

Frank Kelty
Fisheries Consultant
City of Unalaska

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To: City Manager William Homka, Deputy City Manager Marjorie Veeder, Patricia Soule, Karen Magdaong, Michelle Price, Mayor Vince Tutikaoff, and Unalaska City Council

From: Frank Kelty, Unalaska Fisheries Consultant

Subject: Fishery Update Memo for October 8, 2024, Groundfish Harvest Data 9-28-2024 State Water Pacific Cod, State Water Sablefish, Golden King Crab, Dungeness Crab, IFQ Halibut and Sablefish 10-8-2024

I attended the Noth Pacific Fishery Management Council meeting in Anchorage last week. We finally had some good news on the Bering Sea Crab stocks. The Council SSC panel readjusted upward the Snow Crab OFL and ABC numbers which allowed for a small, directed Snow Crab fishery of 4.7 million pounds TAC by ADFG. The Tanner Crab fishery received three times the allocation than it had in 2023 fishery up to 6.27million lbs.4.5 million in the Western Pribilof District and 1.77 million lbs. in the Eastern Bering Sea District. The Bristol Bay Red King Crab fishery is at 2.3 million lbs. the same allocation as in 2023. The Saint Matthew Blue King Crab and Pribilof Blue and Red King Crab fisheries will remain closed once again. I will touch on the other Council actions at the end of this memo and will include the Council motions as attachments with this memo.

The Pollock B season is just about finished only two sectors still have allocation to fish the Shoreside Catcher Vessels and the At Sea Processor Factory Trawlers still have 44,000MT (98 million lbs.) to harvest, some of that Pollock may be left unharvested as of 9-28-24 CV shoreside sector has 9,335MT to harvest while the At Sea Processing Sector has 35,000MT to harvest that sector will leave the most Pollock unharvested the season is closes on November 1st for the trawl sector.

The total Pacific Cod harvest for 9-28-24 came in at 2,293MT (5.05 million lbs.) for the A season is 112,411MT (247.7 million lbs.) 72.2% of the allocation of 155,833MT has been harvested leaving 43,422MT (95.7 million lbs.) of Pacific Cod to harvest including the CDQ harvest allocation.

Overall Groundfish Harvest 9-28-2024: The Groundfish harvest for the last week, was 21,043MT (46.3 million pounds) decrease of 4,00MT from the previous week harvest due to the Pollock and flat fish reduced harvests, decreased harvests. The overall Groundfish harvest is at 1,629,082MMT (3.59 billion lbs.) leaving 362,963MT.

(779.9million lbs.) 82% of the harvest is complete from 1,984,465MMT allocation (4.3 billion lbs.).

Bering Sea B Season Pollock 9-28-2024: The Pollock B season harvest for last week came in at 9,225MT (20.3 million lbs.) for the season the B season Pollock is at 719,552MT (1.58 billion lbs.) 100% of the B season harvest has been caught, that leaves 44,847MT (98.8. million lbs.) of Pollock to harvest. The A/B season total harvest is at 1.21MMT (2.68billion lbs.) 93.0% of the 1.30 MMT harvest of (2.85 billion lbs.). Most of the last week's harvest came from Catcher Vessel sector that delivers to the onshore plants 8,925MT (19.4 million lbs.) It looks like we may have a few boats bops fishing season closes on November 1st we may have some of the At Sea Catcher Processor quota left unharvested this B season.

Inshore CV: the catcher vessels that deliver shoreside harvested 8,825MT (19.4million lbs.) last week, leaving 9,335MT (20.5 million lbs.) to harvest from the A/B season allocation 100% of the B season allocation has been harvested. Total A/B harvest is 556,505MT (1.24 billion lbs.) 98%. A/B Pollock season of 565,840MT has been harvested.

At Sea CP Fleet: the catcher processors harvested 300MT (661,120lbs.) last week, leaving 35,512MT (78.2 million lbs.) to harvest of the A/B season allocation. The B season allocation is 91% harvested. The total A/B Pollock harvest is 417,160MT (919.4 million lbs.) 92% A/B Pollock season of 452,672MT has been harvested.

Mothership: this sector harvested 0 MT last week. Leaving 711MT (1.567 million lbs.) to harvest of the B season allocation of 62,532MT 100% of the B season allocation has been harvested. Total A/B harvest is 112,457MT (247.8million lbs.) 99% A/B Pollock season of 113,168MT has been harvested.

CDQ: this sector harvested 0MT last week. Leaving 87MT 72,399MT (191,748 lbs.) 100% of the B season allocation have been harvested. Total A/B harvest is 131,813MT (290.5 million lbs.) 100%. A/B Pollock season of 131,900MT have been harvested.

Pollock Incidental Catch 9-28-2024: the harvest last week was 1,623MT for the season 41,177MT (90.7 million lbs.) leaving 9,083MT (20.0million lbs.) to harvest 81% of the allocation has been harvested.

Salmon Bycatch 9-28-24: Chinook bycatch last week was sixty-nine fish for a season total of 7,646fish leaving 38,054 fish remaining 17% of the cap has been from the cap of 45,000 fish. Chum bycatch for the Pollock B season is 35,500 fish for the season this much lower than previous years on Chum salmon bycatch which in past 4-5 years ago were in 200,000 to 450,000 fish range.

Pacific Cod: 9-28-2024: The total Pacific Cod harvest for 9-28-24 came in at 2,293MT (5.05 million lbs.) for the A season is 112,411MT (247.7 million lbs.) 72.2% of the

allocation of 155,833MT has been harvested leaving 43,422MT (95.7 million lbs.) of Pacific Cod to harvest including the CDQ harvest allocation.

Hook and Line C/Ps: This sector harvested 1,134MT (2.49 million lbs.) last week for the season 52,802MT (116.3 million lbs.) Leaving the A/B season allocation 14,568MT (32.1 million lbs.) to harvest, 78% of the A/B season allocation of 67,370MT has been harvested by this sector.

Pacific Cod Trawl: The trawl fishery opened on January 20, 2024. With an A/B season allocation of 52,602MT (115.9 million pounds) We had a harvest of 677MT for last week (1.49 million lbs.) for the season 40,847MT (90.02 million lbs.) through September 28, 2024. The Amendment 80 sector, 625MT At Sea 6MT and CV sector 46MT. (leaving 12,173MT (26.8 million lbs.) of A/B season cod to harvest for the season, 78% of the A/B season allocation of 52,602MT has been harvested.

CV Pot/HL < 60'ft: harvested 240MT last week for the season 5,471MT (12.05 million lbs.) leaving 413MT cod allocation to harvest, 93% of the seasonal allocation has been harvested.

C/P Pot CPs 0MT was harvested last week of A season Cod, for the season 0MT. The A season remaining allocation is 2,075MT 0% of the A season allocation of 2,075MT has been harvested.

Pot Cod 60'>: harvested 210MT last week for the season 4,584MT (10.1million lbs.) leaving 7,036MT (16.8 million lbs.) of A season allocation to harvest 39% of the A/B season allocation of 11,620MT has been harvested.

Pacific Cod CDQ: had a harvest of 33MT (72,732lbs.) last week, for the season 8,773MT (19.33million lbs.) from an A/B season allocation of 16,675MT leaving 7,904MT (17.42million lbs.) 52% of the A/B season CDQ harvest have been taken.

Pacific Cod Jig: 0MT harvested last week, for the season 0MT harvested from the jig allocation of 98MT leaving 98MT 0% of the allocation has been harvested.

Amendment 80 Bottom Trawl Fishery 9-28-2024. The Amendment 80 bottom trawlers harvest last week 9-28-24 increased by 1,000MT to 8,621MT (19.0million lbs.). The total harvest stands 251,899MT (555.million lbs.) of various flatfish and other species. Yellowfin Sole 60,732MT, Rock Sole 25,960MT Alaska Plaice, 9,321MT, Flathead Sole 11,970MT, Arrowtooth Flounder 8,688MT, Kamchatka Flounder 4,813MT other Flatfish 2,917MT other species harvested this season including Perch and Rockfish, 36,080MT Atka Mackerel 63,895MT, Octopus 200MT Skate 22,545MT Greenland Turbot, 752MT and Sablefish Trawl 4,026MT.

State Water Pacific Cod 60'< Pot Boats 10-8-2024: The state water Pacific Cod fishery has had 414 landings for 40.3 million lbs. leaving 4.08 million lbs. to harvest, 91% of the allocation has been harvested from the 44.4 million lbs. There were no

landings last week, and no vessels are currently fishing. But on September 1st federal waters reopen for Pacific Cod sector we may see some activity in State waters when the federal water fishery of 1,764MT closes. There were no landings in the State Water fishery last week.

Halibut 10-8-24: the season opens on March 15th at noon, so far 2,779 landings for landings for 12.3 million lbs. leaving 4.95 million lbs. to harvest; 71% of the allocation has been harvested. The CDQ allocation is set at 1.17 million lbs. We have had 242 landings for 334,788lbs. leaving 839,212 lbs. to harvest, 29% of the harvest of 1.17million lbs.is completed. Leading Port of Landings is Homer, AK at 3.19 million lbs. followed by Kodiak, at 1.32 million lbs. Halibut landings have been made in Unalaska but NOAA is keeping the data confidential until three buyers purchase Halibut.

Sablefish IFQ 10-8-24: there have been 1,533 Sablefish landings 30.4 million lbs. leaving 30.3 million lbs. to harvest 50% of the harvest is complete. Ports of Landings, Kodiak 5.84 million lbs. followed by Seward 5.19 million lbs. Sablefish landing have been made in Unalaska, but NOAA is keeping the data confidential until three buyers purchase Sablefish.

Aleutian Island State Water Sablefish 10-8-24: There are ten vessels fishing. They have made fifty-six landings for 597,689lbs. leaving 2.1 million lbs. to harvest from the 2.7 million lbs. allocation 22% of the harvest has been taken. There were four landings that were made last week.

North Alaska Peninsula Dungeness Crab Harvest 10-8-24: We have seen fifty-four landings from eleven vessels for 984,085lbs average weight per crab is 2.17 lbs. CPUE 8 crab per pot.

Aleutian Island Golden King Crab 10-8-24: So far, we have two cost recovery landing for ADFG the poundage amount is 167,000lbs with another 52,000lbs to be harvested both landings came from the Eastern District. There has also been three CDQ landing and 17 IFQ landing from the Eastern District, and 3 IFQ landing from the Western District and 2 CDQ landings the total poundage for landing is from the IFQ and CDQ, the amount landed is confidential but estimated slightly more than 2.2 million lbs. That leaves and estimated 2.6 million lbs. left to harvest from the 4.8-million-pound IFQ and CDQ allocation.

Misc. Items: I spent five days in Anchorage, attending the NPFMC meetings the first agenda item was.

Council Motion C-1 was the Crab Specifications, I have already sent to staff and the Council the ADFG Memos on the TACs for the various crab fisheries listed below is the information listed for each fishery.

Bristol Bat Red King Crab
Tier: 3b

OFL: 11.07 mill LBS
ABC: 8.86 mill LBS
TAC: 2.31 mill LBS (Set By ADFG)
Buffer Pct: **20%** (no change from last year)

Tanner Crab

OFL: 91.03 mill LBS
ABC: 72.82 mill LBS
TAC: West 4.5 mill LBS
TAC: East 1.77 mill LBS
Total: 6.270 mill LBS. (Set by ADFG)
Buffer Pct: **20%** (no change from last year)

Snow Crab

Tier: Tier 3c
OFL: 43.2 mill LBS
ABC: 15.2 mill LBS
TAC: 4.7 mill LBS (Set by ADFG)
Buffer Pct: **65%** (increased from 50% last year)

The Pribilof Red and Blue King Crab Fishery remains closed for 2024-2025 season, as does the St Matthew Blues King Crab Fishery for the 2024-2025 season.

Council Motion C-2 Recreational Quota Funding. This has to do with setting up a fee collect program for the Charter Halibut Sector a fee of \$20 per day for a Halibut stamp this will be revied in April of 2025 NPFMC meeting.

Council Motion C-3 BSAI and Gulf of Alaska the Council adopted the Proposed 2025-2026 at this meeting these are the same numbers that were proposed at the December 2023 Council meeting. The final specifications for the 20325-2026 will be adopted by the NPFMC meeting in December 2024 NPFMC meeting. Overall, the Groundfish specifications for the Bering Sea look to be in exceptionally decent shape.

Council Motion C-4 Observer 2025 Annual Deployment Plan for 2025 was adopted with most of the regulations unchanged requiring 100% and 200% coverage regulations. The Council had a couple of new proposals, for the Fish and Wildlife Service, and requested some fishery associations do some related projects to lessen burden on observers.

C-5 Crew Data Collection: The Council took no further action at this time.

C-6 Pelagic Trawl Definition: this was hot button issues that took the Council half a day to decide this issue. These issues had a lot of public testimony wanting a clear definition of what a mid -water trawl is and what is a bottom trawl. Public testimony thought that Pollock fishery pelagic gear was fishing most of the time as a bottom trawl. The Council cleaned up some outdated language in the regulations and laid out in Alt. 2 Revise the

trawl gear definition, to work five options that they want staff to analyze and bring back in the spring of 2025 meeting for public comment. The two alternatives and sub options are listed below.

Alternatives Alternative 1: No Action (Status quo).

Alternative 2: Revise the definition of pelagic trawl gear to:

Option one. Specify that the limitations on flotation and metallic components are not applicable to the cod end.

Option two. Remove outdated text related to parallel line trawls.

Option three. Allow the use of flotation aft of: Sub option 1: 5.5 inch stretched mesh, or Sub option 2: 15 inch stretched mesh.

Option four. Allow instruments capable of observing, monitoring, or adjusting the fishing gear, catch, fishing activity, or fishing environment (including seafloor clearance) to be attached to pelagic trawl gear. Floats, capable of providing up to 100 lb. (45.3 kg) of buoyancy, may be attached to or within six feet of each instrument.

Option five. Allow the use of metallic components in the following locations: Sub option 1: Forward of the fishing circle. Sub option 2: Aft of the fishing circle and forward of: a) 5.5 inch stretched mesh, or b) fifteen inch stretched mesh. Sub option 3: Aft of: a) 5.5 inch stretched mesh, or b) fifteen inch stretched mesh.

D-1 Council Motion Observer Availability: The Council took no further action on these issues.

D-2 Climate Funding and SCSB Workshop held in June in Kodiak:

The Council also supports the two priorities identified by the SSC resulting from the eighth national meeting of the Scientific Coordination Subcommittee of the Council Coordination Committee (SCS8) “

Applying Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) Control Rules in a Changing Environment” both of which support and maintain momentum toward achieving objective thirty-one of the Council’s proposal for use of Inflation.

Reduction Act Funding for Climate Resiliency Planning:

1. Consider to what extent, and whether, to revise groundfish and crab harvest control rules (HCRs) to be more climate resilient.

- Schedule a Feb or April 2025 SSC workshop as a starting point to frame how to approach and prioritize HCR adjustment opportunities

- The Council supports the formation of a technical SSC-Plan Team-agency subgroup to develop the ideas from the SSC workshop

2. Compile social and economic information to meet the needs of using the best scientific information available and informing Council decision-making and TAC-setting

- The Council supports efforts of the existing technical SSC economic and socioeconomic subgroup and will review pilot work on sablefish in December 2024

The Council adjourned on Monday Oct 7th at noon.

Regards

Frank Kelty

Attachments:

1. Fisheries Update Memo
2. Harvest Data
3. NOAA Reports
4. NPFMC Council Meeting Motions