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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, IFQ Sablefish, Halibut, and State Water Crab Harvest.

**Federal Water Groundfish Harvest catch as of 7-24-21, IFQ Halibut, Sablefish and BSAI Crab, 8-2-21.**

**Fishing Seasons:** The 2021 B season has now been open for 6.5 weeks fishing has steady for the past few weeks and a big improvement over the 2020 Pollock B season the 2021 season is 100,000MT ahead of last year's Pollock harvest which is a full two weeks. Last week saw a 2,000MT decrease in Groundfish harvest to 63,358MT. The Pollock harvest last was 54,857MT and decrease of 2,000MT from the previous week. The At Sea Processors sector lead the way with a harvest of 26,103MT (58.3 million pounds). The harvest by the Amendment 80 sector harvester last week increased by 3,000MT to 188,000MT, this due to increase in the harvest of Atka mackerel and Perch. The IFQ Halibut and Sablefish fisheries both had a good week with harvests of 400,000lbs of Halibut landed statewide season total is at 8.8 million pounds leaving 9.7 million pounds to harvest, 45% of the allocation has been taken. Sablefish harvested 600,000lbs. for the season 18.04 million pounds harvested leaving 25.04 million pounds to harvest 41% of the allocation has been taken.

Landings for Unalaska on Halibut and Sablefish species are still confidential until more buyers come online to purchase fish. The Major Bering Sea Aleutian Island (BSAI) crab fisheries are August 1<sup>st</sup> when the Aleutian Island Golden King Crab fishery opened. The industry continues to work hard to reduce trawl bycatch of Salmon, Herring, and Black Cod during this B season, we are already seeing sight increases on the Sablefish, in the trawl fishery is at 110% taken, and must be discarded off the vessels. Chinook salmon is at 23% 10,677 fish and Herring is already at 55%. Last week we saw another big increase in Chum salmon bycatch with 44,000 fish taken for a season total of 179,000 fish.

**Overall Groundfish Harvest:** The A season catch as of 7-24-2021 was 63,358MT (141 million pounds) with most of the harvest 54,000MT was Pollock. The season totals are 1,208,070MMT (2.69 billion pounds) harvested leaving 778.090MT (1.73 billion pounds) 61% of the overall annual harvest of 1.98MMT (4.4 billion pounds) has been harvested.

**Pollock:** the Pollock B season opened on June 10th with an allocation of 737,000MT (1.6 billion pounds) this is 60% of the Pollock seasonal allocation of 1,375MMT (3.07 billion pounds). The B season breakdown by sector is as follows CV shoreside 330,165MT At Sea CPs 264,132MT Mothership 66,033MT, CDQ 76,670MT. The harvest by sectors for the week ending on 7-24-2021 is 54,857MT for all harvesting sectors and a decrease of 2,000MT over the previous weeks harvest. The B season total harvest stands at 316,562MT leaving 434,605MT (in pounds 970 million pounds) of B season allocation to harvest 43% of the B season allocation has been harvested and 66% of the annual Pollock allocation has been harvested. The 2021 Pollock B season is a full two weeks ahead of the 2020 Pollock harvest by 100,000MT (223 million pounds).

**Inshore CV:** this sector harvested 23,139MT last week, the seasonal harvest is 402,572MT the B season allocation 330,165MT the B season harvest is at 142,753MT leaving 197,728MT of B season harvest, 43% of the B season has been taken and 67% of the annual allocation has been harvested.

**At Sea Processors:** harvested 26,103MT last week, the seasonal harvest is 330,444MT the B season allocation is 264,132 the harvest stands at 115,212MT leaving 149,796MT of the B season allocation to harvest 44% of the B season allocation has been taken and 69% of the seasonal allocation.

**Mothership Sector:** harvested last week was 5,497MT the seasonal harvest is at 81,519MT the B season total is at 28,110MT leaving 38,541MT of B season allocation to harvest 43% of the B season allocation has been harvested and 68% of the annual allocation has been harvested.

**CDQ Sector:** harvested last week was 119MT the seasonal harvest is 90,860MT. The B season allocation is 76,803MT with 28,262MT having been harvested, leaving 48,540MT of the B season to harvest 37% of the B season allocation has been taken and 65% of the annual allocation.

**Pollock Incidental Catch:** last week harvest was 730MT for the season 25,778MT leaving 23,722MT to harvest 52% the annual allocation has been harvested.

**Salmon bycatch:** there was 10,677 Chinook salmon taken as bycatch for the season, the 2021 Chinook bycatch allocation is at 24% leaving 35,023 fish of the cap amount of 45,000 fish, in 2020 18,972 fish were taken. In the other salmon category Chum salmon, we saw another week of a big spike of Chum bycatch last week of 44,000 fish. The season total is 177,006 fish this season in 2020 15,397 fish were taken.

**Pacific Cod:** federal water fishery landings of Pacific Cod last week ending on July 24, 2021, was 2,372MT (5.29 million pounds) including the CDQ harvest. The majority came from the freezer longline CPs fleet in the Bering Sea 1,485MT. The seasonal harvest totals for BSAI the A/B season are 87,327MT from all harvesting sectors (195.08 million pounds). The remaining Pacific Cod allocation is 30,929MT including

CDQ (69.09million pounds) 78% of the seasonal allocation has been taken. The breakdown by harvesting sectors is listed below.

**CV Pot/HL < 60'ft:** harvested 0MT last week for the season 3,285MT -163MT over the Cod allocation of 3,122MT the 105% 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 0MT last week for the season 4,376MT leaving 385MT of A season allocation to harvest 92% of the A season allocation has been harvested. This sector closed on January 21<sup>st</sup> 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 1,485MT last week for the season 37,054MT from the A/B season allocation of 54,118MT the A/B leaving 117,064MT to harvest 68% of the A/B season allocation has been harvested.

**Pacific Cod CDQ:** had a harvest of 40MT last week for the season 5,519MT from an allocation of 13,395MT leaving 7,864MT 42% of the CDQ harvest has been taken.

**Pacific Cod Trawl:** this fishery will be opened on January 20,2021, with and A/B season allocation of 38,548MT the seasonal harvest for 3 sectors is CV (catcher vessels) 20,004MT Amendment 80 8,366MT At Sea fleet 4,923MT. We had a harvest 447MT harvested last week with 251MT from the Amendment 80 sector, At Sea 30MT and CV sector 166MT A/B season harvest stands at 33,353MT which leaves 8,908MT of A/B/C season trawl cod to harvest 86.5% of the A/B/C 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.

**Amendment 80 Fisheries:** opened on January 20<sup>th</sup>. the Amendment 80 sector for the week ending on July 24, 2021, fishing continues to be good last week, with more fishing activity in the Aleutian Islands on Perch and Atka Mackerel and less activity in the Bering Sea of flatfish species. The Kamchatka Sole directed fishery closed last week, allow enough fish as bycatch in other fisheries for the rest of the year. The total harvest stands 188,542MT (421 million pounds) of various species including the CDQ harvest. The harvest last week was 3,184MT (7.11 million pounds) the seasonal harvest totals by species are as follows, Yellowfin Sole 74,449MT, Rock Sole,12,837MT Alaska Plaice, 13,465MT, Flathead Sole 5,881MT, Arrowtooth Flounder 5,034MT, Kamchatka Flounder 6,037MT other Flatfish 2,083MT other species harvested this season including Perch and Rockfish, 18,467MT Atka Mackerel 34,520MT Octopus,134MT Skate 11,975MT Greenland Turbot, 1,127MT and Sablefish Trawl 2,143MT

### **IFQ Halibut/Sablefish 8-2-21**

**Halibut:** through August 2, 2021. The Halibut allocation for Alaska is 18.56 million pounds. as of this morning 1,802 Halibut landings have been made for 9.28 million pounds. leaving 9.2 million pounds to harvest 50% of the allocation has been harvested. Last week saw a harvest of 660,000lbs by the fleet statewide. Ex-vessel prices have been in \$5.00-\$5.70 depending on size and port of landing. Homer is the leading port of landing at 1.7. million pounds. followed by Seward at 1.19 million pounds. Landings of Halibut have been made in Unalaska, and in the Area 4-CDE but are still confidential by NOAA until more buyers purchase fish.

**Sablefish:** through August 2, 2021, Sablefish allocation is set at 43.4 million pounds a 10-million-pound increase over last year allocation. As of this morning 1,120 landings have been made for 18.77 million pounds leaving 24.6 million pounds to harvest 43% of the allocation has been taken. Last week harvest saw a harvest of 968,000lbs Leading ports for Sablefish landings are Seward at 3.4million pounds followed by Sitka at 3.0 million pounds. Prices for Sablefish are in the \$3.00 to \$5.00 range depending on size. Landings of Sablefish in Unalaska are still confidential until more buyers purchase fish.

### **ADFG State Water Sablefish 8-2-21**

The fishery is still ongoing, but fishing is very slow 5 vessels are registered to fish, the catch as of this morning is only 47,000lbs leaving 847,000lbs to harvest.

### **Dutch Harbor Food and Bait Fishery 8-2-21**

The fishery opened in late June with and allocation of 3,200ST (6.4million pounds) there are two vessels that may still be fishing for the Herring Cooperative at the time the catch is still confidential by ADFG due to only 2 buyers purchasing Herring. The two vessels still have time to make significant landings, and the fishery is still open.

### **State Water Crab Fisheries 8-2-2021**

The major BSAI Crab fisheries are closed except for the Aleutian Island Golden King Crab fishery, which opened on August 1, 2021. We should see the first landings in 10 days.

### **State Water Dungeness Crab Fishery 8-2-21**

The Dungeness Crab fishery has 3 vessels are registered to fish, with landing of 161,000lbs as of this morning.

#### **Attachments**

1. NOAA Report Species Recovery Grant Awardees Announced
2. NOAA Prohibits Retention of Black and Roughey Rockfish in the Central and Western Aleutian Islands.

Regards

Frank Kelty