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To: City Manager William 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 24, 2024, Groundfish Harvest Data 2-24-2024 Crab Harvest Data and State Water Pacific Cod 3-4-2024

Fishery activity in Unalaska continues to increase with most of the A season groundfish fish fleets 100% geared up. The fifth full week of Pollock had a strong week with 55,159MT of harvest (121 million lbs.) for the season 268,706 MT (592 million lbs.) We have harvested 47% of the A season harvest leaving 299,905MT of A season Pollock to harvest. Pacific Cod fixed gear and trawl harvested the total cod harvest was 5,740MT for the A season is 32,085MT (70.7 million lbs.) 19.3% of the allocation of 165,658MT has been harvested leaving 133,984MT (295 million lbs.) of Pacific Cod to harvest is including CDQ harvest allocation.

On February 26, 2024, the State water 60' < pot cod fishery opened for 44.4 million pounds. Through March 4, 2024, 149 landings for 13.9 million lbs. leaving 30.4 million lbs. to harvest 31% of the allocation has been harvested from the 44.4 million pounds allocation.

The Amendment 80 bottom trawlers harvest is picking up last week's harvest was decreased by 2,400MT to 5,073MT (11.1 million lbs.). The total harvest stands 31,251MT (68.8 million lbs.) of various species.

The Golden King Crab. We had one delivery last week for Golden King Crab. Golden King Crab harvest is 3.7million lbs. and still has 151,000lbs to harvest 97% has been harvested. The Tanner Crab harvest of Western and Eastern Districts has harvested 1,783,969 lbs. leaving 293,373lbs. 84% Tanner Crab harvested has been completed.

Overall Groundfish Harvest 2-24-2024: The harvest for the last week was 67,718MT (149 million pounds) 4,000MT decrease over the previous week's harvest. The season totals are 341,088MT harvested (751 million pounds) leaving 1,662,157MT (3.66 billion lbs.) to harvest; 17% of the overall annual harvest of 2,002,145MMT (4.4 billion pounds) has been completed.

Pollock 2-24-2024: The Pollock fishery opened on January 20th at noon we had a catch of 55,159MT (121 million lbs.) for the week ending February 24, 2024. The seasonal A season harvest is 268,706MT (592 million lbs.) leaving 299,905MT (660 million lbs.) of A season Pollock 47.1% of the A season has been harvested, from the 568,611MT (1.2 billion lbs.) Pollock A season allocation.

Inshore CV: the catcher vessels that deliver shoreside harvest 21,725MT last week for the season 104,844MT (231 million lbs.) leaving 149,784MT (330 million lbs.) of A season Pollock to harvest 41% of the A season has been harvested from 252,000MT allocation.

At Sea CP: the catcher processors harvested 26,374MT last week and have harvested 96,230MT (212 million lbs.) for the season, leaving 107,473MT (236 million lbs.) of A season Pollock to harvest 47% of the A season has been harvested.

Mothership: this sector harvested 3,300MT last week for the season 23,562MT (51.9 million lbs.) leaving 27,364MT (60 million lbs.) A season to harvest 46% of the A season has been harvested from 50,926MT.

CDQ: this sector harvested 3,760MT for the season 44,071MT (97 million lbs.) leaving 15,248MT (33.6 million lbs.) to harvest, 74% of the A season harvest of 58,300MT allocation.

Pollock Incidental Catch: the harvest last week was 1,741MT for the season 8,948MT leaving 41,052MT to harvest 18% of the allocation has been harvested.

Salmon Bycatch 2-24-2024: Chinook bycatch last week 319 fish for a season total of 2,245 fish leaving 43,455fish remaining 5% of the cap has been from the cap of 45,000 fish. Chum salmon no new bycatch numbers reported last week still at 267 fish.

Pacific Cod: 2-24-2024: The total cod harvest last week was 5,740MT for the A season is 32,085MT (70.7 million lbs.) 19.3% of the allocation of 165,658MT has been harvested leaving 133,984MT (295 million lbs.) of Pacific Cod to harvest is including CDQ harvest allocation.

Hook and Line C/Ps: This sector harvested 1,578MT (3.4 million lbs.) last week for the season 13,621MT (30 million lbs.) Leaving the A season allocation at 20,738MT (45.7 million lbs.) to harvest, 40% of the A season allocation of 34,359MT 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 3,612MT for last week (7.9 million lbs.) for the season 11,157MT (24.5 million lbs.) through February 24, 2024. The Amendment 80 sector, 1,383MT At Sea 120MT and CV sector 2,109MT A season harvest stands at 11,157MT (24.5 million lbs.) (leaving 28,032MT (61.7million lbs.) to harvest the season, 28% 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 201MT last week for the season 2,043MT (4.5 million lbs.) leaving 3,883MT (8.5 million lbs.) of A season allocation to harvest 34% of the A season allocation of 5,926MT has been harvested.

Pacific Cod CDQ: had a harvest of 349MT last week for the season 1,005MT (1.7 million lbs.) from an A season allocation of 10,005MT leaving 9,000MT (19.8 million lbs.) 9% of the A season CDQ harvest have been taken.

Pacific Cod Jig: 0MT harvested last week, for the season 0MT harvested from the jig allocation of 1,948MT leaving 1,948MT 0% of the allocation has been harvested.

State Water Pacific Cod 60'< Pot Boats 3-4-2024: The state water fishery has had 149 landings for 13.9 million lbs. leaving 30.4 million lbs. to harvest 31% of the allocation has been harvested from the 44.4 million pounds allocation.

Amendment 80 Bottom Trawl Fishery 2-24-2024 The Amendment 80 bottom trawlers harvest is picking up last week's harvest was decreased by 2,400MT to 5,073MT (11.1 million lbs.). The total harvest stands 31,251MT (68.8 million lbs.) of various species. The seasonal harvest totals by species are as follows, Yellowfin Sole 12,045MT, Rock Sole 5,713MT Alaska Plaice, 1,088MT, Flathead Sole 1,585MT, Arrowtooth Flounder 112MT, Kamchatka Flounder 6MT other Flatfish 527MT other species harvested this season including Perch and Rockfish, 601MT Atka Mackerel 4,524MT, Octopus 53MT Skate 4,995MT Greenland Turbot, 0MT and Sablefish Trawl 2MT.

Aleutian Islands Golden King Crab 3-4-24: 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 61 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 3.60 million lbs. 98% harvested, leaving an estimated 100,000 lbs. to harvest, there were no landing from the Eastern District last week. The Western District IFQ had three landings last week as well. The season total is thirty-six landings for 1.758 million lbs. 99% harvested, leaving 51,546lbs.to harvest.

Bering Sea Tanner Crab 3-4-24: 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 fifty-five landings of IFQ and CDQ landings from the Western District, 1.026 million lbs. leaving the Western District IFQ and CDQ at 293,373lbs. to harvest 77% of the allocation has been harvested. The western district had five landings last week.

Misc. Items: I attended the February 29, 2024, Bering Sea Fisheries Research Foundation (BSFRF) as usual we reviewed the financials, we still have \$1.0 million in reserves a good part of that will be used in the upcoming April survey work by three vessels in the Bering Sea Bristol Bay area on Red King Crab survey work. The board also discussed the 2023 audit that was completed, it was a clean audit with no negative remarks in the document. We then discussed a request for funding on a five years Ocean Acidification (OA) project that would tie in with are survey work on crab in the Bristol Bay area the BSFRF is being asked to fund \$38,000 per year to collect water samples in various stat areas to study the potential impacts of OA by studying chemical and biological observations during fisheries survey work. The samples will be sent to the NOAA lab in Newport Oregon for analysis. The BSFRF board agreed to participate and fund the project as OA is known to have a significant impact on the Red King Crab populations but does not seem to impact Tanner Crab stocks as much.

Executive Director Goodman then briefed the Board, on actions taken by the NPFMC on crab issues at the February meeting in Seattle the key issues was the Council took no action on closing the Red King Crab saving area for other fishing gear types. We then moved on the planning update on the Crab survey work that will start in early April the three vessels chosen in a random drawing were the FV Seabooke, FV Arctic Lady, they are the two crabbers, and the trawler is the FV Vesteraalen. The board discussed the cost involved for the charters, fishing bait to be used, there will be three-person science team on each vessel. The charters are expected to last 25 to 30 days depending on weather that hope to survey 175 stations. The BSFRF Opilio (Snow Crab workshop is scheduled for April 30 -May 1st in Eastern Canada. Lastly, we were briefed on the pending Crab disaster relief funds \$2.0 from the 2019 Tanner disaster funds in the next 60 days. The meeting adjourned at noon on Thursday the April meeting will be in late April.

Regards

Frank Kelty

Attachments:

1. Fishery Update Memo
2. Harvest Data and NOAA Reports