

Frank Kelty
Fisheries Consultant
City of Unalaska

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To: City Manager William Homka, Assistant 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 May 20,2024, Groundfish Harvest Data 5-13-2024 Crab Harvest, State Water Pacific Cod, IFQ Halibut and Sablefish 5-20-2024

It continues to be slow in Unalaska it will continue that way for the next few weeks. The harvest for the last week groundfish harvest was 12,502MT (27.5 million pounds) 500MT decrease over the previous week's harvest came mostly from the Amendment 80 bottom trawl harvest. The Pollock A season is almost complete, with 24,000MT of A season Pollock still available if someone had a market to fish. We have no harvest in the last three weeks. It appears the 60' < under pot boat cod fishery is over, most of the vessels have left the fishery since the cod has dispersed after spawning, they still have 3.8 million pounds available to harvest from the 44-million-pound allocation if they so choose. We still have fifteen - seventeen Pacific Cod Freezer longline catcher processors finishing up the Pacific Cod A season, they still have 4,012 MT of A season cod to harvest. The overall cod harvest last week was 2,482MT (5.4 million lbs.) We also have 20-25 Amendment 80 Bottom Trawl Catcher Processors working the Sole, Mackerel, and Pacific Ocean Perch fisheries they will also be doing crew changes every month or so they have huge allocation to work with.

The last week of May we will have the Pollock B season employees start arriving right after Memorial Day for the Unalaska and Akutan shore plants. The Pollock B season the quota is 718,000MT that includes 24,000MT of A season Pollock rollover to the B season (1.58 billion lbs.). Unalaska shore plants harvest amount is 206,000MT (454 million pounds) which is 64% of the shoreside Pollock B season allocation of 322,000MT.

Last week's Pollock harvest came in at zero. The Pollock A season totals 544,203MT equals (1.19 billion lbs.) This leaves 24,408MT (53.7 million lbs.) to harvest from the 568,611MT Pollock A season. This amount of unharvested Pollock A season fish will rollover to the Pollock B season allocation.

The total cod harvest last week was 2,482MT (5.4 million lbs.) for the A season harvest is 78,309MT (172 million lbs.) 47% of the allocation of 165,658MT has been harvested leaving 87,349MT (192 million lbs.) of Pacific Cod to harvest including CDQ harvest allocation.

The Amendment 80 bottom trawlers harvest last weeks decreased by 1,000MT to 8,628MT (19.0 million lbs.). The total harvest stands 116,925MT (257 million lbs.) of various flatfish and other species.

The Halibut season open on March 15th at noon, so far 689 landing for landings for 3.58 million lbs. leaving 13.6 million lbs. to harvest; 20% of the allocation has been harvested. The CDQ allocation is set at 1.17 million lbs.no landings reported yet. Leading Port of Landings is Homer, Alaska at 1.054 million lbs. followed by Petersburg, Alaska at 379,458lbs.

The Sablefish fishery, there have been 595 Sablefish landings 12.9 million lbs. leaving 47.8 million lbs. to harvest 21% of the harvest is complete. Ports of Landings, Kodiak Alaska, 3.2 million lbs. followed by Seward, Alaska 2.1 million lbs.

The Golden King Crab the fishery is completed the harvest for both the Eastern and Western Districts plus the CDQ harvest was 5,523,113 lbs. leaving 5,530lbs unharvested. The Tanner Crab fishery is complete the fishery is completed in both the Eastern and Western Districts the harvest including CDQ was 2,073,103 lbs. leaving, 8,000lbs unharvested.

Overall Groundfish Harvest 5-13-2024: The harvest for the last week was 12,502MT (27.5 million pounds) 500MT decrease over the previous week's harvest. The season totals are 770,371MT harvested (1.69 billion pounds) leaving 1,214,094MT (2.67 billion lbs.) to harvest; 39% of the overall annual harvest of 1,985,565MMT (4.3 billion pounds) has been completed.

Bering Sea A Season Pollock 5-13-2024: The Pollock fishery opened on January 20th the fourteenth full week of Pollock A season is still open with 24,408MT available to harvest, but no one is fishing we have some activity before the June 10th B season opening do some scouting on where Pollock are located before the B Pollock season start. Last week's Pollock harvest came in at 0 MT. The Pollock A season totals 544,604MT equals (1.19 billion lbs.) 95% of the A season is complete. This leaves 24,408MT (53.7 million lbs.) to harvest from the 568,611MT (1.2 billion lbs.) from the Pollock A season allocation. The remaining A season allocation may be fished before the Pollock B season start on June 10th or the unharvested amount will roll over into the B season allocation by harvesting sectors. The harvest by sectors for the A season is as follows Catcher Vessels Sector 243,787MT leaving 10,841MT to harvest 96% of the A season harvest is complete. At Sea Processors 191,399MT harvested leaving 12,303MT 94% of the A season is completed. Mothership Fleet 49,800MT leaving 1,126MT to harvest 98% of the A season is complete. CDQ Sector 59,217MT leaving 138MT to harvest 100% of the A season their harvest is complete.

Inshore CV: the catcher vessels that deliver shoreside harvest OMT last week, for the season 243,787MT (537.3 million lbs.) leaving 10,841MT (23.8 million lbs.) of A season Pollock to harvest 95% of the A season has been harvested from 252,000MT allocation.

At Sea CP: the catcher processors harvested OMT last week and have harvested 191,399MT (421 million lbs.) for the season, leaving 12,303MT (27.1 million lbs.) of A season Pollock to harvest 94% of the A season has been harvested.

Mothership: this sector harvested OMT last week for the season 49,800MT (109 million lbs.) leaving 1,126MT (2.4 million lbs.) A season to harvest 98% of the A season has been harvested from 50,926MT.

CDQ: this sector harvested OMT for the season 59,217MT (130.5 million lbs.) leaving 138MT (304,152lbs.) to harvest, 100% of the A season harvest of 58,300MT allocation.

Pollock Incidental Catch 5-13-2024: the harvest last week was 1,309MT for the season 30,188MT (66.5 million lbs.) leaving 19,812MT (43.6 million lbs.) to harvest 60% of the allocation has been harvested.

Salmon Bycatch 5-13-2024: Chinook bycatch last week was zero fish for a season total of 5,160 fish leaving 40,540 fish remaining 11% of the cap has been from the cap of 45,000 fish. Chum bycatch reported last week, was zero the amount is in the 914 fish for the season.

Pacific Cod: 5-13-2024: The total cod harvest last week was 2,482MT (5.4 million lbs.) for the A season is 78,309MT (172 million lbs.) 47% of the allocation of 165,658MT has been harvested leaving 87,349MT (192 million lbs.) of Pacific Cod to harvest including CDQ harvest allocation.

Hook and Line C/Ps: This sector harvested 1,223MT (2.6 million lbs.) last week for the season 30,347MT (66.8million lbs.) Leaving the A season allocation at 4,012MT (8.8 million lbs.) to harvest, 88% of the A season allocation of 34,359MT has been harvested by this sector.

Pacific Cod Trawl: The trawl fishery opened on January 20, 2024. With and A season allocation of 39,144MT. (86.2 million pounds) We had a harvest of 731MT for last week (1.6 million lbs.) for the season 32,617MT (71.8 million lbs.) through May 13, 2024. The Amendment 80 sector, 731MT At Sea OMT and CV sector OMT. (leaving 6,310MT (13.9 million lbs.) to harvest for the season, 83% of the A season allocation of 39,144MT has been harvested.

CV Pot/HL < 60'ft: harvested OMT last week for the season 4,118MT (9.1 million lbs.) leaving -251MT cod allocation to harvest, 106% of the seasonal allocation has been harvested.

C/P Pot CPs 0MT was harvested last week of A season Cod, for the season 1,058MT. The A season remaining allocation is 1,058MT 0% of the A season allocation of 1,058MT has been harvested.

Pot Cod 60’>: harvested 0MT last week for the season 3,645MT (8.0 million lbs.) leaving 2,281MT (5.0 million lbs.) of A season allocation to harvest 62% of the A season allocation of 5,926MT has been harvested.

Pacific Cod CDQ: had a harvest of 528MT (1.16 million lbs.) last week, for the season 5,970MT (13.1 million lbs.) from an A season allocation of 7,949MT leaving 4,035MT (8.8 million lbs.) 79% of the A season CDQ harvest have been taken.

Pacific Cod Jig: 0MT harvested last week, for the season 0MT harvested from the jig allocation of 1,948MT leaving 1,948MT 0% of the allocation has been harvested.

Amendment 80 Bottom Trawl Fishery 5-13-2024 The Amendment 80 bottom trawlers harvest last weeks decreased by 1,000MT to 8,628MT (19.0 million lbs.). The total harvest stands 116,925MT (257 million lbs.) of various flatfish and other species. The seasonal harvest totals by species are as follows, Yellowfin Sole 31,495MT, Rock Sole 23,001MT Alaska Plaice, 6,058MT, Flathead Sole 8,395MT, Arrowtooth Flounder 513MT, Kamchatka Flounder 242MT other Flatfish 1,304MT other species harvested this season including Perch and Rockfish, 4,333MT Atka Mackerel 27,564MT, Octopus 126MT Skate 13,743MT Greenland Turbot, 43MT and Sablefish Trawl 111MT.

State Water Pacific Cod 60’< Pot Boats 5-20-2024: The state water fishery has had 415 landings for 40.5 million lbs. leaving 3.8 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.

Halibut IFQ 5-20-24: the season open on March 15th. at noon, so far 689 landing for landings for 3.58 million lbs. leaving 13.6 million lbs. to harvest; 20% of the allocation has been harvested. The CDQ allocation is set at 1.17 million lbs.no landings reported yet. Leading Port of Landings is Homer, AK at 1.054 million lbs. followed by Petersburg, at 379,458lbs.

Sablefish IFQ 5-20-24: there have been 595 Sablefish landings 12.9 million lbs. leaving 47.8 million lbs. to harvest 21% of the harvest is complete. Ports of Landings, Kodiak 3.2 million lbs. followed by Seward 2.1 million lbs.

Misc. Items: I attended three meeting last week; they all were connected to the NPFMC Council. On Tuesday morning the NPFMC Crab Plan team kicked off a four-day meeting in Anchorage. Most of this meeting was very technical they worked on various models’ scenarios they planned to use on various crab species trying to determine which models performed the best and fit the criteria they hope to achieve. They did approve the Overfishing Limit (OFL) and Allowable Biological Catch (ABC) speciation’s on the Aleutian Island Golden King Crab both the Eastern and Western Districts, the

Crab Plan Team recommendation to the NPFMC SSC for 2024 season that opens on August 1st 2024 is and OFL of 8.2 million lbs. that is down from the 2023 OFL of 9.2 million lbs. The ABC recommendation is 6.1 million lbs. reduced from 6.9 million pounds in 2023. The NPFMC will approve the final OFL and ABC at the June NPFMC meeting in Kodiak, AK. The State of Alaska ADFG will set the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) after the Council approves the OFL and ABC amounts. ADFG set the TAC for the 2023-2024 season at 5.4 million lbs. I assume it will be in that range for the 2024-2025 season it will be announced by ADFG in early July by ADFG. The work the Crab Plan Team last week on species models this week was on the major stocks that the OFL and ABC amounts on Snow Crab, Tanner Crab, Bristol Bay Red King, and St Matthew Blue King that must be approved at the October NPFMC meeting in Anchorage. The plan team also received a report on the Ecosystem & Socioeconomic update on the Bering Sea Fisheries I have attached the presentations with this memo.

We also had a presentation on an issues that the Crab observers are having in identifying Snow Crab and Tanner Crab Hybrids legally there aren't hybrids, the CPT had to try and make comparisons on the shape of the mouth and the color of the eyes on the animals it has been a real problem especially if you have 200,000 animals to sort through on one boat. It is a bit especially with the difference in price between species. The Bering Sea Fisheries Research Foundation also made a two-hour presentation to the CPT on the Crab and Trawl Surveys and tagging work on Red King Crab and Tanner Crab in April of this year I have attached their presentation with this memo.

I also attended a shorth meeting on Tuesday afternoon for one hour it was preparation for the two-day Climate Change Workshop to be held in Kodiak at the June during the NPFMC meeting. Last week we reviewed materials that we should work on before the conference in June, Items included reviewing the objectives of the workshop, and discussion guide. They asked for us to review refence material on the climate readiness climate impacts in and uncertain future. On Friday May 17th. I attend a four-hour NPFMC Science and Statistical Committee meeting that had been delayed due to the length of the Chum Salmon Issues at the April NPFMC meeting in approve the NPFMC Research Priorities for 2025. The spent the morning reviewing and update the previous year's list and had discussions by the committee on the priority research items that made the top ten research items.

Regards

Frank Kelty

Attachments:

1. Fishery Update Memo
2. Harvest Data
3. NOAA Reports
4. Ecosystem & Socioeconomic Prolife
5. ADFG Observer Report on Crab Hybrids
6. 2024 SSC Research Priorities
7. Research Priorities Power Point Presentation