

Frank Kelty
Fisheries Consultant
City of Unalaska

Date: 9-4-2023

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 4, 2023, Harvest Data and NOAA Reports.

Federal Water Groundfish Harvest 8-26-2023, State Water Fisheries on Sablefish, Cod, Dungeness Crab, Herring, and IFQ Halibut and Sablefish, for 9-4-23.

Activity in the community has slowed down somewhat, due to Pollock B season starting to wrap up the Pollock B season harvest is at 84% complete, and last week harvest decline by 10,000MT from the previous week to 42,558MT due to harvest IFQ allocations completed, and the fleet moving a lot to avoid Herring bycatch which is close to the cap amount which if reach would close off important Pollock harvest areas. The total groundfish harvest last week was 51,915MT (114 million lbs.) a 12,000MT decline from the previous week's harvest. The Pollock fishery having nine straight weeks of overall harvest of over 50,000MT declined to 42,000MT last week. The B season totals for eleven full weeks of harvest totals, is 586,179 (1.29 billion lbs.) of 84% of the B season harvest is complete leaving 128,646MT to harvest (283 million lbs.). The At Sea Catcher Processor fleet lead the way last week with a Pollock harvest of 18,730MT (41.2 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 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 caught is awfully slow so far 741,280lbs have been harvested from 46 landings. The Aleutian Island Golden King Crab fisheries re-opened on Tuesday August 1st, 2023, the allocation is 5.6 million lbs. We had the four IFQ Golden King Crab deliveries into Unalaska last week, three IFQ landing from the Eastern District and one CDQ landing from the Eastern District. The total for the Eastern District is 5 IFQ land and three CDQ landings. The Western

District has had one IFQ landing. The poundage amounts for all landing are still confidential until one mor processor purchases Golden King Crab.

Overall Groundfish Harvest 8-26-2023: The Harvest for the last week for the eleventh full week of the B season 51,915MT (114.4 million pounds) 14,000MT decrease over the previous week's harvest due decrease in Pollock harvest and Flatfish harvest. The season totals are 1,530,091MMT harvested (3.372 billion pounds) leaving 483,194MT (1.07 billion pounds) to harvest; 76% of the overall annual harvest of 1,986,285MMT (4.37 billion pounds) is completed.

Pollock: 8-26-2023: Last week we had 42,558MT (93 million lbs.) The total B season harvest is 586,179MT (1.29 billion lbs.) for all four harvesting sectors 84.3% of the harvest is completed leaving 128,646MT to harvest. (283 million lbs.). We had a 10,000MT 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 1.135MMT (2.50 billion pounds) leaving 128,646MT (283.5) million pounds) unharvested, 87.3% of the A/B season allocation has been harvested.

Inshore CV: The harvested last week was 18,255MT (40.2 million lbs.) from the B season allocation which puts the B season allocation at 254,413MT harvested (560 million lbs.) 82% of the B season allocation harvested. The seasonal harvest is 496,892MT (1.09 billion lbs.) 88% harvested. The B season allocation is 311,465MT leaving 69,408MT (152 million lbs.) of B season to harvest, with 82% of the B allocation having been harvested.

At Sea Processors: The At Sea fleet harvested 18,730MT (41.2 million lbs.) last week, the B season total is at 223,878MT (515 million lbs.) 90% of the B season harvest is complete. The seasonal harvest is 424,930MT (936 million lbs.) 94% of the harvest is complete. The B season allocation is 249,172MT (549 million lbs.) leaving 28,110MT (61 million pounds) of the B Season allocation to harvest 90% of the B season harvest is completed.

Mothership Sector: The harvested last week was 3,528MT (7.7 million lbs.) the B season total is 32,626MT (64.1 million lbs.) seasonal harvest is at 71,907MT (158 million pounds) 73% of the harvest. The B season harvest allocation is 62,293MT leaving 30,353MT (66.8 million lbs.) to harvest 52% of the B season allocation has been harvested.

CDQ Sector: The harvested last week was 876MT (1.9 million lbs.) The B season harvest is at 72,180MT (159 million lbs.) seasonal harvest is 131,125MT (288 million pounds) 99% of the harvest is completed. The B season allocation is 70,026MT (154 million lbs.) leaving 775MT (1.7 million lbs.) to harvested 99% of the B season Pollock allocation has been harvested.

Pollock Incidental Catch 8-26-23: Last week's harvest was 878MT for the season 35,956MT leaving 15,019MT to harvest 71% the annual allocation has been harvested.

Salmon bycatch 8-26-23: The bycatch total is 11,330 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 93,096.

Pacific Cod: 8-26-2023: 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 1,783MT (3.9 million pounds) including CDQ harvest. The A/B season harvest is at 102,813MT (226.5 million pounds) leaving 38,763MT to harvest (85.4 million pounds). including CDQ 75.5% of the Pacific Cod seasonal allocation of 135,354MT has been harvested.

Hook and Line C/Ps: This sector harvested 1,387MT last week for the B season harvest of 18,130MT leaving the B season allocation at 10,679MT to harvest, 63% of the B season allocation has been harvested by this sector. The total A/B season catch is 47,993MT (105 million lbs.) 82% of the seasonal harvest has been taken, leaving 10,679MT (23.5 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 26, 2023, last week 372MT mostly as bycatch in the Pollock fishery. The Amendment 80 sector, 138MT At Sea 19MT and CV sector 215MT A/B season harvest stands at 36,308MT (80 million pounds) leaving 9,053MT (19.9 million pounds) of A/B season trawl cod to harvest 72.0% 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 15MT last week for the season 7,578MT from an allocation of 14,470MT leaving 7,053MT 48% 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 8-26-2023: 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 6,514MT (14.3 million lbs.) an 800MT increase over last week's harvest due to Perch harvest increase. The total harvest stands 224,809MT (495 million lbs.) of various species including the CDQ harvest. The seasonal harvest totals by species are as follows, Yellowfin Sole 65,721MT, Rock Sole 21,827MT Alaska Plaice,

8,038MT, Flathead Sole 7,251MT, Arrowtooth Flounder 5,592MT, Kamchatka Flounder 6,390MT other Flatfish 2,760MT other species harvested this season including Perch and Rockfish, 34,020MT Atka Mackerel 49,324MT, Octopus 117MT Skate 18,981MT Greenland Turbot, 1,186MT and Sablefish Trawl 3,602

Halibut IFQ 9-4-2023: The Fishery opened on March 10th landings reported as of this morning, 2,455 landings for 10.5 million pounds. and leaving 7.27 million lbs. to harvest 59% of the fishery is complete. The harvesters have been getting better weather to fish, but fishing picked up last week, with 700,000lbs harvested. The IFQ allocation is 17.8 million pounds. The CDQ allocation for the 6 CDQ groups is at 93 landings for 187,346lbs. leaving 996,654lbs. 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 2.046 million lbs. and Seward, 1.098 million lbs. Halibut ex-vessel prices for Halibut are in the \$5.50 to \$6.50 range depending on size.

Sablefish IFQ 9-4-2023: The Fishery opened on March 10th landings reported as of this morning show 1,464 landings for 28.29 million lbs. leaving 33.7 million pounds to harvest 46% 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 5.1 million lbs. and Kodiak at 3.7 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 9-4-23: as of this morning the Sablefish harvest is at 131 landing landings for 1.70 million lbs. harvested, leaving 236,812lbs. to harvest, 88% 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 728,149lbs remaining which is 98% of the state water fishery harvest amount of 38 million lbs.

Aleutian Islands Golden King Crab 9-4-23: 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 four IFQ landings last week, all from the Eastern District. The total for the Eastern District is 5 IFQ landings and one landing from the Western District, poundage amounts are still confidential. We also have had three 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 9-4-23: since this fishery started in May, fishing has been awfully slow, there have been forty-six landings of 741,280lbs. from eleven vessels. Last week's harvest was 80,000lbs. from four landings.

Dutch Harbor Food and Bait Herring Fishery 9-4-23: 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:

We received some good news from ADFG late on Friday that most likely we will have a small Red King Crab fishery on October 15th that along with a Tanner Crab Fishery in both the Eastern and Western Districts will be somewhat helpful to a crab fleet that has financially suffered greatly the past two years.

The Aleutian Island Golden King Crab is open for 5.6 million lbs. harvest. The breakdown by district is 3.7 million lbs. in the Eastern District and the Western is at 1.87million lbs. Four vessels are registered for the fishery. We had 9 landings total 5 IFQ landings from the Eastern District 1 IFQ landing from the Western District and 3 CDQ landing from the Eastern District. The harvest 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 fishing, the fishery is still open. So far, no word from ADFG Juneau when the next second ADFG Crab Spend Plan meeting will be held, to discuss the Crab Disaster funding allocations between various impacted sectors.

Alaska Peninsula Salmon harvest from Monday August 28th. Sockeye harvest for the South and North districts is at 2.84 million fish, Pinks 15.1 million fish and Chum 1.03 million fish, and Coho 162,000 fish total harvest is 19.7 million fish. ADFG states the fisheries are just about wrapped up with processors not wanting to purchase much more Pink salmon due to weak markets.

On Tuesday September 5th ADFG will hold its third Bycatch Advisory Committee meeting I will attend by zoom. On Tuesday September 12 the NPFMC Crab Plan meeting will start for a three-day meeting in Seattle, I will attend by zoom. The NPFMC Groundfish Plan team meeting starts on September 19th through September 22nd, I plan to attend by zoom. The first week of October we have the NPFMC meetings in Anchorage, Alaska at the Hilton Hotel.

Regards

Frank Kelty

Attachments:

1. Fishery Update Memo
2. Groundfish Harvest Data
3. NOAA Reports
4. Alaska Peninsula Salmon Harvest 8-28-23
5. Alaska Bycatch Advisory Council Meeting Agenda for 9-5-2023