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**Date:** 12-14-2020

**To:** Erin Reinders, City Manager, JR Pierson, Asst. Manager, Mayor Tutikoff, & Unalaska City Council Members

**From:** Frank Kelty Fisheries Consultant

**Subject:** Harvest Updates on Federal Water Groundfish Harvests and State Water Crab, and IFQ Halibut/Sablefish Harvests

**Federal Water Groundfish Harvest catch as of 12-5-20, State Water Crab, 12-14-20.**

**Fishing Season:** We continue in the slowest part of the fishing year; last week harvest was only 3,040MT there will be little activity until January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021. This past week I have been attending the North Pacific Council meeting. I have sent a two-part memo to the Mayor and Council last week, the Pollock allocation for FY 21 fishing season is 1,375,000MMT a 3% reduction for FY 20 allocation of 1,425,000MMT on Pacific Cod for Eastern Bering Sea 111,000MT a 23% reduction from FY 20 allocation 141,000MT. The NPFMC will do analysis on the UNFA group request of Pacific Cod allocation for the UNFA fleet.

During this slow period, we will still have activity in the Amendment 80 CPs cooperative they have sole species and cod to fish until the end of the year. The crab sector currently has 4 vessels fishing Golden King Crab and there no vessels are fishing Tanner Crab in the Western District in the Bering Sea they have tied up during the Christmas Holidays. There is also some Freezer Longline CPs activity in the Aleutian Islands.

**Overall Groundfish Harvest:** The B season catch as of 12-5-2020 was 3,043MT (679,900lbs) a 2,000MT decrease in harvest from the previous week; with most of the harvest 900MT from Pacific cod. The season totals are 1,871,048MMT (4.179 billion pounds) harvested leaving 128,952MT (288 million pounds) 94% of the overall annual harvest of 1.99MM. Just as a reminder all trawling for all species has stopped as of November 1<sup>st</sup> by regulation except for the Amendment 80 Cooperative.

**Pollock Harvest:** the fishery closed by regulation on November 1, 2020. The allocation is set at 1.42MMT (3.1billion pounds) with a 40% harvest for the A season 620,000MT and 60% of the harvest of 840,000MT for the B season which opened on June 10<sup>th</sup>,

2020. Last week there were no harvest as the fishery is closed. The season total for this B season stands at 702,552MT a full 2 weeks behind the 2019 harvest level of 766,641MT leaving 70,855MT unharvested in pounds 158 million pounds. At an ex-vessel loss 19 million dollars to the fleet.

Pollock Incidental Catch: last week harvest was 280MT for the season 48,460MT leaving -998MT to harvest 102% over the annual allocation has been harvested.

Salmon bycatch: Chinook bycatch stands at 32,441 fish 53% allocation compared to 24,985 fish in 2019. Non-Chinook (Chum) salmon of 317,883 fish compared to 348,023 fish in 2019 no new data on Non-Chinook salmon bycatch for this week.

**Pacific Cod:** federal water fishery landings of Pacific Cod continues to be slow which is normal for this time of year. The harvest last week ending on December 5, 2020 was 977MT including the CDQ harvest. There are basically no one fishing cod in the Bering Sea as of last week, but the Aleutian Island are open and last week's harvest 866MT came from the Aleutians and additional 79MT came from the CDQ harvest. The seasonal harvest totals for the A/B season are 148,756MT from all harvesting sectors ((332) million lbs.). The remaining Pacific Cod allocation is 9,350MT including CDQ (in pounds 20.8million pounds) to harvest. The breakdown by harvesting sectors are listed below.

CV Pot/HL < 60ft: harvested 0MT last week for the season 4,835MT leaving -28MT over their allocation of 4,807MT. -101% of the allocation has been harvested. This sector may receive a rollover before end of the year.

C/P Pot CPs harvested 0MT last week of B season Cod for the season 2,050MT. The B season allocation, which opens on September 1, 2020 has 24MT left and NMFS has announced a closure for September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

CV Pot 60'+: harvested 0MT last week for the season 11,006MT. leaving 610MT of B season allocation to harvest 95% of the B season allocation has been harvested.

Hook and Line C/Ps: harvested 664MT last week for the season 63,011MT from the A/B season allocation of 67,346MT 94% of the seasonal allocation has been harvested. The B season harvest is at 28,334MT leaving 4,335MT to harvest 80% of the B season allocation has been harvested. This sector is closed in the Bering Sea but can fish in the Aleutian Islands if they so choose.

Pacific Cod CDQ: had a harvest of 79MT last week for the season 15,518MT from an allocation of 14,920MT leaving 1,307MT 92% of the CDQ harvest has been taken.

Pacific Cod Trawl: this fishery opened on January 20<sup>th</sup>. The harvest for last week was 41MT from the Amendment 80 sector fleet for the season and stands at 55,601MT (124.2 million pounds) from all three harvesting sectors, leaving 1,840MT (4.1 million pounds) of A/B/C season trawl cod to harvest. I believe some of this allocation will roll

over to other fixed gear sectors later this fall when trawling closes by regulation on November 1, 2020 except for the Amendment 80 cooperative vessels are still fishing.

Pacific Cod Jig: 0MT harvested last week, for the season 10MT harvested from the jig allocation of 178MT leaving 168MT 6% of the allocation has been harvested. The jig allocation had 1,300 rollovers to the 60< 'fixed sector last.

**Amendment 80 Fisheries:** opened on January 20<sup>th</sup>. the Amendment 80 sector for the week ending on December 5, 2020 the total harvest stands at 337,707MT of various species including the CDQ harvest. The harvest last week was 2,1140MT decrease of 2,000MT from the previous weeks harvest many vessels in this sector have tied up for the holidays. The Amendment 80 fleet focus have moved most of their operations back over to the Eastern Bering Sea working the Sole fisheries. The seasonal totals by species are as follows, Yellowfin Sole 133,410MT, Rock Sole, 25,939MT Alaska Plaice, 20,078MT, Flathead Sole 9,367MT, Arrowtooth Flounder 10,666MT, Kamchatka Flounder 7,441MT other Flatfish 4,182MT other species harvested this season including Perch, 41,479MT Atka Mackerel 58,810MT Octopus, 683MT Skate 18,866MT Greenland Turbot, 2,324MT and Sablefish Trawl 4,462MT

### **State Water Fisheries 12-14-2020**

**Bristol Bay Red King Crab** opened at noon Thursday October 15<sup>th</sup> the allocation is set at 2.64 million pounds including CDQ poundage. Currently ADFG has 30 vessels pre-registered to fish BBRKC. As of this morning there have been 148 landings for 2.61 million pounds including CDQ poundage, leaving 30,343lbs. including the remaining CDQ poundage to harvest 99% of the harvest is complete. No vessels are actively fishing currently but the remains fishery open. The catch per unit (pot) effort (CPUE) pot is not bad based observer reports CPUE of 20-22 crab per pot which is surprisingly good. The live weight average is 6.0 pounds which is surprising new shell crab ADFG had thought there was little recruitment coming into the fishery I expected 7.0-pound average old shell crab to be delivered. This could be good news hope we have a survey next year. Opening price for Red King is \$9.00 per pound putting ex-vessel value at \$23.4 million but we expect that the ex-vessel price will go higher to the fleet when profit sharing agreements on sale prices come in. This season is still open until late January.

**Bering Sea Tanner Crab** opened on Thursday October 15<sup>th</sup> for the Western District only the allocation is 2.3 million pounds including CDQ allocation of 10%. There have been 38 landings made, for 601,000lbs. leaving 1.99 million pounds 27% harvest is completed. ADFG reports fishing has been slow with a CPUE of 16 crab per pot with seven vessels are currently fishing. One small landing was made last week. The fleet has tied up for the holidays

**Opilio Tanner Crab (Snow Crab)**, opens on Thursday October 15<sup>th</sup> for 45 million pounds, including the 10% for CDQ. Traditionally this fishery does not have much effort

until early January due meat infill on the crab. There have been 1 small landing the amounts are confidential currently.

**Aleutian Island Golden King Crab Fishery:** this fishery opened on Saturday August 1<sup>st</sup> the allocation is set at 6.6 million pounds. the allocation by district is as follows the Eastern district was 3.65 million pounds and Western district at 2.96 million pounds. There have been 39 landings from 2 vessels in the Eastern District; the catch poundage is confidential in that district but is estimated at 3,372,041 million pounds there were 1 landing made last week. Leaving 277,000lbs. to harvest 95% of the allocation has been harvested the projected closure for the Eastern District could be in late December. The Western District the catch information is as follows 16 landings from 3 vessels for 1.5 million pounds 45% of the Western allocation has been taken, leaving 1.54 million pounds to harvest There were no landings made last week from the Western District.

Regards

Frank V Kelty

Attachments:

1. ADFG Pacific Cod Allocations
2. NOAA Report Size of Alaska's Western Aleutian Island Passes Larger than Previously Thought

**Jan 25-29-21** International Pacific Halibut Commission annual meeting, Victoria, British Columbia. The commission is expected to set catch limits for 2021.

**Jan. 26- 28-21** Alaska Marine Science Symposium virtual event, Jan. 26-28.

**Feb. 1-9-21** North Pacific Fishery Management Council meeting Portland, Oregon.

**March 5-10-21** Alaska Board of Fisheries meeting, March 5-10, Anchorage. The board will consider shellfish proposals around much of the state.