

Frank V Kelty
fvkelty@gmail.com
907-268-8718

Date: 2-8-2021

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.

Federal Water Groundfish Harvest catch as of 1-30-21, State Water Crab, 2-8-21.

Fishing Seasons: The 2021 Groundfish A season opened on January 1st with the fixed gear sector fishing Pacific Cod The trawl Groundfish fishery open on January 20th the big new last week was UniSea and Alyeska plants both came back online. Last week harvest ending on January 30th was 41,931MT the harvest was almost all Pollock 34,478MT The Pollock A season opened on January 20th the Pollock allocation for FY 21 fishing season is 1,375,000MMT a 3% reduction for FY 21 allocation of 1,425,000MMT. The Pacific Cod for Eastern Bering Sea 111,000MT a 23% reduction from FY 20 allocation 141,000MT. The catcher vessel Cod trawl fleets are in stand down mode from Covid-19 and bycatch concerns until 2-12-21. Last year CV Cod trawlers they harvested their A season allocation in 12 days so this standdown should not have effect on their season their A season allocation of 18,000MT. The Catcher Processors Cod Freezer longline fleet is doing well and have harvested 5,600MT of there A season. Most of the 60'> over pot cod vessel have harvested their A season allocations. The 60'< under pot cod vessels are fishing the State Water pot cod season which opened on Tuesday 2-2-21 for 27.2 million pounds 35 plus vessels are fishing. Landings through this morning reported 23 landings for 1.4 million pounds leaving 25.8 million pounds to harvest.

The Snow Crab Fishery is almost back too normal with the 3 plants in Unalaska, 1 plant in St Paul, and the Peter Pan plant in King Cove, are operating. The Trident Akutan plant is still down. Much of the fleet is fishing their Northern shares which must be unloaded at the Trident Plant at St Paul Island, the breakdown as of this morning is Northern region 5.1 million landed with 9.9 million pounds still to harvest 34% of the allocation taken. The Southern Region harvest is at 2.1 million pounds 13% leaving 14.9 million pounds. There is also 4.0 million pounds of CDQ Snow crab to harvest. The Crab Rationalization Coordination Committee has been meeting to come up with and emergency agreement to allow transfer of crab between regions if need be.

Overall Groundfish Harvest: The A season catch as of 1-30-2021 was 41,931MT (93 million pounds) with most of the harvest 3,300MT of Pacific Cod. The season totals are 59,287MT (132 million pounds) harvested leaving 1,875,319MMT (4.18 billion pounds) 3% of the overall annual harvest of 1.93MMT (4.31 billion pounds). On Bering Sea Crab Snow Crab, 8.4 million pounds harvested, leaving 36.5 million to harvest 20% of allocation complete. Golden King Crab 5.1 harvested leaving 1.8 million pounds to harvest 80% of the allocation complete. Biardi Tanner Crab 663,000lbs harvested leaving 1.5million pounds to harvest 31% of the allocation taken.

Pollock: the Pollock A season opens on January 20th with an allocation of 596,000MT (1.3billion pounds) this 40% of the Pollock seasonal allocation of 1,375MMT (3.07Billion pounds). The A season breakdown by sector is as follows CV shoreside 267,000MT At Sea CPs 213,840MT Mothership 53,460MT, CDQ 61,875MT. The harvest by sector for the week ending on 1-30-2021 is 34,478MT leaving 561,997MT of A season allocation to harvest.

Inshore CV: this sector harvested 5,058MT last week, the seasonal allocation is 594,000MT the A season harvest is 7,557MT leaving 259,743MT to harvest 3% of the A season has been taken.

At Sea Processors: harvest 17,886MT last week, the seasonal allocation is 475,200MT the A season harvest is 17,971MT. The A season harvest has 195,869MT of the A season allocation to harvested 8% of the A season allocation has been taken.

Mothership Sector: harvest last week was 1,510MT from their annual allocation is at 118,800MT the A season total is at 1,510MT leaving 51,950MT of A season allocation to harvest 3% of the A season allocation has been harvested.

CDQ Sector: harvest last week was 7,440MT the seasonal allocation is 137,500MT. The A season allocation is 61,875MT 7,740MT has been harvested, leaving 54,435MT of the A season to harvest 12% of the allocation has been taken.

Pollock Incidental Catch: last week harvest was 314MT for the season 575MT leaving 48,925MT to harvest 1% over the annual allocation has been harvested.

Salmon bycatch: there was 994 Chinook salmon taken as bycatch last week, the 2021 Chinook bycatch allocation left is 59,000 fish, other salmon Chum 10 fish.

Pacific Cod: federal water fishery landings of Pacific Cod last week ending on January 30, 2021 was 2,839MT including the CDQ harvest. The majority came from the fixed gear fleet in the Bering Sea. The seasonal harvest totals for the A/B season are 14,306MT from all harvesting sectors ((31.9million pounds). The remaining Pacific Cod allocation is 110,864MT including CDQ (in pounds 247million pounds) to harvest 5% of the allocation has been taken. The breakdown by harvesting sectors is listed below.

CV Pot/HL < 60'ft: harvested 217MT last week for the season 3,226MT leaving -104MT of the 3,122MT of allocation -104% of the allocation has been taken the sector closed.

C/P Pot CPs harvested 0MT last week of A season Cod for the season 792MT. 100% of this sector A sector allocation has been harvested leaving 58MT of A season allocation to harvest this amount will roll over to the B season allocation, fishery is now closed.

CV Pot 60'+: harvested 0MT last week for the season 4,390MT. leaving 371MT of A season allocation to harvest 93% of the A season allocation has been harvested. This sector closed on January 21st we will have the final A season numbers next week the unharvested amount will rollover to the B season.

Hook and Line C/Ps: harvested 2,015MT last week for the season 5,611MT from the A/B season allocation of 54,118MT The A season harvest is set at 27,600MT leaving 21,989MT to harvest 20% of the A season allocation has been harvested.

Pacific Cod CDQ: had a harvest of 67MT last week for the season 104MT from an allocation of 11,918MT leaving 13,291MT 1% of the CDQ harvest has been taken.

Pacific Cod Trawl: this fishery will be opened on January 20,2021, with and A season allocation of 31,344MT the breakdown between sector is catcher vessels 18,281MT Amendment 80 11,234MT AFA At Sea fleet 1,928MT. I learned this morning that most catcher vessel cod trawlers are standing down until 2-12-21 last year they harvested their A season allocation in 12 days of fishing, so this is not a big inconvenience for this sector. We did have 540MT harvested last week with 240MT from the Amendment 80 sector as bycatch in their flatfish fisheries leaving 30,856MT of A season trawl cod 3% of the harvest has been taken.

Pacific Cod Jig: 0MT harvested last week, for the season 0MT harvested from the jig allocation of 665MT leaving 665MT 0% of the allocation has been harvested. NOAA reallocated 900MT of jig cod to 60'< pot cod vessels.

State Water 60'< pot cod season opens on Tuesday 2-2-21 for 27.2 million pounds 35 plus vessels going to fish. Landing through this morning reported 23 landings for 1.4 million pounds leaving 25.8 million pounds to harvest.

Amendment 80 Fisheries: opened on January 20th. the Amendment 80 sector for the week ending on January 30, 2021 the total harvest stands 9,308MT of various species including the CDQ harvest. The harvest last week was 6,878MT the seasonal totals by species are as follows, Yellowfin Sole 4,842MT, Rock Sole,563MT Alaska Plaice, 348MT, Flathead Sole 179MT, Arrowtooth Flounder 20MT, Kamchatka Flounder 1MT other Flatfish 35MT other species harvested this season including Perch, 31MT Atka Mackerel 511MT Octopus,0MT Skate 508MT Greenland Turbot, 0MT and Sablefish Trawl 0MT

State Water Fisheries 1-30-2021

Bering Sea Tanner Crab opened on Thursday October 15th for the Western District only the allocation is 2.3 million pounds including CDQ allocation of 10%. There have been 48 landings made, for 663,948lbs. leaving 1.6 million pounds including CDQ harvest 31% of the harvest is completed. ADFG reports fishing has been slow with a CPUE of 16 crab per pot with seven vessels are currently fishing. There were 4 small landings was made last week with Snow Crab deliveries.

Opilio Tanner Crab (Snow Crab), opens on Thursday October 15th 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. Fishing has been terribly slow for much of the fleet, there has been some good reports of decent fishing west of St Matthew but the vessels there may have issues from ice coming down soon and may have to leave the area. There have been 72 landings so far for 8.4 million pounds 21% of the harvest is complete leaving 36.5.6 million pounds to harvest including the CDQ portion. The breakdown by region North 5.1 million pounds 34% leaving 10 million pounds. South 2.1 million pounds is 13% leaving 14.9 million pounds, we also have an additional 4.0 million pounds of CDQ Snow Crab to harvest.

Aleutian Island Golden King Crab Fishery: this fishery opened on Saturday August 1st 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 52 landings from 2 vessels in the Eastern District; the catch poundage the harvest stands at 3.58 million pounds there were 2 landing made last week. Leaving 1,124lbs. to harvest 100% 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 23 landings from 3 vessels for 1.623 million pounds 61% of the Western allocation has been taken, leaving 1.25 million pounds to harvest There were no landings made last week from the Western District.

Regards

Frank V Kelty

Attachments:

1. NOAA Notice Genetic Study Makes it possible to estimate age of endangered whales while it is alive.

Up Coming Meetings:

Feb. 2-1-12-21 North Pacific Fishery Management Council meeting online.

