

Frank Kelty
43915 Via Granada
Palm Desert, CA 92211
fvkelty@gmail.com

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To: Erin Reinders, Mayor Tutikoff, JR Pearson,

From: Frank Kelty, Fisheries Consultant

Re: Latest Update on Fisheries Impacts from Plant Closures

I will provide an overview on the three main fisheries that are open at this time and their status Bering Sea Trawl Pollock, Bering Sea Snow Crab (Opilio Tanner) and Pacific Cod.

Pollock Trawl Fishery,

Currently, it appears that the Pollock fleet is in a standdown mode until the UniSea, Alyeska and Trident come back online, the Northern Victor, Westward Seafoods Peter Pan (King Cove) and At Sea Pollock processors are fishing as well. I checked in with the Catcher Vessel (CV) fleet manager yesterday he confirmed the plants not impacted that their vessels are fishing he reported fishing is good with large fish which is good for fillet production and good quality Pollock roe. The NOAA reports as of 1-23-21 have 3,000MT (7 million pounds) harvested so far, the majority of that from the shoreside CV vessels. At this time, we still have plenty of time to harvest the A Season allocation of 500,000MT which is 40% of the seasonal allocation of 1.375 Million Metric Tons, with 158,000MT 351million pounds which is the allocation to be delivered to the 4 Pollock cooperatives that are tied to the Unalaska shore plants the A season lasts until noon on June 10, 2021. It was reported last night in the Anchorage paper that Trident has 260 people testing positive but still hoped to be back online in 3 weeks. Tom Enlow, of UniSea was quota in the article that that Unisea would be back processing on Monday January 31st if no further problems and no word on the situation at Alyeska.

Pacific Cod Pot Cod and Trawl, this fishery is totally different from the Pollock fishery the Pacific Cod a pot and trawl sectors are both un-rationalization which means they are in a race to harvest the allocation in their pot and trawl sectors. The trawl fishery just opened on the January 20th and all the trawler catcher vessels have been standing down until February 12th, 2021. The fleet manager stated that they are looking to form a volunteer cooperative to be in place when they go out to fish on February 12th, 2021. The trawl A season allocation for catcher vessels is 18,500MT the only amount harvested so far is 100MT mostly by the Amendment 80 sector vessels probably bycatch in their flat fish operations.

Pot Cod fishery the 60'> over, pot cod fishery closed on Thursday January 21st with most of 4,300MT harvested. Most all that fish has delivered as of this weekend it is my understanding This sector will reopen on September 1st, 2021.

The 60'< pot fishery, closed on noon on Tuesday the 26th they have harvested 3,100MT. I am sure Westward and Northern Victor are received some landings. I believe the tenders taking fish into King Cove will get much of the fish from 60'< Pot cod vessels. The 60'< pot boats will start fishing again on February 2nd for 27.5 million pounds in the state water fishery. At this time if some vessels they may have a standdown until plants with the Covid-19 issues are open again Westward, Peter Pan are busy on Pollock, Snow Crab there may be delays or possibly more tenders could be on the grounds as well, we will see what happens next week.

Snow Crab Opilio Tanner, this fishery is underway with an allocation of 45 million pounds as of Friday morning 4.6 million has been landed by the fleet, 11% of the total allocation has been harvested. The break down by region is North 2.8 million pounds harvested 12 million still to harvest, South region 1.5 million pounds harvested with 15.5 million to harvest and 300,000 lbs. of CDQ harvest with 4.0 million pounds still to harvest.

I believe we have a week to 10 days when this situation could get worse with more vessels finishing their North Region allocations. The Crab Rationalization Coordinating Committee is meeting today on this situation, hopefully we will have updated information on the situation at the processing plants that are closed. With much of the crab fleet still fishing Northern region crab quota currently we still have time to avoid dealing with emergency situations. I am hoping vessels will stand down instead of going fishing without a confirmed place to unload. Hopefully, some of the crab plants will be back online in a week to 10 days this will avoid a lot of headaches.

Biardi Tanner Crab, this fishery has not had a major impact since most of the landings of 563,000 lbs. 27% of the harvest has been landed mostly as bycatch in the Snow crab fishery. This fishery still has 1.5 million pounds to harvest.

Golden King Crab Fishery, there are three vessels still fishing 1 in the eastern district and 2 in the western district, they could face some impacts if they have UniSea, Alyeska as markets hopefully if they are coming in soon, hopefully Westward could handle these deliveries. There is 1.2 million pounds of Golden King Crab still to harvest.

Regards

Frank Kelty

