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**Date:** 12-7-2020

**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 11-28-20, State Water Crab, Cod, IFQ Halibut, Sablefish, and State Water Black Cod 12-7-20.**

**Fishing Season:** We continue in the slowest part of the fishing year; last week harvest was only 5,800MT there will be little activity until January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021. This past week I have attended the North Pacific Council meeting with the Science and Statical Industry and Advisory Panel I will attach the AP recommendation on the BSAI Groundfish specifications for FY21 and FY 22 the AP also include an analysis for the UNFA request in the Catcher Vessels LAPP Program. This week the North Pacific Council is meeting through Friday December 11, 2020. They will be approving the BSAI and GOA Groundfish specifications and acting on the Pacific Cod CV Trawl LAPP program and 3 other important issues. I will update the Council by memo as the Council acts on these especially important issues.

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. Of note for the port department the airport will see activity picking up mid -December as processors are flying into to do their two quarantine during Christmas so they can start work on Cod and Crab processing on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021. The Pollock A season for trawling and other trawl fisheries starts on January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

**Overall Groundfish Harvest:** The B season catch as of 11-28-2020 was 5,887MT (1.3 million pounds) a 300MT increase in harvest from the previous week; with most of the harvest 1.6MT from Yellowfin Sole specie. The season totals are 1,867,902MMT (4.17 billion pounds) harvested leaving 132,098MT (295 million pounds) 93% 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. The Pacific

Cod Freezer Longline Catcher Processors have had to stop cod fishery in the Bering Sea because the overall cod total allowable catch in the Bering Sea was met. They have 5,000MT unharvested (11 million pounds) but they can move to the Aleutians to fish cod but this late in the year and the Bering Sea reopening on January 1<sup>st</sup> I expect they will tie up and start fishing again in January.

**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 537MT for the season 48,166MT leaving -713MT to harvest 102% over the annual allocation has been harvested.

Salmon bycatch: Chinook bycatch stands at 32,289 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 November 28, 2020 was 1,474MT 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 400MT came from the Aleutians and additional 904MT came from the CDQ harvest. The seasonal harvest totals for the A/B season is 147,779MT from all harvesting sectors ((330) million lbs.). The remaining Pacific Cod allocation is 10,327MT including CDQ (in pounds 23.0million 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 412MT last week for the season 62,266MT from the A/B season allocation of 67,346MT 92% of the seasonal allocation has been harvested. The B season harvest is at 28,334MT leaving 5,080MT 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 1,474MT last week for the season 15,439MT from an allocation of 14,920MT leaving 1,386MT 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 154MT from the Amendment 80 sector fleet for the season and stands at 55,560MT (124.1 million pounds) from all three harvesting sectors, leaving 1,881MT (4.2 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 November 28, 2020 the total harvest stands at 335,593MT of various species including the CDQ harvest. The harvest last week was 3,275MT decrease of 800MT from the previous weeks harvest. 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 is as follows, Yellowfin Sole 132,730MT, Rock Sole, 25,929MT Alaska Plaice, 20,073MT, Flathead Sole 9,333MT, Arrowtooth Flounder 10,610MT ,Kamchatka Flounder 7,438MT other Flatfish 4,171MT other species harvested this season including Perch, 40,845MT Atka Mackerel 58,648MT Octopus,685MT Skate 18,693MT Greenland Turbot, 2,324MTand Sablefish Trawl 4,451MT

### **Halibut/ Sablefish IFQ Fisheries: 12-30-2020**

**Halibut:** The Halibut fishery closed by regulation on November 15,2020. The allocation is set at 16.079 million pounds for the season 3,162 landings have been made for 15.03million pounds leaving 1.075 million lbs. unharvested 93% of the allocation has been harvested. Fishing was slow last week with just 1 small landing recorded from a cleanup delivery made after the closer date. There have been Halibut landings in Unalaska, but the data is still confidential until more buyers purchase fish, traditionally we have landings in the 1.0-1.3 million-pound range for Unalaska. The CDQ harvest there were no landing posted by NMFS last week, the total in CDQ sector Area 4D which is NW of the Pribilof Islands 226 landings for lbs. for 909,740lbs leaving 121,060lbs still to harvest in 4-D 88% of the harvest has been taken in that area. Halibut prices are in a slump, running in the \$3.00-\$4.25 per pound depending on the size and port of landing. Homer is the leading port on Halibut landings at 2.86 million pounds, Kodiak,1.73 million pounds, and Seward 1.20 million pounds.

**Sablefish:** The Sablefish closed on November 15, 2020. The allocation is set at 31.7 million lbs. for the season 1,925 landings for 22.72 million lbs. leaving 8.98 million lbs. unharvested 72% of the allocation has been harvested. The past weeks fishing we had 1 small cleanup delivery. Prices for Sablefish ex-vessel price splits are estimated at \$2.30 per pound for fish running in the 2- to 3-pound category, \$3.15 per pound for 3 - 4 pound fish, \$4.00 per pound for 4- to 5-pounders, \$5 per pound for 5- to 7s and \$7.50 per pound for 7-ups.. There have been landings made in Unalaska, for 2.56 million pounds. Kodiak at 4.0 million pounds followed by Sitka at 3.75 million pounds, and Seward at 3.6 million pounds. We expect a few deliveries being made in the next few days that will show up next week.

### **State Water Fisheries 12-7-2020**

**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 29,681lbs. 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.

**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 36 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 3,197,301 million pounds there were 1

landing made last week. Leaving 415,000lbs. to harvest 87% 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 1 landings made last week from the Western District.

**State Water Sablefish (Black Cod):** last week there was no landing made the fishery closed on November 15,2020 by regulation. There were two vessels registered for the fishery they have made 44 landings last week the new numbers are as follows 393,445bs. landed in Unalaska from a guideline harvest of 429,000 lbs. leaving 37,355bs. were left unharvest, 92% of the harvest was completed.

Regards

Frank V Kelty

Attachments:

1. AP Motion on BSAI Specifications
2. AP Motion on GOA Specifications
3. AP Motion on Cook Inlet Salmon Issue
4. AP Motion on Staff Tasking

**NOV 30-12-10-20** [NPFMC](#), Anchorage, Alaska Teleconferenced

**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. More information at [alaskamarinescience.org](http://alaskamarinescience.org).

**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.