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**Date:** 6-14-2024

**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 June 13,2024, Groundfish Harvest Data 6-1-2024 State Water Pacific Cod, IFQ Halibut and Sablefish 6-12-2024

I attended the NPFMC meeting in Kodiak starting on Monday June 3<sup>rd</sup> until Tuesday June 11<sup>th</sup>. I attended the two-day special Climate Change Workshop that will be hosted by the Council I will provide an attachment on the workshop with this memo. I will also have an attachment on the Council motions on the meeting as well.

On Monday June 10<sup>th</sup> the Pollock B season opened will see the first landing reports will be in next week. The total Groundfish harvest for the last week was 8,409MT (18.5 million pounds) 1,000MT decrease over the previous week's harvest came mostly from the Amendment 80 bottom trawl harvest. The Pollock A season complete with 24,000MT of A season Pollock still available (52 million lbs.) this amount will rollover to the Pollock B season. 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 2, MT of A season cod to harvest. The overall cod harvest last week was 812MT (1.7 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 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 with the Trident Akutan plant controlling the rest of the shore-side allocation of 116,000MT (255 million lbs.).

The total Pacific Cod harvest last week was 641MT (1.4 million lbs.) for the A season is 81,664MT (179 million lbs.) 49% of the allocation of 165,658MT has been harvested leaving 83,945MT (185 million lbs.) of Pacific Cod to harvest including CDQ harvest allocation.

The Amendment 80 bottom trawlers harvest last weeks decreased by 1,000MT to 7,521MT (16.5 million lbs.). The total harvest stands 139,508MT (307 million lbs.) of various flatfish and other species.

The Halibut season open on March 15<sup>th</sup> at noon, so far 969 landing for landings for 4.86 million lbs. leaving 12.3 million lbs. to harvest; 28% 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 1.48 million lbs. followed by Petersburg, at 538,493lbs.

The Sablefish IFQ fishery there have been 747 Sablefish landings 15.9 million lbs. leaving 44.8 million lbs. to harvest 26% of the harvest is complete. Ports of Landings, Kodiak 3.9 million lbs. followed by Seward 2.7 million lbs.

Aleutian Island State Water Sablefish fishery: There are eight vessels fishing they have made thirty-two landings for 320,584 lbs. leaving 2.38 million lbs. to harvest from the 2.7 million lbs. allocation 12% of the harvest has been taken.

**Overall Groundfish Harvest 6-1-2024:** The harvest for the last week was 8,409MT (18.5 million pounds) 500MT decrease over the previous week's harvest. The season totals are 797,956MT harvested (1.75 billion pounds) leaving 1,186,509MT (2.61 billion lbs.) to harvest; 40% of the overall annual harvest of 1,984,465MMT (4.3 billion pounds) has been completed.

**Bering Sea A Season Pollock 6-1-2024:** The Pollock fishery opened on January 20<sup>th</sup> the fourteenth full week of Pollock A season is still open with 24,408MT available to harvest, but no one is fishing we may have some activity before the June 10<sup>th</sup> B season opening by Onshore Catcher Vessels and by the At Sea Processors 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 10<sup>th</sup> 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 0MT 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 0MT 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 0MT 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 0MT 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 6-1-2024:** the harvest last week was 87MT for the season 31,044MT (68.4 million lbs.) leaving 18,926MT (41.7 million lbs.) to harvest 62% of the allocation has been harvested.

**Salmon Bycatch 6-1-2024:** 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: 6-1-2024:** The total cod harvest last week was 641MT (1.4 million lbs.) for the A season is 81,664MT (179 million lbs.) 49% of the allocation of 165,658MT has been harvested leaving 83,945MT (185 million lbs.) of Pacific Cod to harvest including CDQ harvest allocation.

**Hook and Line C/Ps:** This sector harvested 311MT (685,444 lbs.) last week for the season 31,719MT (69.9million lbs.) Leaving the A season allocation at 2,640MT (5.8 million lbs.) to harvest, 92% 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 83MT for last week (182,932 lbs.) for the season 33,357MT (73.5 million lbs.) through June1, 2024, The Amendment 80 sector, 83MT At Sea 0MT and CV sector 0MT. (leaving 5,605MT (12.3 million lbs.) to harvest for the season, 85% of the A season allocation of 39,144MT has been harvested.

**CV Pot/HL < 60'ft:** harvested 0MT 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 417MT (919,068 lbs.) last week, for the season 7,533MT (16.6 million lbs.) from an A season allocation of 7,949MT leaving 2,472MT (5.4 million lbs.) 94% 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 6-1-2024** The Amendment 80 bottom trawlers harvest last weeks decreased by 1,000MT to 7,521MT (16.5 million lbs.). The total harvest stands 139,508MT (307 million lbs.) of various flatfish and other species. The seasonal harvest totals by species are as follows, Yellowfin Sole 43,655MT, Rock Sole 23,959MT Alaska Plaice, 6,256MT, Flathead Sole 8,528MT, Arrowtooth Flounder 1,131MT, Kamchatka Flounder 1,206MT other Flatfish 1,801MT other species harvested this season including Perch and Rockfish, 5,712MT Atka Mackerel 31,777MT, Octopus 129MT Skate 14,737MT Greenland Turbot, 136MT and Sablefish Trawl 481MT.

**State Water Pacific Cod 60’< Pot Boats 6-12-2024:** 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 6-12-24:** the season open on March 15<sup>th</sup>. at noon, so far 969 landing for landings for 4.86 million lbs. leaving 12.3 million lbs. to harvest; 28% 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 1.48 million lbs. followed by Petersburg, at 538,493lbs.

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**Misc. Items:**

I was in Kodiak for 8 days for the NPFMC meeting and the two days Climate Workshop on impacts to fisheries. I will discuss the motions passed by the Council below.

C-1 Was the Observer Committee 2023 annual report and there 2025 fishing season deployment plan: The Council had four recommendations on what additions they would

like to see next year. On the 2025 deployment plan they had more recommendation on the electronic monitoring plan for the fixed gear fleet of 177 vessels and for the pelagic trawl they would like to see 100% coverage at sea monitoring and 33% sampling at shore plants. They were also concerned on funding delays next year.

C-2 BSAI Crab Specifications for Aleutian Island Area \$Golden King Crab (OFL) Overfishing Limit and (ABC) Allowable Biological Catch amounts: The Council followed the SSC science panel recommendations setting the OFL at 3.725 thousand MT and the ABC at 2.294 thousand MT for August 1, 2024, season opening. The State of Alaska sets the TAC Total Allowable Catch in the next week or so. I expect it will be down slightly from last year's TAC of 5.4 million lbs. I expect the TAC to be in the 5.0-5.2 million lbs. range.

C-3 Halibut Area 4 Vessels Use Cap: The Council revised the Purpose and Need Statement and Alternative. The Council Recommended releasing the analysis out for two option and agree to The Council is releasing the analysis for final action and send this analysis out for Public Review and Comment for the October 24 Council meeting for final action.

C-4 Small Sablefish Release: The Council recommends releasing the analysis for final action with the revised Purpose and Need statement and alternatives and elements.

D-1 Unobserved Fishing Mortality Workgroup Report: The Council thanked them for their work and pauses the workgroup until for research is completed and available on this topic.

D-2 Crab Rationalization 17-year Program Review: The Council has three motions on this on D-2 the first excepted the Program Review the second motion was on more work is needed on the Arbitration Regulation on price negotiations between the Processors and Harvesters. The third motion was on revising the elements on the C Shares (Captains and Crew) in the rationalization plan.

D-3 Central GOA Rockfish Program Review: The Council approved the review of the program.

D-4Pot Cod 60ft > Pot Boat Limited Access Privilege Program (LAPP) the Council requested staff to further explore the follow elements as they might relate to a potential BSAI catcher vessels and pot catcher processor vessel LAPP program. Some of the elements to review included Cod Harvest by areas Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands, PSC bycatch allocations, monitoring issues, processing sector recent consolidations, and LLP license holders.

D-5 Research Priorities: The Council adopts the SSC Science Panel recommendations inkling the top ten list with a change on Norton Sound Red King Crab case study.

E-1 Staff Tasking: The Council will initiate a regulatory amendment with a purpose and need statement and alternatives for electronic monitoring for the pelagic trawl fisheries with the three alternatives Alt 1 no action Alt two Remove POP from the Rockfish category. Alt 3 Revise the definition of the directed fishing for vessels participating in the EM program for pelagic trawl gear.

Climate Change Workshop: I will attach with this memo three documents on the workshop for you to review.

Regards

Frank Kelty

Attachments:

1. Fishery Update Memo
2. Harvest Data
3. NOAA Reports
4. NPFMC Council Motions C- D-5 an E-1 Staff Tasking
5. ADFG Council Report
6. NMFS Council Report
7. USCG Report
- 8 Future Climate Change Scenarios
9. Scenarios and Discussion Guide
10. Climate Change Workshop Agenda Links to additional Climate Change Materials