

Frank Kelty
Fisheries Consultant
City of Unalaska

Date: 1-21-2024

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

From: Frank Kelty, Unalaska Fisheries Consultant

Subject: Fishery Update Memo for January 15, 2024, ADFG and NOAA Crab Harvest Reports.

Fishery activity in Unalaska continues to be slow and most groundfish fisheries have just started up again for the Pacific Cod fixed gear harvesters. Crab harvesters are just getting back fishing again for Tanner Crab, and Golden King Crab we have seen a few deliveries last week. We have seen Pacific Cod landings coming into the local plants last week 2,814MT (6.2 million lbs.) of fixed gear cod was harvested, Crab deliveries will be coming into town soon. Pollock A season starts on Saturday January 20, 2024, at noon. The seasonal Pollock harvest for the BSAI is 1,300MMT (2.8 billion pounds). Shoreside allocation is 585,000MT (1.28 billion lbs.) The Unalaska share for the A seasons is 161,000MT (355 million lbs.) which is 64% of the shoreside A season allocation of 252,000MT (555 million lbs.) The trawl fisheries for Pollock, Pacific Cod and the Amendment 80 bottom trawlers opened on Saturday January 20th at noon. I understand that only 10-12 60' over crab boats are fishing cod the allocation 5,900MT (13 million lbs.) There are 17 60' under pot boats registered to fish the 3,900MT allocation (8.5 million lbs.). The cod price is down from the mid \$0.42-\$0.45 price last year, to \$0.25 which is I understand this year's opening price which may explain the lack of effort on cod due to the low ex-vessel value, and market conditions.

Aleutian Islands Golden King Crab 1-21-24: 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 5.3 million lbs. We had a total of 69 IFQ landings for the season, forty-four landings from the Eastern District and thirty IFQ landings from the Western District. The total poundage for the Eastern District is 3.4 million lbs. with CDQ, the total landings with are estimated poundage of 3.25 million lbs. 97% harvested, leaving an estimated 60,000 lbs. to harvest there were one landing from the Eastern District last week. The Western District IFQ had no landing last week. The season total is thirty landings for 1.42 million lbs. 81% harvested, leaving 359,000lbs. to harvest.

Bering Sea Tanner Crab 1-21-24: The Tanner Crab IFQ allocation is 1.87 million pounds for both the East and Western Districts. The CDQ totals 250,000lbs lbs. for both the East and West Districts for a total allocation of 2.02 million lbs. There have been fifty-six landings with CDQ of 678,023 lbs. all from the Eastern District leaving 76,000lbs to harvest from the Eastern District 90% of the allocation has been harvested. There have been sixteen small landings from the Western District, for 278,000lbs leaving the Western District harvest at 990,100 lbs. to harvest 20% harvested. The harvesters began fishing again in early January.

Pacific Cod: 1-13-2024: The fixed gear fishery opened on January 1, 2024 the trawl harvest opened on Saturday January 20, 2024. With an A season allocation of 39,144 MT (86 million lbs.) Last week's fixed gear harvest was 2,814MT (6.2 million pounds) The fixed gear fishery opened on January 1, 2024 the A season harvest with CDQ is at 94,077MT (207.3 million pounds) leaving 91,263MT to harvest (201million pounds). Including CDQ, 3% of the Pacific Cod A season allocation of 94,077MT has been harvested.

Hook and Line C/Ps: This sector harvested 0MT last week. The B season harvests 27,967MT (61 million lbs.) leaving the B season allocation at 895MT to harvest, 98% of the B season allocation has been harvested by this sector. The total A/B season catch is 57,777MT (127million lbs.) 98% of the seasonal harvest has been taken, leaving 895MT (1.97 million lbs.) to harvest. This sector may be done for the year.

Pacific Cod Trawl: The fixed gear fishery will open on January 1, 2024, with the A season allocation of 39,144MT. (86.2 million pounds) We had a zero-harvest last week through January 13th, 2024. The Amendment 80 sector, 0MT At Sea 0MT and CV sector 0MT A season harvest stands at 39,144MT (86,2 million pounds) the season just opened on Saturday January 20th, 2024.

CV Pot/HL < 60'ft: harvested 1,037MT last week for the season 1,823MT leaving 1,944MT cod allocation to harvest, 47% of the seasonal allocation has been harvested.

C/P Pot CPs 0MT was harvested last week of A season Cod, for the season 1,058MT. The A season remaining allocation is 1,058MT 0% of the A season allocation of 1,058MT has been harvested.

Pot Cod 60'>: harvested 215MT last week for the season 321MT leaving 5,605MT of A season allocation to harvest 2% of the A season allocations has been harvested.

Pacific Cod CDQ: had a harvest of 0MT last week for the season 0MT (0 million lbs.) from an A season allocation of 9,486MT leaving 9,485MT (20.9 million lbs.) 0% 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 1-13-2024: Amendment 80 sector fishing is slow with increased catch of Sole species as it traditionally is during at the end of the B season and less harvests of Perch and Mackerel. Last week's harvest was 500MT (1.1 million lbs.) The total harvest stands 673MT (1.48 million lbs.) of various species including the CDQ harvest. The seasonal harvest totals by species are as follows, Yellowfin Sole 32MT, Rock Sole 0MT Alaska Plaice, 0MT, Flathead Sole 41MT, Arrowtooth Flounder 7MT, Kamchatka Flounder 0MT other Flatfish 3MT other species harvested this season including Perch and Rockfish, 0MT Atka Mackerel 0MT, Octopus 6MT Skate 584MT Greenland Turbot, 0MT and Sablefish Trawl 0MT.

Misc. Items: On Thursday January 18th I attended the Bering Sea Fisheries Research Foundation (BSFRF) Board of Directors meeting via zoom. The board reviewed the finances the monthly and yearly the foundation is still doing well and has \$1.0 million in fund balance available we hope to receive in the month or so about \$2.7 million in crab disaster funds from the 2019-2020 Tanner Crab disaster request. Those funds will be used to fund our spring 2024 three vessels crab survey, tagging work for 25 days. We discussed the upcoming three-year audit for the foundation. The audit should be completed in a month or so. We then moved on to a review of the January NPFMC Crab Plan Team meeting which I discussed in my report last week. Scott Goodman the Executive Director moved on with an update on Crab Project Survey C-2 he would have the Charter Vessels Announcement would be going out on Friday January 19th through February 2 ,2024. The planning committee would review vessels that submitted proposals and would award the winning proposal. The base bid per day is \$9,000 per day plus fuel about \$1.0 million. He is working to finalize budget and charter vessels availability in late March.

The BSFRF is in the planning stages for international focus on comparative snow crab research & management applied science focused workshop. The Steering Committee has met twice some details timing is in late April-early May 2024 prior to May CPT meeting the location is St John's, Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada. Cohosted by BSFRF and Canada Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), with collaboration from others, inclusion of industry stakeholders, focused on science. Some preliminary objectives include comparisons of management approaches applied research topics to help with further understanding of the Bering Sea considerations of maturity indices of Snow Crab. The Board of Directors lastly discussed the need for additional staff to assist with the upcoming survey work. We funded a staff member's final semester of tuition on her work on the doctorate degree marine science. We also discussed the crab disaster funds that will be coming soon the \$2.7 million from the 2019-2020 Tanner Crab disasters funds. As A side note Unalaska will be receiving \$300,000 or slightly more from the community's share of that funding. The big news is that on the Snow Crab and Red King Crab disaster funding for the 2021-2022- and 2022-2023 season closures the BSFRF will be receiving \$12.5 million in research funding for three years of three survey each year from 2025-2027. This work will be done in coordination with NOAA, ADF&G, and North Pacific Research Borad. We will have BSFRF staff attending the Alaska Marine Science Symposium in Anchorage in late January and the NPFMC meeting in Seattle on February 7th -11th 2024.

Regards

Frank Kelty

Attachments:

1. Fishery Update Memo
2. Harvest Data
3. BSFRF Research Update