sectors. For the seasonal

harvest 931,276MT (2.05 billion pounds) leaving 332,914MT (733 million pounds) unharvested 71.6% of the A/B season allocation has been harvested. Leaving 389,320MT (858 million lbs.) to harvest, 54.8% of the B season allocation has been harvested.

**Inshore CV:** The harvested last week was 25,845MT from the B season allocation which puts the B season allocation at 163,712MT harvested (359 million lbs.) The seasonal harvest is 406,191MT (895 million lbs.) 72% harvested. The B season allocation is 311,465MT leaving 160,109MT (352 million lbs.) of B season to harvest, with 53% of the B allocation having been harvested.

**At Sea Processors:** The At Sea fleet harvested 13,829MT last week, the B season total is at 154,057MT (339 million lbs.) seasonal harvest is 355,109MT (782 million lbs.) 78% of the harvest. The B season allocation is 249,172MT (549 million lbs.) leaving 97,931MT (215 million pounds) of the B Season allocation to harvest.62% of the B season harvest is completed.

**Mothership Sector:** The harvested last week was 2,512MT the B season total is 17,462MT (38 million lbs.) seasonal harvest is at 67,742MT (149 million pounds) 60% of the harvest. The B season harvest allocation is 62,293MT leaving 45,517MT (100 million lbs.) to harvest 28% of the B season allocation has been harvested.

**CDQ Sector:** The harvested last week was 14,535MT the B season harvest is at 43,279MT (95 million lbs.) seasonal harvest is 102,224MT (225million pounds). The B season allocation is 72,545MT (159 million lbs.) leaving 29,676MT (65 million lbs.) having been harvested 60% of the B season Pollock allocation has been harvested.

**Pollock Incidental Catch 7-29-23:** Last week's harvest was 294MT for the season 32,978MT leaving 17,320MT to harvest 66% the annual allocation has been harvested.

**Salmon bycatch 7-29-23:** The bycatch total is 11,185 Chinook salmon fish taken as bycatch for the season. Chinook bycatch allocation is at 24% leaving 34,515 fish of the cap amount of 45,700 fish. The Chum salmon, the season total is 34,470 fish last week the fleet a had a big spike in Chum bycatch.

**Pacific Cod: 7-29-2023:** 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 1,990MT (4.3 million pounds) including CDQ harvest. The A/B season harvest is at 96,065MT (211 million pounds) leaving 45,493MT to harvest (100.2 million pounds). including CDQ 71.1% of the Pacific Cod seasonal allocation of 135,354MT has been harvested.

**Hook and Line C/Ps:** This sector harvested 1,799MT last week for the B season harvest of 12,824MT leaving the B season allocation at 15,926MT to harvest, 45% of the B season allocation has been harvested by this sector. The total A/B season catch is 42,649MT (93 million lbs.) 73% of the seasonal harvest has been taken, leaving 16,023MT (35.3 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 July 29, 2023, last week 178MT mostly as bycatch in the Pollock fishery. The Amendment 80 sector, 81MT At Sea 10MT and CV sector 586MT A/B season harvest stands at 34,953MT (77 million pounds) leaving 10,448MT (23 million pounds) of A/B season trawl cod to harvest 69% 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 12MT last week for the season 7,514MT from an allocation of 14,470MT leaving 7,117MT 50 % 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 7-29-2023:** 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 5,595MT (12.3 million pounds) a 200MT decrease over last week's harvest due to a decrease in Perch and Mackerel harvests. The total harvest stands 197,244MT (434 million pounds) of various species including the CDQ harvest. The seasonal harvest totals by species are as follows, Yellowfin Sole 65,141MT, Rock Sole 21,629MT Alaska Plaice, 7,926MT, Flathead Sole 6,601MT, Arrowtooth Flounder 4,616MT, Kamchatka Flounder 4,905MT other Flatfish 2,523MT other species harvested this season including Perch and Rockfish, 24,151MT Atka Mackerel 39,155MT, Octopus 109MT Skate 16,946MT Greenland Turbot, 819MT and Sablefish Trawl 2,723MT.

**Halibut IFQ 8-4-2023:** The Fishery opened on March 10<sup>th</sup> landings reported as of this morning, 1,887 landings for 8.08 million pounds. and leaving 9.7 million lbs. to harvest 45% of the fishery is complete. The harvesters have been getting better weather to fish, but fishing is still terribly slow. The IFQ allocation is 17.8 million pounds. The CDQ allocation for the 6 CDQ groups is at 72 landings for 101,017 lbs. leaving 1.08 million pounds of Halibut to harvest 9% 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 1.42 million lbs. and Seward, 902.067lbs. Halibut ex-vessel prices for Halibut are in the \$5.50 to \$6.50 range depending on size.

**Sablefish IFQ 8-7-2023:** The Fishery opened on March 10<sup>th</sup> landings reported as of this morning show 1,253 landings for 24.7 million lbs. leaving 37.3 million pounds to harvest 40% 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 4.4 million lbs. and Kodiak at 3.0 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 8-7-23:** as of this morning the Sablefish harvest is at 110 landing landings for 1.34 million lbs. harvested, leaving 565,840lbs. to harvest, 70% from the allocation 1.9 million pounds has been harvested. There are twenty 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 8-7-23:** The fishery opens on Tuesday August 1, 2023, at noon. There were four vessels registered to fish. There have been no landings yet. The Eastern District allocation including CDQ is 3,700,000lbs the Western District allocation including the City of Adak allocation is 1,810,000lbs. for a total allocation of 5,600,000lbs. We should see the first landings in the week of August 14th.

**North Peninsula Dungeness Crab 8-7-23:** since this fishery started in May, fishing has been awfully slow, there have been thirty-two landings for 398,111 lbs. from ten vessels. Last week's harvest was 330,000lbs. from twenty-eight landings.

**Dutch Harbor Food and Bait Herring Fishery 8-7-23:** 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-two deliveries total, the harvest is estimated to be between 1,300 short tons, (2.6 million lbs.) from the two vessels registered to fish. Fishing continues to be slow with limited markets. The actual catch amounts are still confidential. This fishery is managed out of the Sand Point ADFG office.

**Misc. Items:** 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 to fish. We expect the first deliveries in the week of August 14<sup>th</sup>. Last week the Dutch Harbor Herring Fishery had 400,000lbs landed last week the fishery is at 2.6 million pounds landed. 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 believe the Opilio survey in the Northern region west of St Matthew Island is complete. The NOAA vessels are now working out of the standard crab areas and are up in the St Lawrence Island area. I hope to get some information from the Bering Sea Fisheries Research Foundation we have a meeting set for next week, and hopefully we will get some of the preliminary results from ADFG and NOAA staff that have been invited to the BSFRF meeting. The Bristol Bay Sockeye salmon fishery is

completed. The harvesters harvested 39.2 million fish (196 million lbs.) and with thirteen million fish for escapement for the river systems brings the total run to fifty-two million fish. The total base price was set at \$0.50 per pound for Sockeye salmon. I have also included salmon harvest information for the Alaska Peninsula from August 2nd. Sockeye harvest for the South and North districts is at 2.47 million fish, Pinks 2.1 million fish and Chum 611,000 fish, and Coho 92,000 fish.

Regards

Frank Kelty

Attachments:

1. Fishery Update Memo
2. Groundfish Harvest Data
3. NPFMC Agenda and Schedule for the October meeting in Anchorage.