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**Date:** 4-8-2024

**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 8,2024, Groundfish Harvest Data 3-30-2024 Crab Harvest, State Water Pacific Cod, IFQ Halibut and Sablefish 4-8-2024

Fishery activity in Unalaska continues to be slow as the Pollock harvest is almost completed. Last week the harvest of all groundfish decreased to 6,000MT to 53,465MT (117 million lbs.) due to reduction in catch in the Pollock fishery. The tenth full week of Pollock A season saw a decrease of 8,000MT last week to 37,817MT of harvest (83 million lbs.) for the season 507,029MT (1.11 billion lbs.) We have harvested 89% of the A season harvest completed. We have about a week and half more until the Pollock A season will be completed. The airport will already getting busy soon with outbound travel to Anchorage.

The total cod harvest last week was 4,268MT (9.4 million lbs.) for the A season is 63,394MT (139 million lbs.) 38% of the allocation of 165,658MT has been harvested leaving 102,270MT (225 million lbs.) of Pacific Cod to harvest including CDQ harvest allocation. The state water fishery has had 364 landings for 38.3million lbs. leaving 8.0 million lbs. to harvest, 82% 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 is picking up last week's harvest increased by 1,100MT to 7,827MT (17.2 million lbs.). The total harvest stands 68,450MT (150 million lbs.) of various species.

The Golden King Crab. We had no delivery last week for Golden King Crab. Golden King Crab harvest is at 5.45 million lbs. and still has 40,700bs to harvest, 99% has been harvested, one vessel is still fishing. The Tanner Crab harvest of Western and Eastern Districts has harvested 2,070,342 lbs. leaving 6,897lbs. unharvested 100% Tanner Crab harvested has been completed there are no vessels fishing.

**Overall Groundfish Harvest 3-30-2024:** The harvest for the last week was 53,465MT (117million pounds) a 6,000MT decrease over the previous week's harvest. The season totals are 658,944MT harvested (1.45 billion pounds) leaving 1,326,621MT (2.9 billion lbs.) to harvest; 33% of the overall annual harvest of 1,985,565MMT (4.3 billion pounds) has been completed.

**Pollock 3-30-2024:** The Pollock fishery opened on January 20<sup>th</sup> the tenth full week of Pollock slow down last week with a harvest of 37,817MT of harvest (83.3 million lbs.) for the season 507,029MT (1.11 billion lbs.) We have harvested 89% of the A season harvest leaving 56,833MT (125.2 million lbs.) from the 568,611MT (1.2 billion lbs.) Pollock A season allocation. The breakdown by harvesting sector is as follows Catcher Vessels Sector 213,216MT leaving 41,412MT to harvest 84% of the A season harvest is complete. At Sea Processors 188,831MT harvested leaving 14,871MT 93% of the A season is completed. Mothership Fleet 46,142MT leaving 4,784MT to harvest 91% of the A season is complete. CDQ Sector 59,115MT leaving 240MT to harvest 100% of their A season harvest is complete.

**Inshore CV:** the catcher vessels that deliver shoreside harvest 22,984MT last week for the season 213,216MT (469 million lbs.) leaving 41,412MT (91.2 million lbs.) of A season Pollock to harvest 84% of the A season has been harvested from 252,000MT allocation.

**At Sea CP:** the catcher processors harvested 10,852MT (23.9 million lbs.) last week and have harvested 188,831MT (416 million lbs.) for the season, leaving 14,871MT (32.7 million lbs.) of A season Pollock to harvest 93% of the A season has been harvested.

**Mothership:** this sector harvested 3,618MT (7.9 million lbs.) last week for the season 46,142MT (101 million lbs.) leaving 4,784MT (10.5 million lbs.) A season to harvest 91% of the A season has been harvested from 50,926MT.

**CDQ:** this sector harvested 363MT (800,052 lbs.) for the season 59,115MT (130 million lbs.) leaving 240MT (528,960lbs.) to harvest, 100% of the A season harvest of 58,300MT allocation.

**Pollock Incidental Catch:** the harvest last week was 3,256MT for the season 20,020MT (44.1million lbs.) leaving 30,230, MT (66.6 million lbs.) to harvest 40% of the allocation has been harvested.

**Salmon Bycatch 3-30-2024:** Chinook bycatch last week 326 fish for a season total of 4,723 fish leaving 40,977fish remaining 10% of the cap has been from the cap of 45,000 fish. Chum salmon 889 fish bycatch reported last week for the season no new numbers on Chum bycatch last week.

**Pacific Cod: 3-30-2024:** The total cod harvest last week was 4,268MT (9.4 million lbs.) for the A season is 63,394MT (139 million lbs.) 38% of the allocation of 165,658MT has

been harvested leaving 102,270MT (225 million lbs.) of Pacific Cod to harvest including CDQ harvest allocation.

**Hook and Line C/Ps:** This sector harvested 1,651MT (3.6 million lbs.) last week for the season 22,903MT (50.4 million lbs.) Leaving the A season allocation at 11,456MT (25.7 million lbs.) to harvest, 63% 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 2,048MT for last week (4.5 million lbs.) for the season 27,132MT (59.7 million lbs.) through March 23, 2024. The Amendment 80 sector, 449MT At Sea 21MT and CV sector 1,936MT A season harvest stands at 29,180MT 64.3 million lbs.) (leaving 10,009MT (22.0million lbs.) to harvest for the season, 74% 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 236MT last week for the season 3,372MT (7.4 million lbs.) leaving 2,554MT (5.6 million lbs.) of A season allocation to harvest 57% of the A season allocation of 5,926MT has been harvested.

**Pacific Cod CDQ:** had a harvest of 321MT last week for the season 2,817MT (6.2 million lbs.) from an A season allocation of 7,949MT leaving 7,199MT (15.8 million lbs.) 35% 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 3-30-2024** The Amendment 80 bottom trawlers harvest is picking up last week's harvest increased by 1,100MT to 7,827MT (17.2 million lbs.). The total harvest stands 68,450MT (150 million lbs.) of various species. The seasonal harvest totals by species are as follows, Yellowfin Sole 18,534MT, Rock Sole 14,780MT Alaska Plaice, 2,477MT, Flathead Sole 8,084MT, Arrowtooth Flounder 396MT, Kamchatka Flounder 31MT other Flatfish 771MT other species harvested this season including Perch and Rockfish, 1,484MT Atka Mackerel 12,066MT, Octopus 94MT Skate 9,733MT Greenland Turbot, 1MT and Sablefish Trawl 29MT.

**State Water Pacific Cod 60' < Pot Boats 4-8-2024:** The state water fishery has had 364 landings for 36.3 million lbs. leaving 8.0 million lbs. to harvest 82% of the allocation has been harvested from the 44.4 million lbs.

**Aleutian Islands Golden King Crab 4-8-24:** 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 54 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 3.7 million lbs. with CDQ, the total landings with are estimated poundage of 3.679 million lbs. 99% harvested allocation, leaving an estimated 40,614 lbs. to harvest. 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 1,438 lbs. left unharvested.

**Bering Sea Tanner Crab 4-8-24:** The Tanner Crab IFQ allocation is 1.87 million pounds for both the East and Western Districts. The CDQ totals 250,000 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 2,658 lbs 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 4,239 lbs. 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 4-8-24:** the season open on March 15<sup>th</sup> at noon, so far 223 landing for landings for 1.2 million lbs. leaving 16.0 million lbs. to harvest; 7% 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 307,992 lbs. followed by Seward, at 144,652 lbs.

**Sablefish IFQ 4-8-24:** there have been 177 Sablefish landings 3.8 million lbs. leaving 56.9 million lbs. to harvest 6% of the harvest is complete. Ports of landing Seward 657,509 lbs. followed by Juneau 266,544 lbs.

**Misc. Items:**

We have had a marathon North Pacific Council meeting this past week that is still on going this due to the large amount on testifiers on the Chum Salmon Bycatch issue. The only issue approved by the Council so far is C-1 the Scallop allocation for the 2024 fishing season. The Council approved and OFL of 1.28 million pounds of shucked meats and the ABC amount of 1.15 million pounds of shucked meats, the State of Alaska sets the TAC amount for the Scallop Industry in the next week or so. During the initial review of C-2 Chum Salmon bycatch on the Alternatives the Council, Science

Panel, and the Industry Advisory panel spent almost seven days reviewing the document and taking public testimony on the additional recommendations for the analysis for next round of review of the document. The Advisory Panel past a five-page motion that had an additional recommendations and deleted Alt.3 in total, due the lack of genetics evaluations (scale sample work on Chum) that would identify the river system the fish would return to. At the Council they started work on the issue on Friday and are still taking public testimony today they had over one hundred testifiers. The majority from Western Alaska villages that want action by the Council on a restrictive hard cap on Chum salmon bycatch that could restricted or totally closure of the Pollock B season fishery due to lack of subsistence and commercial fishing for years. The harvesters, processors, CDQ groups and communities supported Alt. 4 which is IPA program similar to what was put in place for Chinook salmon bycatch program that has been very successful, that uses an individual vessel and cooperative program to reduce Chum bycatch with restrictions and penalties with bad actors that fish dirty or don't follow the cooperative rules.

The harvester, processors, CDQ groups and communities were very adamantly opposed to a restrictive hard cap that is in Alt. 2. Which would lead to a B season closure or a restricted Pollock B season. This is especially tough to take when 53% of the bycatch is Asian and Russian hatchery fish that is still expanding into the ocean, 28% Gulf of Alaska and Pacific Northwest, and only 19% of the bycatch is destination for Western Alaska river systems. We are awaiting the Council discussion late this afternoon on what they will pass on to the for analysis to NOAA and Council staff to analyze this issue will be seen again either in the October or December NPFMC meetings in Anchorage. Late in the day the Council passed the C-2 Chum Bycatch Salmon motion unanimously it is attached below it the same as the AP Motion that was put together on Friday. It will go out for further analysis by the Council and NOAA staff and will be seen again in fall by the Council. The Council will address two issues on Tuesday and then adjourn on Tuesday afternoon I will send an addition email on Tuesday or Wednesday on actions taken or motions adopted by the Council.

Regards

Frank Kelty

Attachments:

1. Fishery Update Memo
2. Harvest Data and NOAA Reports
3. NPFMC Council Motions
  - C-1 Scallop Safe Document on 2024 OFL and ABC for Scallops
  - C-2 Chum Salmon Bycatch