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**Date:** 9-18-2023

**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 9-9-2023, State Water Fisheries on Sablefish, Cod, Dungeness Crab, Herring, and IFQ Halibut and Sablefish, for 9-18-23.**

Fishery activity in Unalaska continues to slow down with the Pollock B season almost completed. The Pollock B season harvest is 94.4% complete, and last week's harvest declined by 1,200MT from the previous week to 34,940MT due to harvest IFQ allocations almost completed. The total groundfish harvest last week was 47,847MT (105 million lbs.) a 3,000MT decline from the previous week's harvest. The Pollock fishery B season totals for thirteen full weeks of harvest totals, is 657,650(1.44 billion lbs.) of 94.5% of the B season harvest is complete leaving 57,174MT to harvest (126 million lbs.). The catcher vessel fleet lead the way last week with a Pollock harvest of 18,403MT (40.5 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 eleven point seven million pounds 66% harvested from 18.6 million lbs. allocation. Sablefish is at 29.8 million lbs. harvested, 48% 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 1<sup>st</sup> caught is awfully slow so far 1.03 million lbs. have been harvested from fifty-five landings. 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 15 IFQ Golden King Crab deliveries into Unalaska in the past month. The estimated poundage is 1.2 million lbs. from ten IFQ landing from the Eastern District and 5 CDQ landing from the Eastern District. The Western District has had 6 IFQ landings for an estimated 600,000lbs.

**Overall Groundfish Harvest 9-9-2023:** The harvest for the last week was 47,847MT (105.4 million pounds) 3,000MT decrease over the previous week's harvest due decrease in Pollock harvest. The season totals are 1,602,599MMT harvested (3.53 billion pounds) leaving 383,686MT (845.6 million lbs.) to harvest; 81% of the overall annual harvest of 1,986,285MMT (4.37 billion pounds) has been completed.

**Pollock: 9-9-2023:** Last week we had harvest of 34,940MT (77 million lbs.) The total B season harvest is 657,650MT (1.44 billion lbs.) for all four harvesting sectors 94.5% of the harvest is completed leaving 57,174MT to harvest. (126.0 million lbs.). We had a 1,200MT decline from the previous week's harvest, due to allocations being reached from catcher vessels. The seasonal harvest 1.207MMT (2.66 billion pounds) leaving 57,174MT (126.0) million pounds) to harvested, 92.8% of the A/B season allocation has been harvested. The At Sea Catcher Processor, and CDQ sector allocations are done. The Catcher Vessel sector that delivers to the shore has one to two weeks to finish up their allocation. The Mothership sector, which got a late start on B season, may have another three to four weeks to finish up their allocations.

**Inshore CV:** The harvested last week was 18,403MT (40.5 million lbs.) from the B season allocation which puts the B season allocation at 292,950MT harvested (645 million lbs.) 94% of the B season allocation harvested. The seasonal harvest is 535,429MT (1.18 billion lbs.) 95% harvested. The B season allocation is 311,465MT leaving 30,871MT (68 million lbs.) of B season to harvest, with 94% of the B allocation having been harvested.

**At Sea Processors:** The At Sea fleet harvested 11,297MT (24.8 million lbs.) last week, the B season total is at 248,356MT (547 million lbs.) 100% of the B season harvest is complete. The seasonal harvest is 449,408MT (990 million lbs.) 99% of the harvest is complete. The B season allocation is 249,172MT (549 million lbs.) leaving 3,632MT (8.0 million pounds) of the B Season allocation to harvest, 99% of the B season harvest is completed.

**Mothership Sector:** The harvested last week was 5,073MT (11.1 million lbs.) the B season total is 40,421MT (89.0 million lbs.) 65% has been harvested. The seasonal harvest is at 90,702MT (199 million pounds) 80% of the harvest. The B season harvest allocation is 62,293MT leaving 22,558MT (49.7million lbs.) to harvest 65% of the B season allocation has been harvested.

**CDQ Sector:** The harvested last week was 166MT (365,864lbs.) The B season harvest is at 72,842MT (160 million lbs.) seasonal harvest is 131,787MT (290 million pounds) 100% of the harvest is completed. The B season allocation is 70,026MT (154 million lbs.) leaving 113MT (249,052lbs) to harvested 100% of the B season Pollock allocation has been harvested.

**Pollock Incidental Catch 9-9-23:** Last week's harvest was 536MT for the season 37,138MT leaving 13,034MT to harvest 74% the annual allocation has been harvested.

**Salmon bycatch 9-9-23:** The bycatch total is 11,630 Chinook salmon fish taken as bycatch for the season. Chinook bycatch allocation is at 25% leaving 34,070 fish of the

cap amount of 45,700 fish. The Chum salmon bycatch totals stand at 108,002 fish compared to 240,000 fish at the end of the 2022 Pollock season.

**Pacific Cod: 9-9-2023:** 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 2,389MT (5.2 million pounds) including CDQ harvest. The A/B season harvest with CDQ is at 107,172MT (236.2 million pounds) leaving 34,404MT to harvest (75.8 million pounds). Including CDQ 79.2% of the Pacific Cod seasonal allocation of 135,867MT has been harvested.

**Hook and Line C/Ps:** This sector harvested 1,181MT (2.6 million lbs.) last week for the B season harvest of 20,573MT (45.3 million lbs.) leaving the B season allocation at 8,177MT to harvest, 72% of the B season allocation has been harvested by this sector. The total A/B season catch is 50,419MT (111 million lbs.) 86% of the seasonal harvest has been taken, leaving 8,253MT (18.1 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 9, 2023, last week 291MT mostly as bycatch in the Pollock fishery. The Amendment 80 sector, 166MT At Sea 8MT and CV sector 166MT A/B season harvest stands at 37,163MT (81.9 million pounds) leaving 8,198MT (18.0 million pounds) of A/B season trawl cod to harvest 73.1% of the A/B season allocation has been harvested.

**CV Pot/HL < 60'ft:** harvested 314MT last week for the season 3,767MT leaving 973MT cod allocation to harvest, 79% of the seasonal allocation was harvested.

**C/P Pot CPs** 151MT was harvested last week of A/B season Cod, for the season 996MT. The A season remaining allocation is 811MT 55% of the A season allocation of 1,807MT have been harvested.

**Pot Cod 60'+:** harvested 426MT last week for the season 5,666MT leaving 4,454MT of B season allocation to harvest 56% of the A/B season allocation has been harvested.

**Pacific Cod CDQ:** had a harvest of 20MT last week for the season 7,701MT from an allocation of 14,470MT leaving 6,933MT 55% of the CDQ harvest have been taken.

**Pacific Cod Jig:** 0MT harvested last week, for the season 0MT harvested from the jig allocation of 98MT leaving 98MT 0% of the allocation has been harvested.

**Amendment 80 Bottom Trawl Fishery 9-9-2023:** 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 9,883MT (21.7 million lbs.) and 2,000MT decrease over last week's harvest due to Perch, Sole, and Mackerel harvest declines. The total harvest stands 245,870MT (541 million lbs.) of various species including the CDQ harvest. The seasonal harvest totals by species are as follows, Yellowfin Sole 70,595MT, Rock Sole 22,716MT Alaska Plaice, 9,412MT, Flathead Sole 7,480MT, Arrowtooth Flounder

5,845MT, Kamchatka Flounder 6,680MT other Flatfish 2,869MT other species harvested this season including Perch and Rockfish,40,256MT Atka Mackerel 54,723MT, Octopus 119MT Skate 20,064MT Greenland Turbot, 1,244MT and Sablefish Trawl 3,867

**Halibut IFQ 9-18-2023:** The Fishery opened on March 10<sup>th</sup> landings reported as of this morning, 2,727 landings for 11.7million pounds. and leaving 6.0 million lbs. to harvest 66% of the fishery is complete. The harvesters have been getting better weather to fish, but fishing improved last week, with 700,000lbs harvested. The IFQ allocation is 17.8 million pounds. The CDQ allocation for the 6 CDQ groups is at 108 landings for 257,009bs. leaving 926,991lbs. of Halibut to harvest 22% 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 2.3 million lbs. and Seward, 1.47 million lbs. Halibut ex-vessel prices for Halibut are in the \$5.50 to \$6.50 range depending on size.

**Sablefish IFQ 9-18-2023:** The Fishery opened on March 10<sup>th</sup> landings reported as of this morning show 1,563 landings for 29.8 million lbs. leaving 32.1 million pounds to harvest 48% of the allocation have been harvested, fishing has really slowed down last week's harvest was 800,000lbs. The Sablefish allocation for Alaska is 62.04 million pounds. The leading Port for Sablefish landings is Seward at 5.6 million lbs. and Kodiak at 3.36 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 9-18-23:** as of this morning the Sablefish harvest is at 138 landing landings for 1.75 million lbs. harvested, leaving 148,388lbs. to harvest, 92% 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 9-18-23:** 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 2 IFQ landings last week, one from the Eastern District and one from the Western District. The total for the Eastern District is 10 IFQ landings with an estimated poundage of close to 1.1 million lbs. and six landings from the Western District, poundage amounts are still confidential but are estimated at close to 600,00lbs. for the Western District all the landings have been made in Unalaska. We also had one landing of CDQ last week for a

total of five 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 9-18-23:** since this fishery started in May, fishing has been awfully slow, there have been fifty-eight landings of 1.062 million lbs. from eleven vessels. Last week's harvest was 150,000lbs. from five landings most of crab landings have been landed and processed in Unalaska.

**Misc. Items:** On Tuesday we have another three-day NPFMC Plan Team meeting on the 2024 Groundfish Specifications I will be attending via Zoom. Last week we had the NPFMC Crab Plan Team and on Friday the Crab Science Symposium sponsored by the BSFRF Crab Research Foundation and the Alaska Bering Sea Crabbers. I have a memo coming on Tuesday addressing those meetings.

Regards

Frank Kelty

Attachments:

1. Fishery Update Memo
2. Groundfish Harvest Data
3. NOAA Reports
4. NPFMC Groundfish Plan Team Agenda