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City of Unalaska

Date: 4-15-2024

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 April 15,2024, Groundfish Harvest Data 4-6-2024 Crab Harvest, State Water Pacific Cod, IFQ Halibut and Sablefish 4-15-2024

The Exodus back to Anchorage and beyond has started, this past week we had a lot of harvesters that had finished their Pollock allocations and have left their vessels tied up in the various boat harbors in Unalaska or in King Cove and some went to Kodiak. They will be returning in about six weeks for the Pollock B season. We also had processing workers from some of the smaller processors that have wrapped up Pollock A season. All the scheduled flights on Aleutian and Ravn are booked solid starting on Monday, April 15th for at least seven days.

After the Pollock A season rush is over it will be quiet, but we still have 15 -17 Pacific Cod Freezer longline catcher processors finishing up the Pacific Cod A season, and we also have 20-25 Amendment 80 Bottom Trawl Catcher Processors working the Sole, Mackerel, and Pacific Ocean Perch fisheries they will also be doing crew changes every month or so.

Fishery activity in Unalaska continues to slow down, with the Pollock allocations now at 93% complete. The Pollock harvest last week came in at 25,908MT (77 million lbs.) for the Pollock A season 533,229MT equals (1.21 billion lbs.) This leaves 35,390MT (77.9 million lbs.) to harvest from the 568,611MT (1.2 billion lbs.) from the Pollock A season allocation. We have about 1 weeks left in Pollock A season. The larger Pollock allocations that Westward, Unisea, and Trident control, should be finishing up this.

The total Pacific Cod harvest last week was 3,864MT (8.5 million lbs.) for the A season is 66,909MT (147 million lbs.) 40% of the allocation of 165,658MT has been harvested leaving 98,749MT (217 million lbs.) of Pacific Cod to harvest including CDQ harvest allocation. The state water fishery has had 394 landings for 38.9million lbs. leaving 5.4 million lbs. to harvest, 88% of the allocation has been harvested from the 44.4 million lbs. allocation.

IFQ Halibut 125 landing for 652,191lbs. leaving 16.6 million to harvest 4% of the allocation is harvested. IFQ Sablefish, 81 landings for 1.8 million lbs. leaving 58.9 million lbs. to harvest 3% of the allocation is harvested.

The Amendment 80 bottom trawlers harvest declined last week's the harvest decreased by 3,000MT to 4,852MT (10.6 million lbs.). The total harvest stands 73,302MT (161 million lbs.) of various flatfish and other species.

The Golden King Crab the fishery is completed the harvest for both the Eastern and Western Districts plus the CDQ harvest was 5,523,113 lbs. leaving 5,530lbs unharvested. The Tanner Crab fishery is complete the fishery is completed in both the Eastern and Western Districts the harvest including CDQ was 2,073,103 lbs. leaving, 8,000lbs unharvested.

Overall Groundfish Harvest 4-6-2024: The harvest for the last week was 36,831MT (81 million pounds) 10,000MT decrease over the previous week's harvest. The season totals are 695,789MT harvested (1.53 billion pounds) leaving 1,289,776MT (2.84 billion lbs.) to harvest; 35% of the overall annual harvest of 1,985,565MMT (4.3 billion pounds) has been completed.

Pollock 4-6-2024: The Pollock fishery opened on January 20th the tenth full week of Pollock A season is about done. The Pollock harvest came in at 25,908MT (57 million lbs.) for the Pollock A season 533,633MT equals (1.76 billion lbs.) 93% of the A season is complete. This leaves 35,380MT (77.9 million lbs.) to harvest from the 568,611MT (1.2 billion lbs.) from the Pollock A season allocation. We have about 1 weeks left in Pollock A season. The harvest by sectors is as follows Catcher Vessels Sector 232,815MT leaving 21,813MT to harvest 91% of the A season harvest is complete. At Sea Processors 191,399MT harvested leaving 12,303MT 94% of the A season is completed. Mothership Fleet 49,800MT leaving 1,126MT to harvest 98% of the A season is complete. CDQ Sector 59,217MT leaving 138MT to harvest 100% of the A season harvest is complete.

Inshore CV: the catcher vessels that deliver shoreside harvest 19,579MT (43.1million lbs.) last week for the season 232,815MT (513 million lbs.) leaving 21,813MT (48.0 million lbs.) of A season Pollock to harvest 91% of the A season has been harvested from 252,000MT allocation.

At Sea CP: the catcher processors harvested 2,500MT (5.51 million lbs.) last week and have harvested 191,399MT (421 million lbs.) for the season, leaving 12,303MT (27.1 million lbs.) of A season Pollock to harvest 94% of the A season has been harvested.

Mothership: this sector harvested 3,685MT (8.1 million lbs.) last week for the season 49,800MT (109 million lbs.) leaving 1,126MT (2.4 million lbs.) A season to harvest 98% of the A season has been harvested from 50,926MT.

CDQ: this sector harvested 102MT (224,808 lbs.) season 59,217MT (130.5 million lbs.) leaving 138MT (304,152lbs.) to harvest, 100% of the A season harvest of 58,300MT allocation.

Pollock Incidental Catch: the harvest last week was 2,196MT for the season 22,215MT (484.19million lbs.) leaving 27,783MT (66.6 million lbs.) to harvest 40% of the allocation has been harvested.

Salmon Bycatch 4-6-2024: Chinook bycatch last week 280 fish for a season total of 5,026 fish leaving 40,686fish remaining 11% of the cap has been from the cap of 45,000 fish. Chum salmon 912 fish bycatch reported last week for the season no new numbers on Chum bycatch last week.

Pacific Cod: 4-6-2024: The total cod harvest last week was 3,864MT (8.5 million lbs.) for the A season is 66,909MT (147 million lbs.) 40% of the allocation of 165,658MT has been harvested leaving 98,749MT (217 million lbs.) of Pacific Cod to harvest including CDQ harvest allocation.

Hook and Line C/Ps: This sector harvested 1,464MT (3.2 million lbs.) last week for the season 24,353MT (54 million lbs.) Leaving the A season allocation at 10,006MT (22.0 million lbs.) to harvest, 71% of the A season allocation of 34,359MT has been harvested by this sector.

Pacific Cod Trawl: The trawl fishery opened on January 20, 2024. With and A season allocation of 39,144MT. (86.2 million pounds) We had a harvest of 1,639MT for last week (4.5 million lbs.) for the season 28,771MT (63.4 million lbs.) through April 6, 2024. The Amendment 80 sector, 420MT At Sea 129MT and CV sector 1,090MT A season harvest stands at 30,998MT 68.3 million lbs.) (leaving 8,370MT (18.4 million lbs.) to harvest for the season, 79% of the A season allocation of 39,144MT has 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 241MT last week for the season 3,612MT (7.9 million lbs.) leaving 2,314MT (5.1 million lbs.) of A season allocation to harvest 61% of the A season allocation of 5,926MT has been harvested.

Pacific Cod CDQ: had a harvest of 519MT hast week for the season 3,336MT (7. million lbs.) from an A season allocation of 7,949MT leaving 7,718MT (17.0million lbs.) 41% 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.

Amendment 80 Bottom Trawl Fishery 4-6-2024 The Amendment 80 bottom trawlers harvest declined last week's the harvest decreased by 3,000MT to 4,852MT (10.6 million lbs.). The total harvest stands 73,302MT (161 million lbs.) of various flatfish and other species. The seasonal harvest totals by species are as follows, Yellowfin Sole 19,461MT, Rock Sole 15,878MT Alaska Plaice, 2,739MT, Flathead Sole 8,256MT, Arrowtooth Flounder 455MT, Kamchatka Flounder 33MT other Flatfish 790MT other species harvested this season including Perch and Rockfish, 1,743MT Atka Mackerel 13,465MT, Octopus 105MT Skate 10,369MT Greenland Turbot, 1MT and Sablefish Trawl 29MT.

State Water Pacific Cod 60' < Pot Boats 4-15-2024: The state water fishery has had 394 landings for 38.9million lbs. leaving 5.4million lbs. to harvest 88% of the allocation has been harvested from the 44.4 million lbs.

Aleutian Islands Golden King Crab 4-15-24: 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 55 IFQ landings and CDQ for the season, from the Eastern District and thirty-eight IFQ landings from the Western District. The total poundage for the Eastern District is 3.714 million lbs. with CDQ, the total landings with are estimated poundage of 3.714 million lbs. 100% harvested allocation, leaving an estimated 5,430 million lbs. left unharvested. There were no landings from the Eastern District last week, we have one vessel fishing doing a cleanup trip on that amount he will be unloading later this week. The Western District IFQ had no landings last week. The season total is thirty -eight landings for 1.808 million lbs. 100% harvested, leaving 1,438lbs. left unharvested.

Bering Sea Tanner Crab 4-15-24: 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 2.073 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 this fishery is completed. There have been Seventy-two landings of IFQ and CDQ landings from the Western District, 1,315,819 million lbs. leaving the Western District IFQ and CDQ at 4,239lbs. left unharvested 100% of the allocation has been harvested. The Western district had no landings last week. There are no vessels registered or fishing at this time in either district.

Halibut IFQ 4-15-24: the season open on March 15th at noon, so far 272 landing for landings for 1.46 million lbs. leaving 15.8 million lbs. to harvest; 8% of the allocation has been harvested. The CDQ allocation is set at 1.17 million lbs.no landings reported yet. Leading Port of landing is Homer, AK at 436,981lbs. followed by Seward, at 160,305lbs.

Sablefish IFQ 4-15-24: there have been 220 Sablefish landings 4.8 million lbs. leaving 55.9 million lbs. to harvest 8% of the harvest is complete. Ports of landing Seward 953,070lbs. followed by Kodiak 470,330lbs.

Misc. Items: On Monday last week the NPFMC finished the Chum salmon issue. The Council spent most of Tuesday morning working on D-2 Issues MRA Maximum Retainable Amounts (MRA) of species closed to fishing while fishing species in an open directed fishery. This is important for the Amendment 80 bottom trawl fleet in the Bering Sea and for the Gulf of Alaska bottom trawl harvesters it can also impact the Pacific Cod Longline catcher processors in the Bering Sea and in the Aleutian Islands. The Council at this meeting development the purpose and need statement for this action and development Five Alternatives that will be sent out for analysis by NOAA and Council Staff this may be up for initial review in February of 2025. This action will help clarify regulation and the calculations easier and a major all is to reduce regulatory discards and address weather, breakdowns, and medical issues at seas. The Motion is attached below with this memo for your review.

The afternoon session was on staff tasking issues mostly housekeeping issues, and they took a few more testifiers on Chum Salmon bycatch folks and heard concerns from the public on the Council process, and on how hard it is for Western Alaska folks to understand the staff presentations, reports, and the calculations used during the discussions of the issues. The Council did not make any motions during Staff tasking diborations.

Regards

Frank Kelty

Attachments:

1. Fishery Update Memo
2. Harvest Data
3. NOAA Reports
4. Council Motion on D-2 MRA