

Frank Kelty
Fisheries Consultant
City of Unalaska

Revised Memo Page One Only

Date: 2-13-2024

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

From: Frank Kelty, Unalaska Fisheries Consultant

Subject: Fishery Update Memo for February 13, 2024, Groundfish Harvest Data 2-3-2024 Crab Harvest Data and State Water Pacific Cod 2-13-2024

Fishery activity in Unalaska continues to increase with most of the A season groundfish fisheries getting geared up. The second full week of Pollock had a strong week with 52,826MT of harvest 116 million lbs. for the season 103,757 MT (228 million lbs.) We have harvested 18% of the A season harvest leaving 458,348MT of A season Pollock to harvest Pacific Cod fixed gear and trawl harvested is at 14,516MT (31 million lbs.) 8.7% of the allocation of 165,658MT has been harvested leaving 151,164MT of Pacific Cod to harvest.

On February 13, 2024, the State water 60' < pot cod fishery opened for 44.4 million pounds. Through February 13th we had fifty-one landings for a harvest of 4.8 million lbs. leaving 39.6 million lbs. to harvest. The fishing effort is down on many of the Cod fisheries due to low ex-vessel prices.

The Amendment 80 bottom trawlers harvest is picking up last week's harvest was increased by 2,500MT to 7,855MT (17.3million lbs.). The total harvest stands 13,147MY (28.9 million lbs.) of various species including various species of Sole, Mackerel, Perch, Rockfish, Turbot and Skate.

The Crab harvesters are just getting back fishing again once again. The Golden King Crab. We had no deliveries last week for Golden King Crab. Golden King Crab still has 220,000lbs to harvest. The Tanner Crab harvest of Western and Eastern Districts has 491,000 lbs. with much of that poundage is in the Western District.

Aleutian Islands Golden King Crab 2-13-24: 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 57 IFQ landings and CDQ for the season, from the Eastern District and thirty-three IFQ landings from the Western District. The total poundage for the Eastern District is 3.7

million lbs. with CDQ, the total landings with are estimated poundage of 3.5 million lbs. 97% harvested, leaving an estimated 220,000 lbs. to harvest, there were no landing from the Eastern District last week. The Western District IFQ had no landing last week as well. The season total is thirty-three landings for 1.56 million lbs. 86% harvested, leaving 246,000lbs.to harvest.

Bering Sea Tanner Crab 2-13-24: 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-nine IFQ and CDQ landings for 757,342 lbs. all from the Eastern District leaving 2,658lbs to harvest from the Eastern District 100% of the allocation has been harvested. There have been thirty -three landings of IFQ and CDQ landings from the Western District, for 611,918lbs leaving the Western District at 489,000 lbs. to harvest 59% of the allocation has been harvested.

Pollock 2-3-2024: The Pollock fishery opened on January 20th at noon we had a catch of 52,826MT (116 million lbs.) for the week ending February 3, 2024. The seasonal A season harvest is 103,757MT (228 million lbs.) leaving 458,348MT (1.01 billion lbs.) of A season Pollock 18% of the A season has been harvested, from the 562,500MT A season allocation.

Inshore CV: the catcher vessels that deliver shoreside harvest 24,592MT last week for the season 40,813MT (89 million lbs.) leaving 213,815MT (471 million lbs.) of A season Pollock to harvest 16% of the A season has been harvested from 252,000MT allocation.

At Sea CP: the catcher processors harvested 11,049MT last week and have harvested 30,792MT (67 million lbs.) for the season, leaving 172,910MT (381 million lbs.) of A season Pollock to harvest 15% of the A season has been harvested.

Mothership: this sector harvested 6,145MT last week for the season 11,274MT (24 million lbs.) leaving 39,652MT (87 million lbs.) A season to harvest 22% of the A season has been harvested from 50,926MT.

CDQ: this sector harvested 11,040MT for the season 20,878MT (46 million lbs.) leaving 38,477MT (84 million lbs.) to harvest, 35% of the A season harvest of 58,300MT allocation.

Pollock Incidental Catch: the harvest last week was 1,317MT for the season 3,306MT leaving 46,944MT to harvest.

Salmon Bycatch2-3-2024: Chinook bycatch last week 404 fish for a season total of 862 fish leaving 44,838fish remaining 2% of the cap has been taken. No Chum salmon bycatch reported last week.

Pacific Cod: 2-3-2024: The total cod harvest last week was 3,209MT for the A season is 14,516MT (31,993,264 million lbs.) 8.7% of the allocation of 165,658MT has been

harvested leaving 151,164MT (334 million lbs.) of Pacific Cod to harvest is including CDQ harvest allocation.

Hook and Line C/Ps: This sector harvested 2,149MT (4.7 million lbs.) last week for the season 7,735MT (17million lbs.) Leaving the A season allocation at 26,624MT (58.6.5million lbs.) to harvest, 23% of the A season allocation has been harvested by this sector.

Pacific Cod Trawl: The fixed gear fishery will open on January 20,2024, with the A season allocation of 39,144MT. (86.2 million pounds) We had a harvest of 533MT for last week the season 580MT through February 3, 2024. The Amendment 80 sector, 906MT At Sea 63MT and CV sector 440MT A season harvest stands at 1,409MT (3.1 million lbs.) (leaving 37,984MT (83.7million lbs.) to harvest the season, 3.5% of the A season allocation have been harvested.

CV Pot/HL < 60'ft: harvested 0MT last week for the season 4,118MT (9.1 million lbs.) leaving -251MT cod allocation to harvest, 106% 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 339MT last week for the season 1,083MT (2.3 million lbs.) leaving 4,843MT (10.6 million lbs.) of A season allocation to harvest 14% of the A season allocations has been harvested.

Pacific Cod CDQ: had a harvest of 149MT hast week for the season 184MT (405,536 lbs.) from an A season allocation of 10,005MT leaving 9,787MT (21.5 million lbs.) 0.9% 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.

State Water Pacific Cod 60'< Pot Boats 2-13-2024: The state water fishery has had 51 landings for (4.8 million lbs.) leaving 39.6million lbs. to harvest 10.8% of the allocation has been harvested from the 44.4 million pounds allocation.

Amendment 80 Bottom Trawl Fishery 2-3-2024: Amendment 80 sector fishing is still slow with increased catch of species coming soon as the fleet arrives and gets organized on grounds. Last week's harvest was increased by 2,500MT from the previous week's total to 7,855MT (17.3 million lbs.) The total harvest stands 13,147MT (28.9 million lbs.) of various species including the CDQ harvest. The seasonal harvest totals by species are as follows, Yellowfin Sole 5,494MT, Rock Sole 610MT Alaska Plaice, 255MT, Flathead Sole 573MT, Arrowtooth Flounder 61MT, Kamchatka Flounder 3MT other Flatfish 30MT other species harvested this season including Perch and

Rockfish,484MT Atka Mackerel 3,060MT, Octopus 26MT Skate 2,551MT Greenland Turbot, 0MT and Sablefish Trawl 0MT.

Misc. Items: I listened to the NPFMC meeting via zoom last week, which wrapped up on Monday afternoon. At this meeting there were no major fisheries issues that Unalaska needed to weigh in on with in person testimony. I will give an overview of some of the key issues that the Council discussed last week, and I have attached all the motions that they adopted at this meeting in Seattle and some of the B reports information from NMFS and ADFG for your review.

The Council under the B reports received and update from Jon Kurland, National Marine Fisheries Service Alaska Regional Administrator and a NPFMC Council Member on the Chinook Bycatch Emergency Petition submitted by five Western Alaska tribal group asking for a 180-day closure and zero bycatch in the Bering Sea Pollock Fishery. He stated the NMFS is still reviewing the request. The NPFMC took no action on the update but will submit a letter to the Secretary of Commerce on all of the actions the Council has taken over the years to reduce Chinook bycatch in the Bering Sea Pollock fishery this petition is basically the same one from two years ago which was denied by NMFS because it did not qualify as an emergency. We believe that will happen again, Unalaska, Aleutian East Borough, and all the trawl industry associations submitted letters to the Secretary of Commerce Raimondo, opposing the petition as it did not meet the criteria for and emergency action by NMFS. We stated the major impacts that a closure of the Pollock fishery would have on the seafood industry, the communities and support sector business that depend on that fishery.

The Council approves Motion C-1 that set the Norton Sound Red King Crab Fishery Overfishing Limit (OFL)733,000lbs Allowable Biological Catch (ABC) at 513,000 lbs. State of Alaska ADF&G sets the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) later in the spring. The next Council Motion C-2 Bristol Bay Red King Crab Closure Area the Council took no further action at this time. This action by the Council was done because of concerns by moving the Pollock, Cod longliners and Pot Cod fleets out of the Red King Crab savings area, the analysis showed that the bycatch of Chinook, Chum salmon would increase, and Herring and Sablefish as well. The Council is awaiting further research work that is being done, on crab tagging studies crab avoidance measures for trawl, pot and hook and line sectors. The Council is also concerned on habitat impacts in the Red King Crab saving areas and hopes that further research will address that concern as well. We may see this issue again in December.

C-3 Cook Inlet Salmon Harvest Specification, this motion failed for adoption the Council felt that they did not want to support rubber stamping the specifications for the federal government because they do not believe they have the tools to manage the Cook Inlet Salmon fishery properly. The federal government can go ahead on their own to set the harvest specifications for the fishery they manage the Council will not be involved in the process.

The Council Motion on D-1 Pelagic Trawl Definition Changes, the Council adopted a purpose and need statement and two alternatives for analysis this issues is tied to the

on going work on the Bristol Bay Red King Crab closures issue they hope to come up with a way to keep pelagic gear from touching the bottom to protect King Crab, Tanner Crab ,Halibut and crab habitat areas.

The Council addressed Motion D-2 Tanner Crab Protection Areas on Kodiak Island. This issue was brought forward by the Gulf Crabbers, who requested to close off more areas on Kodiak Island from the Gulf of Alaska trawl fleet. The Council requested an expanded discussion paper to inform them on additional impacts of closures to protect Gulf Tanner Crab. The paper has six bullet points to look at in the requested analysis. The last motion for this meeting was D-3 Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement. The Councils supports continuing pre-scoping activities and supports the tribal consultations between NOAA and tribes to further development of alternatives prior to formal scoping of the intent to prepare Programmatic EIS. The Council adjourned after staff tasking late on Monday afternoon. The Council will meet again in April 8-15 2024 in Anchorage.

Regards

Frank Kelty

Attachments:

1. Fishery Update Memo
2. Harvest Data and NOAA Reports
3. NPFMC February Meeting Motions C-1 through D-3
- 4, NMFS Management Report & NOAA General Counsel Report
5. ADF&G Report
6. USCG Report