

Frank Kelty
Fisheries Consultant
City of Unalaska

Date: 12-24-2024

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 December 24, 2024, Groundfish Harvest Data 12-14-2024 State Water Pacific Cod, State Water Sablefish, Golden King Crab, Bristol Bay Red King Crab Tanner Crab, IFQ Halibut, and Sablefish 12-24-2024

Fishing activity continues to be slow, as the B season groundfish fisheries are wrapped for the year. The local plants in Unalaska Unisea and Westward stopped processing until after the first of the year. They are in full matintence mode to get ready for the Pollock A season which opens on January 15th as will all the other trawl fisheries. The Bering Crab Snow Crab and Tanner Crab fisheries will be ongoing after New Years Day, as will the fixed gear pot and longline fisheries for Pacific Cod. I have attached with this memo the Bering Sea Groundfish allocations for the 2025 fishing season and the proposed 2026 allocations the numbers are in metric tons. We have a Bering Sea Cap amount of two million metric tons (4.4 billion pounds) The Pollock Fishery is the main driver with a 6% increase for the 2025 season to 1.375 million metric tons (3.03 billion lbs.) The proposed Pollock allocation for the 2026 season is also set at 1.375million metric tons.

The had overall groundfish harvest for the weekend on December 14th was only 3,176MT (6.9 million lbs.). The trawl Pollock and Pacific Cod fisheries closed on November 1, 2024. Halibut IFQ Halibut and Sablefish IFQ both will close on December 7, 2024. There is still a small amount Pacific Cod being harvested as well as some CDQ Yellowfin and Rock Sole. We also have the Tanner Crab and Aleutian Island Golden King Crab fisheries are ongoing.

Aleutian Island Golden King Crab, through 12-24-24 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 have also been 42 IFQ landings and 8 CDQ from the Eastern District, and Western Districts. The poundage for this year's landings of IFQ and CDQ, combined with the exact amount, is confidential, the estimated amounts are at slightly more than 3.79 million lbs. That leaves an estimated 1.08 million lbs. left to harvest from the 4.8-million-pound IFQ and CDQ allocation, 78% of the harvest is completed. There were no Golden King Crab deliveries last week.

As of this morning 12-24-24 we have 126 IFQ and CDQ landings at Bristol Bay Red King Crab landings in Unalaska. The amounts as of this morning are 2.31 million lbs. leaving -1,941 lbs. over the harvest 100% of the 2.31 million lbs. allocation has been harvested. ADFG has stated that the fleet has a high CPUE, and the crabs are exceptionally clean shell crab, the price to the harvesters is north of \$20 per pound, about one vessel still fishing the last 20,000lbs. of Bristol Bay Red King Crab. The fishery is now closed.

Eastern Bering Sea Tanner Crab as of 12-24-24 we have fifty-three Eastern District Tanner Crab landings in Unalaska, including CDQ 1,423,395 lbs. leaving 346,605lbs. still available in the Eastern District 90% of the harvest is completed. In the Western District There has been eight landings so far from three vessels for Western District Tanner Crab for 226,057lbs leaving of 4.0 million lbs. to harvest 5% of the harvest has been completed.

Pollock Incidental Catch 12-14-2024: the harvest last week was 349MT for season 49,468MT (109 million lbs.) leaving 759MT (1.6million lbs.) to harvest 99% of the allocation has been harvested.

The total Pacific Cod harvest for 12-14-24 week came in at 903MT (1.9 million lbs.) for season A/B is 121,226MT (267 million lbs.) 78% of the allocation of 155,833MT has been harvested leaving 33,253MT (73.2 million lbs.) of Pacific Cod to harvest including the CDQ harvest allocation.

The State Water 60' under pot boat fishery for Pacific Cod fishery for 12-14-2024 had 416 landings for 40.37 million lbs. leaving 4.05 million lbs. to harvest, 91% of the allocation has been harvested from 44.4 million lbs. There were no landings made last week; we still have two vessels checked into this fishery, but they are not fishing at this time. The Pacific Cod State water fishery remains open until December 31st, 2024.

The Amendment 80 bottom trawlers harvest last week 12-14-24 decreased by 3,000MT to 1,895MT (417,658 lbs.). The total harvest stands 314,957MT (694 million lbs.) of various flatfish and other species.

The Halibut IFQ season opens on March 15, 2024, at noon, 12-24-24 we have had 3,207 landings for 14.02 million lbs. leaving 3.27 million lbs. to harvest; 81% of the allocation has been harvested. The CDQ allocation is set at 1.17 million lbs. We have had 246 landings for 351,312lbs. leaving 822,688lbs. to harvest, 30% of the harvest of 1.17million lbs. completed no landing were made last week. The leading Port of Landings is Homer, AK at 3.57million lbs. Kodiak, at 1.69 million lbs. Halibut landings have been made in Unalaska, but NOAA is keeping the data confidential until three buyers purchase Halibut. The Halibut season closed on December 7, 2024

The Sablefish IFQ fishery opens on March 15th through 12-24-24. We have had 1,872 Sablefish landings, 36.52 million lbs. leaving 24.26 million lbs. to harvest 60% of the harvest is complete. Ports of Landings, Kodiak 7.5 million lbs. followed by Seward 5.99

million lbs. Sablefish landing have been made in Unalaska, we have finally received landing information 136 landings for 4.24 million lbs. landed in Unalaska that is 12% of 36 million lbs. of Sablefish landed this season statewide. The Sablefish season closed on December 7, 2024

Aleutian Island State Water Sablefish fishery through 12-24-24 there are thirteen vessels fishing. They have made eighty-eight landings for 857,105lbs. leaving 1.84 million lbs. to harvest, from the 2.27 million lbs. allocation, 32% of the harvest is complete. There were no landings made last week. The season closed on December 7th, 2024.

The Groundfish harvest for 12-14-2024 last week was 3,176MT (6.9 million lbs.) decrease of 3,000MT from the previous week's harvest due to bottom fish harvest sectors decreased catch. The overall Groundfish harvest is at 1,761,330MMT (3.88 billion lbs.) leaving 229,315MT (505 million lbs.) 88% of the A/B harvest allocation is complete from 1,990,545MMT allocation (4.38 billion lbs.).

Best Regards

Frank Kelty

Attachments:

1. Fisheries Update Memo 12-24-24.
2. Harvest Data
3. NOAA Reports