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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 3-13-21, and State Water Pacific Cod, and Crab, 3-22-21.

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 20, 2021. Last week Groundfish harvest ending on March 13th was 78,811MT which was 30,000MT higher than the previous weeks catch. The Pollock harvest by sector for the week ending on 3-13-2021 was the largest amount of the season at 62,268MT 32,000MT above the previous weeks harvest. The Pollock season harvest stands at 319,579MT leaving 348,668MT of A season allocation to harvest 58% of the A season allocation has been harvested. The current catch is 139,000MT behind last year's harvest during the same time, that is a full two and half weeks of harvest behind. The big problem is the CV sector which has the largest allocation 266,000MT has harvested only 37% of the A season allocation leaving 170,000MT (379 million pounds) to harvest. I doubt that amount can be made up. The other sectors are in good shape the percentages are as follows At Sea CPs are at 63% the Motherships are at 59% and the CDQ sector is at 91% The unharvested amount of Pollock will rollover to the Pollock B season.

Overall Groundfish Harvest: The A season catch as of 3-13-2021 was 78,811MT (176 million pounds) with most of the harvest 62,269MT was Pollock. The season totals are 433,953MT (968 million pounds) harvested leaving 1,554,084MMT (3.4 billion pounds) 22% of the overall annual harvest of 1.98MMT (4.4 billion pounds).

Pollock: the Pollock A season opens on January 20th with and 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 3-13-2021 is 62,269MT. The season total harvest stands at 319,679MT leaving 286,399MT of A season allocation to harvest 58% of the A season

allocation has been harvested. The current catch is 139,000MT behind last year's harvest during the same time, that's a full 2.5 weeks of harvest behind. I do not know that can be made up which the unharvested amount will rollover to the B season. If the cv sector can have another 3 good weeks, I believe the roll over amount would be manageable during the Pollock B season.

Inshore CV: this sector harvested 25,071MT last week, the seasonal allocation is 594,000MT the A season harvest is 96,383MT leaving 170,912MT A season harvest 37% of the A season has been taken. This sector is getting back on track after the largest harvest of the year for the CV sector vessels last week.

At Sea Processors: harvest 24,793MT last week, the seasonal allocation is 475,200MT the A season harvest is 135,548MT. The A season harvest has 78,292MT of the A season allocation to harvested 63% of the A season allocation has been taken.

Mothership Sector: harvest last week was 5,991MT from their annual allocation is at 118,800MT the A season total is at 31,499MT leaving 21,961MT of A season allocation to harvest 59% of the A season allocation has been harvested.

CDQ Sector: harvest last week was 6,413MT the seasonal allocation is 137,500MT. The A season allocation is 61,875MT 56,244MT has been harvested, leaving 5,631MT of the A season to harvest 91% of the allocation has been taken.

Pollock Incidental Catch: last week harvest was 2,969MT for the season 11,104MT leaving 38,396MT to harvest 22% over the annual allocation has been harvested.

Salmon bycatch: there was 5,155 Chinook salmon taken as bycatch for the season, the 2021 Chinook bycatch allocation is at 8% leaving 55,965 fish of the cap amount of 60,000 fish, In the other salmon category Chum salmon 81 fish have been taken.

Pacific Cod: federal water fishery landings of Pacific Cod last week ending on March 13, 2021 was 4,998MT (11.6 million pounds) including the CDQ harvest. The majority came from the trawl fleet in the Bering Sea 2,300MT since the catcher vessel sector has started up on February 12, 2021. The seasonal harvest totals for the A/B season are 48,167MT from all harvesting sectors ((112.0million pounds). The remaining Pacific Cod allocation is 80,503MT including CDQ (in pounds 179million pounds) to harvest 72% of the A season allocation has been taken. The breakdown by harvesting sectors is listed below.

CV Pot/HL < 60'ft: harvested 35MT last week for the season 3,260MT -138MT over the Cod allocation of 3,122MT the 104% fishery is 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 108MT last week for the season 4,476MT. leaving 113MT 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 1,584MT last week for the season 14,282MT from the A/B season allocation of 54,118MT The A season harvest is set at 27,600MT leaving 13,318MT 52% of the A season allocation has been harvested.

Pacific Cod CDQ: had a harvest of 419MT last week for the season 2,461MT from an allocation of 11,918MT leaving 10,935MT 21% 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. We had a harvest 2,552MT harvested last week with 539MT from the Amendment 80 sector, At Sea 824MT and CV sector 1,931MT A season stands at 22,461MT which leaves 9.3MT of A season trawl cod to harvest 70% of the A season 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 Dutch Harbor District season opened on 2-12-21 for the state water 60’< pot cod fishery which is going well, the harvest as of 3-22-21 24 million pounds harvested from 349 landings, leaving 3.4 million pounds to harvest 88% of the allocation from the 27.5-million-pound has been harvested. The Aleutian Islands state water fishery is at 9.1 million pounds harvested, leaving 5.7 million pounds to harvest 64% of the allocation has been harvested.

Amendment 80 Fisheries: opened on January 20th. the Amendment 80 sector for the week ending on March 13, 2021 the total harvest stands 49,172MT (109.8 million pounds) of various species including the CDQ harvest. The harvest last week was 2,076MT (4.6 million pounds) the seasonal harvest totals by species are as follows, Yellowfin Sole 29,026MT, Rock Sole,4,303MT Alaska Plaice, 4,739MT, Flathead Sole 1,496MT, Arrowtooth Flounder 144MT, Kamchatka Flounder 8MT other Flatfish 335MT other species harvested this season including Perch, 655MT Atka Mackerel 7,290MT Octopus,83MT Skate 4,961MT Greenland Turbot, 2MT and Sablefish Trawl 2MT

IFQ Halibut/Sablefish

Halibut: through March 22,2021. The Halibut allocation for Alaska is 18.56 million pounds and the. As of the morning ,100 Halibut landing have been made for 467,057lbs. leaving 18.1 million pounds to harvest 3% of the allocation has been harvested.

Sablefish: through March 22, 2021 Sablefish allocation is set at 43.4 million pounds a 10-million-pound increase over last year allocation, it is speculated that a lot of that allocation will be small Sablefish at an exceptionally low value. As of this morning 48 landings have been made for 794,272lbs leaving 42.6 million pounds to harvest 2% of the allocation has been taken.

State Water Crab Fisheries 3-22-2021

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 69 landings made, for 1.02 million pounds leaving 1.2 million pounds including CDQ harvest 46% 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 1 small landing was made last week. The Tanner Crab fishery closes on March 31,2021 by regulation. It is questionable with scratch fishing that the harvest will be taken unless effort increases.

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 continues to be 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. The fleet is also having long waits to get unloaded. There have been 268 landings so far for 24.6 million pounds 58% of the harvest is complete, leaving 20.5 million pounds to harvest including the CDQ portion. The breakdown by region North 11.6 million pounds 78% leaving 3.3 million pounds. South 8.3. million pounds is 49% leaving 8.7 million pounds, additionally 1.7 million pounds of CDQ and 3.1 million pounds of undesignated Snow Crab to harvest. This fishery closes on May 31,2021.

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 55 landings from 2 vessels in the Eastern District; the catch poundage the harvest stands at 3.65 million pounds there were no landings made last week. Leaving -187 lbs. over the harvest amount 100% of the allocation has been taken and this district is closed. The Western District the catch information is as follows 34 landings from 3 vessels for 2.02 million pounds 77% of the Western allocation has been taken, leaving 900,000pounds to harvest There was 3 landing made last week from the Western District.

Regards

Frank V Kelty

Attachments

1. NMFS Prohibits Retention of Pacific Cod AFA Trawlers
2. Water Clarity Sheds Light on Bering Sea Change
3. What Caused the Largest Stranding of Stejheger Beaked Whales