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**Date:** 9-25-2023

**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 25, 2023, Harvest Data and NOAA Reports.

**Federal Water Groundfish Harvest 9-18-2023, State Water Fisheries on Sablefish, Cod, Dungeness Crab, Herring, and IFQ Halibut and Sablefish, for 9-25-23.**

Fishery activity in Unalaska continues to slow down with the Pollock B season almost completed. The Pollock B season harvest is 96.4% complete, and last week's harvest declined by 20,000MT from the previous week to 14,888MT due to harvest IFQ allocations almost completed. The total groundfish harvest last week was 29,512MT (65 million lbs.) an 18,000MT decline from the previous week's harvest. The Pollock fishery B season totals for thirteen full weeks of harvest totals, is 672,538(1.48 billion lbs.) of 96.6% of the B season harvest is complete leaving 42,368MT to harvest (93.1 million lbs.). The catcher vessel fleet lead the way last week with a Pollock harvest of 10,527MT (23.2 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 12.2 million pounds 69% harvested from 18.6 million lbs. allocation. Sablefish is at 30.8 million lbs. harvested, 50% 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 1.2 million lbs. have been harvested from fifty-nine 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 20 IFQ Golden King Crab deliveries into Unalaska in the past month. The estimated poundage is 1.4 million lbs. from 14 IFQ landing from the Eastern District and 6 CDQ landing from the Eastern District. The Western District has had 6 IFQ landings for an estimated 450,000lbs.

**Overall Groundfish Harvest 9-16-2023:** The harvest for the last week was 29,512MT (61.1million pounds) 17,000MT decrease over the previous week's harvest due decrease in Pollock harvest. The season totals are 1,632,335MMT harvested (3.59 billion pounds) leaving 353,950MT (780 million lbs.) to harvest; 82% of the overall annual harvest of 1,986,285MMT (4.37 billion pounds) has been completed.

**Pollock: 9-16-2023:** Last week we had harvest of 14,888MT (32.8 million lbs.) The total B season harvest is 672,538MT (1.48 billion lbs.) for all four harvesting sectors 96.6% of the harvest is completed leaving 42,368MT to harvest. (93.1million lbs.). We had a 10,000MT decline from the previous week's harvest, due to allocations being reached from catcher vessels. The seasonal harvest is 1.222MMT (2.69 billion pounds) leaving 42,368MT (93.1) million pounds) to harvested, 94% 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 week 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 10,527MT (23.2 million lbs.) from the B season allocation which puts the B season allocation at 303,495MT harvested (668 million lbs.) 96% of the B season allocation harvested. The seasonal harvest is 545,974MT (1.2 billion lbs.) 96% harvested. The B season allocation is 311,465MT leaving 20,326MT (44 million lbs.) of B season to harvest, with 96% of the B allocation having been harvested.

**At Sea Processors:** The At Sea fleet harvested 2,272MT (5.0 million lbs.) last week, the B season total is at 250,974MT (553 million lbs.) 101% of the B season harvest is complete. The seasonal harvest is 451,680MT (995 million lbs.) 100% of the harvest is complete. The B season allocation is 249,172MT (549 million lbs.) leaving 1,360MT (2.9 million pounds) of the B Season allocation to harvest, 100% of the B season harvest is completed.

**Mothership Sector:** The harvested last week was 2,089MT (4.6 million lbs.) the B season total is 42,510MT (93.06 million lbs.) 68% has been harvested. The seasonal harvest is at 92,791MT (204 million pounds) 82% of the harvest. The B season harvest allocation is 62,293MT leaving 20,469MT (45.1million lbs.) to harvest 82% of the B season allocation has been harvested.

**CDQ Sector:** The harvested last week was 0MT (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 9-16-23:** Last week's harvest was 1,421MT for the season 38,581MT leaving 11,419MT to harvest 77% the annual allocation has been harvested.

**Salmon bycatch 9-16-23:** The bycatch total is 11,676 Chinook salmon fish taken as bycatch for the season. Chinook bycatch allocation is at 26% leaving 34,024 fish of the

cap amount of 45,700 fish. The Chum salmon bycatch totals no new totals from last week still at 108,002 fish compared to 240,000 fish at the end of the 2022 Pollock season.

**Pacific Cod: 9-16-2023:** 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 3,323MT (7.3 million pounds) including CDQ harvest. The A/B season harvest with CDQ is at 110,495MT (243.5 million pounds) leaving 31,081MT to harvest (68.5 million pounds). Including CDQ 81.4% of the Pacific Cod seasonal allocation of 135,867MT has been harvested.

**Hook and Line C/Ps:** This sector harvested 1,668MT (3.6 million lbs.) last week for the B season harvest 23,259MT (51.2 million lbs.) leaving the B season allocation at 6,541MT to harvest, 89% of the B season allocation has been harvested by this sector. The total A/B season catch is 52,131MT (114 million lbs.) 89% of the seasonal harvest has been taken, leaving 6,541MT (14.4 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 569MT mostly as bycatch in the Pollock fishery. The Amendment 80 sector, 402MT At Sea 64MT and CV sector 103MT A/B season harvest stands at 37,732MT (83.1 million pounds) leaving 7,629MT (16.8 million pounds) of A/B season trawl cod to harvest 74.3% of the A/B season allocation has been harvested.

**CV Pot/HL < 60'ft:** harvested 215MT last week for the season 3,985MT leaving 755MT cod allocation to harvest, 84% of the seasonal allocation was harvested.

**C/P Pot CPs** 132MT was harvested last week of A/B season Cod, for the season 1,128MT. The A season remaining allocation is 678MT 62% of the A season allocation of 1,807MT have been harvested.

**Pot Cod 60'>:** harvested 709MT last week for the season 6,434MT leaving 3,686MT of B season allocation to harvest 64% of the A/B season allocation has been harvested.

**Pacific Cod CDQ:** had a harvest of 20MT last week for the season 7,721MT from an allocation of 14,470MT leaving 6,903MT 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 9-16-2023:** 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 19,543MT (43 million lbs.) and 10,000MT decrease over last week's harvest due to Sole, Rockfish and Mackerel harvest increase. The total harvest stands 265,413MT (584 million lbs.) of various species including the CDQ harvest. The seasonal harvest totals by species are as follows, Yellowfin Sole 75,009MT, Rock Sole

22,749MT Alaska Plaice, 9,747MT, Flathead Sole 7,738MT, Arrowtooth Flounder 6,059MT, Kamchatka Flounder 6,768MT other Flatfish 2,896MT other species harvested this season including Perch and Rockfish, 41,915MT Atka Mackerel 56,404MT, Octopus 121MT Skate 20,784MT Greenland Turbot, 1,252MT and Sablefish Trawl 3,971

**Halibut IFQ 9-25-2023:** The Fishery opened on March 10<sup>th</sup> landings reported as of this morning, 2,830 landings for 12.2 million pounds. and leaving 5.6 million lbs. to harvest 69% of the fishery is complete. The harvesters have been getting better weather to fish, but fishing improved last week, with 500,000lbs harvested. The IFQ allocation is 17.8 million pounds. The CDQ allocation for the 6 CDQ groups is at 110 landings for 257,165lbs. leaving 926,835lbs. 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 2.48 million lbs. and Kodiak, 1.28 million lbs. Halibut ex-vessel prices for Halibut are in the \$5.50 to \$6.50 range depending on size.

**Sablefish IFQ 9-25-2023:** The Fishery opened on March 10<sup>th</sup> landings reported as of this morning show 1,602 landings for 30.88 million lbs. leaving 31.15 million pounds to harvest 50% of the allocation have been harvested, fishing has really slowed down last week's harvest was 900,000lbs. The Sablefish allocation for Alaska is 62.04 million pounds. The leading Port for Sablefish landings is Seward at 5.7 million lbs. and Kodiak at 3.41 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, Aleutian Island State Water Pacific Cod, Dutch Harbor Sub District Pacific Cod Pot Fishery 9-25-23:** as of this morning the Sablefish harvest is at 144 landing landings for 1.8 million lbs. harvested, leaving 99,298lbs. to harvest, 95% from the allocation 1.9 million pounds has been harvested four 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 2% remaining which is 98% of the state water fishery harvest amount of 38.3 million lbs. We are awaiting to see if ADFG will open after the federal water fishery is closed.

**Aleutian Islands Golden King Crab 9-25-23:** 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 4 IFQ landings last week, one from the Eastern District and one from the Western District. The total for the Eastern District is 14 IFQ landings with an estimated poundage of close to

1.4 million lbs. this includes the 6 CDQ landings poundage. The Western District, poundage amounts for six landings are still confidential but are estimated at close to 450,00lbs. for the Western District all the landings have been made in Unalaska. We need one more buyer to purchase crab to get the poundage amounts released.

**North Peninsula Dungeness Crab 9-25-23:** since this fishery started in May, fishing has been awfully slow, there have been fifty-nine landings of 1.206 million lbs. from eleven vessels. Last week's harvest was 200,000lbs. from one landing, most of crab landings have been landed and processed in Unalaska.

**Misc. Items:** I attend via Zoom the NPFMC Groundfish Plan Teams meeting last week we received the preliminary harvest specifications OFL and ABC amount for the 2024-2025 fishing season basically we received the OFL( Over Fishing Limits) and the ABC (Allowable Biological Catch) amounts the TAC (Total Allowable Catch ) amounts are set at the December NPFMC meeting the Groundfish Plan Team will meet one more time in November to further refine their harvest recommendations. The good news is that the Eastern Bering Sea groundfish stocks are overall doing exceptionally well. On the BSAI Pollock the OFL increased from 2023-24 season 3.3MMT to 4.6 MMT for the 2024-2025 season. The Projected ABC increased from 1.90 MMT in 2023/2024 season to 2.27MMT for the 2024 /2025 season. The Pollock EBS Total Biomass also increased slightly over the 2023 totals. On the Bering Sea Pacific Cod a slight decrease OFL 172,000MT in 2023 to 166,000MT for 2024 the ABC 144,000MT in 2023 to 140,000MT for 2024. The other BSAI OFL/ABC specifications for Sole, Mackerel, Perch and Rockfish species increased or were at status quo levels. I have attached the Spread Sheet on the OFL and ABC amounts with this memo for your review. The overall OFL for the BSAI is 6.2 million metric tons, the ABC 3.5 million metric tons and TAC cap amount is set by law at is at 2.0 million metric tons.

I have also attached the Spread Sheet for Gulf of Alaska OFL and ABC for 2024-2025 for your review GOA Pollock ABC increased from 148,000MT to 161,000 MT for 2024 and the OFL 188,000MT 201,000MT for 2024. Pacific Cod for the Gulf also saw a slight decrease the OFL 29,000MT in 2023 to 27,000MT in 2024 ABC decreased from 24,00MT in 2023 to 22,000MT in 2024. The other Sole, Rockfish, Perch and Skate species were at status quo levels. The GOA 2024-2025 OFL is set at 658,000MT the ABC is set 583,000MT. I have attached a PowerPoint presentation that we had at the Groundfish Plan Team meeting on Eastern Bering Sea Ecosystem and Climate Change, the report that gives a good overview of current conditions in the Bering Sea. It is well worth looking at.

Regards

Frank Kelty

Attachments:

1. Fishery Update Memo
2. Groundfish Harvest Data
3. NOAA Reports
4. NPFMC Groundfish Plan Team BSAI Groundfish Specs Preliminary 2024/2025  
OFL/ABC
5. NPFMC Groundfish Plan Team GOA Groundfish Spec Preliminary 2024,2025  
OFL/ABC
6. Eastern Bering Sea Ecosystem Climate Reports