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City of Unalaska

Date: 9-11-2023

To: City Manager Bil Homka, Marjorie Veeder, Patricia Soule, Karen Magdaong, and Michelle Price

From: Frank Kelty, Fisheries Consultant

Subject: Fishery Update Memo for September 11, 2023, Harvest Data and NOAA Reports.

Federal Water Groundfish Harvest 9-2-2023, State Water Fisheries on Sablefish, Cod, Dungeness Crab, Herring, and IFQ Halibut and Sablefish, for 9-11-23.

Activity in Unalaska has slowed down, due to Pollock B season starting to wrap up. The Pollock B season harvest is 88.4% complete, and last week's harvest declined by 7,000MT from the previous week to 35,463MT due to harvest IFQ allocations being completed, and the fleet moving a lot to avoid Herring bycatch. If the Herring Cap is reached it would close off important Pollock harvest areas. The total groundfish harvest last week was 50,234MT (110 million lbs.) a 1,000MT decline from the previous week's harvest. The Pollock fishery B season totals for twelfth full weeks of harvest totals, is 622,488(1.37 billion lbs.) of 88.4% of the B season harvest is complete leaving 92,337MT to harvest (203 million lbs.). The catcher vessel fleet lead the way last week with a Pollock harvest of 19,064MT (42.0 million lbs.) we expect the season to be completed during the next few weeks of September.

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 held confidential until one more buyer purchase Halibut and Sablefish. Halibut Statewide landings are at 11 million pounds 62% harvested from 17 million lbs. allocation. Sablefish is at 29 million lbs. harvested, 47% harvested from the 62 million lbs. allocation. 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 fall.

The North Peninsula Dungeness crab fishery opened on May 1st caught is awfully slow so far 984,000lbs have been harvested from fifty-three landings. The Aleutian Island Golden King Crab fisheries re-opened on Tuesday August 1st, 2023, the allocation is 5.6 million lbs. We had 14 IFQ Golden King Crab deliveries into Unalaska in the past month. The estimated poundage is 1.3 million lbs. nine IFQ landing from the Eastern District and 4 CDQ landing from the Eastern District. The Western District has had 5 IFQ landings for less than 500,000lbs.

Overall Groundfish Harvest 9-2-2023: The Harvest for the last week for the eleventh full week of the B season 50,234MT (110.7 million pounds) 1,000MT decrease over the previous week's harvest due decrease in Pollock harvest. The season totals are 1,554,230MMT harvested (3.425 billion pounds) leaving 432,055MT (952,249 million lbs.) to harvest; 78% of the overall annual harvest of 1,986,285MMT (4.37 billion pounds) is completed.

Pollock: 9-2-2023: Last week we had 35,463MT (78 million lbs.) The total B season harvest is 622,488MT (1.37 billion lbs.) for all four harvesting sectors 88.4% of the harvest is completed leaving 92,337MT to harvest. (203.5 million lbs.). We had a 7,000MT decline from the previous week's harvest, due to allocations being reached from catcher vessels, and the fleet moving to avoid Herring bycatch which is getting close to the bycatch cap amount. For the seasonal harvest 1.172MMT (2.58 billion pounds) leaving 92,337MT (203.5) million pounds) unharvested, 90.1% of the A/B season allocation has been harvested. We have about one week of harvest to go for the At Sea Catcher Processor, the Catcher Vessel sector that delivers shoreside has two weeks to go and the Mothership sector which got a late start on B season, may have another three to four weeks to finish up.

Inshore CV: The harvested last week was 19,064MT (42.0 million lbs.) from the B season allocation which puts the B season allocation at 274,324MT harvested (604 million lbs.) 88% of the B season allocation harvested. The seasonal harvest is 516,803MT (1.13 billion lbs.) 91% harvested. The B season allocation is 311,465MT leaving 49,497MT (109 million lbs.) of B season to harvest, with 88% of the B allocation having been harvested.

At Sea Processors: The At Sea fleet harvested 13,181MT (29.0 million lbs.) last week, the B season total is at 237,058MT (522 million lbs.) 95% of the B season harvest is complete. The seasonal harvest is 438,110MT (965 million lbs.) 97% of the harvest is complete. The B season allocation is 249,172MT (549 million lbs.) leaving 14,930MT (32 million pounds) of the B Season allocation to harvest 97% of the B season harvest is completed.

Mothership Sector: The harvested last week was 2,722MT (5.9 million lbs.) the B season total is 35,348MT (77.9 million lbs.) 57% has been harvested. The seasonal harvest is at 85,529MT (188 million pounds) 76% of the harvest. The B season harvest allocation is 62,293MT leaving 26,945MT (59.83million lbs.) to harvest 57% of the B season allocation has been harvested.

CDQ Sector: The harvested last week was 496MT (1.0 million lbs.) The B season harvest is at 72,676MT (160 million lbs.) seasonal harvest is 131,621MT (290 million pounds) 100% of the harvest is completed. The B season allocation is 70,026MT (154 million lbs.) leaving 279MT (614,916lbs) to harvested 100% of the B season Pollock allocation has been harvested.

Pollock Incidental Catch 9-2-23: Last week's harvest was 1,432MT for the season 36,602MT leaving 13,398MT to harvest 73% the annual allocation has been harvested.

Salmon bycatch 9-2-23: The bycatch total is 11,454 Chinook salmon fish taken as bycatch for the season. Chinook bycatch allocation is at 25% leaving 34,246 fish of the cap amount of 45,700 fish. The Chum salmon bycatch totals stand at 102,424 fish.

Pacific Cod: 9-2-2023: 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 1,970MT (4.3 million pounds) including CDQ harvest. The A/B season harvest with CDQ is at 104,783MT (230.9 million pounds) leaving 36,793MT to harvest (81.0 million pounds). including CDQ 77.0% of the Pacific Cod seasonal allocation of 135,867MT has been harvested.

Hook and Line C/Ps: This sector harvested 1,176MT last week for the B season harvest of 19,392MT leaving the B season allocation at 9,358MT to harvest, 67% of the B season allocation has been harvested by this sector. The total A/B season catch is 49,217MT (109 million lbs.) 84% of the seasonal harvest has been taken, leaving 9,455MT (20.8 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 September 2, 2023, last week 1,970MT mostly as bycatch in the Pollock fishery. The Amendment 80 sector, 342MT At Sea 51MT and CV sector 171MT A/B season harvest stands at 36,872MT (81.2 million pounds) leaving 8,489MT (18.7 million pounds) of A/B season trawl cod to harvest 72.6% of the A/B 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 11MT was harvested last week of A season Cod, for the season 845MT. The A season remaining allocation is 962MT 47% of the A season allocation of 1,807MT have been harvested.

Pot Cod 60'>: harvested 53MT last week for the season 5,137MT leaving 4,893MT of B season allocation to harvest 47% of the A season allocation has been harvested.

Pacific Cod CDQ: had a harvest of 99MT last week for the season 7,681MT from an allocation of 14,470MT leaving 6,953MT 53% 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 9-2-2023: The Amendment 80 sector fishing is slow with decreased catch of Sole species as it traditionally is during the B season. Last week's catch was 11,178MT (24.6 million lbs.) and 5,000MT increase over last week's harvest due to Perch, Sole, and Mackerel harvest increases. The total harvest stands 235,987MT (520 million lbs.) of various species including the CDQ harvest. The seasonal harvest totals by species are as follows, Yellowfin Sole 67,916MT, Rock Sole

22,326MT Alaska Plaice, 8,732MT, Flathead Sole 7,251MT, Arrowtooth Flounder 5,734MT, Kamchatka Flounder 6,446MT other Flatfish 2,823MT other species harvested this season including Perch and Rockfish, 37,171MT Atka Mackerel 52,974MT, Octopus 116MT Skate 19,555MT Greenland Turbot, 1,207MT and Sablefish Trawl 3,736

Halibut IFQ 9-11-2023: The Fishery opened on March 10th landings reported as of this morning, 2,587 landings for 11.05 million pounds. and leaving 6.7 million lbs. to harvest 62% of the fishery is complete. The harvesters have been getting better weather to fish, but fishing slowed down last week, with 350,000lbs harvested. The IFQ allocation is 17.8 million pounds. The CDQ allocation for the 6 CDQ groups is at 96 landings for 238,623lbs. leaving 945,377lbs. of Halibut to harvest 20% 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 2.1 million lbs. and Seward, 1.13 million lbs. Halibut ex-vessel prices for Halibut are in the \$5.50 to \$6.50 range depending on size.

Sablefish IFQ 9-11-2023: The Fishery opened on March 10th landings reported as of this morning show 1,513 landings for 29.0 million lbs. leaving 33.03 million pounds to harvest 47% 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 5.3 million lbs. and Kodiak at 3.3 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 9-11-23: as of this morning the Sablefish harvest is at 137 landing landings for 1.73 million lbs. harvested, leaving 175,127lbs. to harvest, 91% 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. The Dutch Harbor State Water Pacific Cod fishery may reopen after the September 1st 60' and under pot cod federal water fishery closes. There is 728,145lbs remaining which is 98% of the state water fishery harvest amount of 38.3 million lbs.

Aleutian Islands Golden King Crab 9-11-23: 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 9 IFQ landings last week, five from the Eastern District and five from the Western District. The total for the Eastern District is 9 IFQ landings with an estimated poundage of close to 1.0 million lbs. and five landings from the Western District, poundage amounts are still confidential but are estimated at close to 500,000lbs. all the landings have been made in Unalaska. We also had two landings of CDQ last week for a total of four landings of

CDQ crab from the Eastern District which is also confidential. We need one more buyer to purchase crab to get the poundage amounts released.

North Peninsula Dungeness Crab 9-11-23: since this fishery started in May, fishing has been awfully slow, there have been fifty-three landings of 984,418 lbs. from eleven vessels. Last week's harvest was 250,000lbs. from nine landings.

Dutch Harbor Food and Bait Herring Fishery 9-11-23: 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 that were registered to fish. With limited markets ADFG believes 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:

On Tuesday September 12 the NPFMC Crab Plan meeting will start for a three-day meeting in Seattle, I will be attending by zoom. On Friday September 15th the BSFRF Research Foundation will be having a Crab Research Symposium in Seattle. I will be attending by zoom. I have attached the agenda and call-in information with this memo. The NPFMC Groundfish Plan team meeting starts on September 19th through September 22nd, I plan to be attending by zoom. The first week of October we have the NPFMC meetings in Anchorage, Alaska at the Hilton Hotel I will be attending in person.

Regards

Frank Kelty

Attachments:

- 1.Fishery Update Memo
- 2.Groundfish Harvest Data
- 3.NOAA Reports
- 4.Crab Research Symposium Agenda