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Date: 6-24-2024

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 24,2024, Groundfish Harvest Data 6-15-2024 State Water Pacific Cod, IFQ Halibut and Sablefish 6-24-2024

Fishing activity is picking up in Unalaska since the Pollock B season started on June 10th, 2024. Depending on fishing condition we expect the B season to last into early October. The Groundfish harvest for the last week was 38,192MT (84.1 million pounds) increase of over 30,000MT from the previous week harvest due to the Pollock fishery opening.

The Pollock B season harvest for the first 5 days of the season June 10-15-2024 came in at 31,003MT (68.3 million lbs.) 4.5% of the harvest has caught, that leaves 688,373MT of Pollock to harvest (1.5 billion lbs.) Most of the last week's harvest came from catcher vessels that deliver to Unalaska/Akutan shore-based plants they harvested 16,160MT (35 million lbs.) Most of the processors and catcher vessels for the shoreside plants have arrived in Unalaska. The At Sea factory processors and Motherships fleets are not 100% online yet, many of them have been fishing and processing Hake of the coast of Washington and Oregon and will be in the Bering Sea by the end of June.

The total Pacific Cod harvest last week was 1,119MT (2.4 million lbs.) for the A season is 84,875MT (187 million lbs.) 50% of the allocation of 165,658MT has been harvested leaving 81,780MT (180 million lbs.) of Pacific Cod to harvest including CDQ harvest allocation.

The Amendment 80 bottom trawlers harvest last weeks decreased by 3,000MT to 5,435MT (11.9 million lbs.). The total harvest stands 154,191MT (339 million lbs.) of various flatfish and other species.

The Halibut season open on March 15th at noon, so far 1,033 landing for landings for 5.17 million lbs. leaving 12.0 million lbs. to harvest; 30% 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 1.58 million lbs. followed by Petersburg, at 585,683lbs.

The Sablefish IFQ fishery there have been 773 Sablefish landings 16.4 million lbs. leaving 44.8 million lbs. to harvest 27% of the harvest is complete. Ports of Landings, Kodiak 3.94 million lbs. followed by Seward 2.8 million lbs.

Aleutian Island State Water Sablefish fishery: There are eight vessels fishing they have made thirty-three landings for 334,204 lbs. leaving 2.37 million lbs. to harvest from the 2.7 million lbs. allocation 12% of the harvest has been taken.

Overall Groundfish Harvest 6-15-2024: The harvest for the last week was 38,192MT (84.1 million pounds) 30,000MT increase over the previous week's harvest due to Pollock B season opening. The season totals are 843,181MT harvested (1.85 billion pounds) leaving 1,141,284MT (2.51 billion lbs.) to harvest; 42% of the overall annual harvest of 1,984,465MMT (4.3 billion pounds) has been completed.

Bering Sea B Season Pollock 6-15-2024: The Pollock B season fishery opened on June 10th at noon. The Pollock B season harvest for the first 5 days of the season June 10-15-2024 came in at 31,003MT (68.3 million lbs.) 4.5% of the harvest has caught, that leaves 688,373MT of Pollock to harvest (1.5 billion lbs.)

Inshore CV: the catcher vessels that deliver shoreside harvest 16,160MT (35.6 million lbs.) last week, leaving 305,893MT (674.1 million lbs.) to harvest from the A/B season allocation of 311,212MT 5% of the B season allocation has been harvested.

At Sea CP: the catcher processors harvested 11,830MT (26 million lbs.) last week, leaving 249,442MT (549 million lbs.) to harvest of the 261,273MT A/B season allocation 5% of the B season allocation has been harvested.

Mothership: this sector harvested 2,202MT (4.8 million lbs.) last week. Leaving 61,166MT (134.8 million lbs.) to harvest of the A/B season allocation of 63,243MT 3% of the B season allocation has been harvested.

CDQ: this sector harvested 811MT (1.7 million lbs.) for the season, leaving 71,872MT (158 million lbs.) to harvest from the A/B season allocation 72,683MT 1% of the B season allocation has been harvested.

Pollock Incidental Catch 6-15-2024: the harvest last week was 154MT for the season 31,377MT (69.1 million lbs.) leaving 18,873MT (41.5 million lbs.) to harvest 63% of the allocation has been harvested.

Salmon Bycatch 6-15-2024: Chinook bycatch last week was 641fish for a season total of 5,801 fish leaving 39,899 fish remaining 13% of the cap has been from the cap of 45,000 fish. Chum bycatch reported last week, was not recorded the amount is in the 914 fish for the season.

Pacific Cod: 6-15-2024:

The total Pacific Cod harvest last week was 1,119MT (2.4 million lbs.) for the A season is 84,875MT (187 million lbs.) 50% of the allocation of 165,658MT has been harvested leaving 81,780MT (180 million lbs.) of Pacific Cod to harvest including CDQ harvest allocation.

Hook and Line C/Ps: This sector harvested 853MT (1.8 million lbs.) last week for the season 32,973MT (72.6 million lbs.) Leaving the A/B season allocation at 34,397MT (69.1 million lbs.) to harvest, 49% 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 and A/B season allocation of 52,602MT. (115.9 million pounds) We had a harvest of 118MT for last week (206,072lbs.) for the season 33,688MT (74.2 million lbs.) through June 15, 2024. The Amendment 80 sector, 61MT At Sea 14MT and CV sector 43MT. (leaving 17,906MT (39.4 million lbs.) of A/B season cod to harvest for the season, 63% of the A/B season allocation of 52,602MT 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 148MT (326,192 lbs.) last week, for the season 8,443MT (18.6 million lbs.) from an A/B season allocation of 16,675MT leaving 8,443MT (18.6 million lbs.) 50% 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 1,948MT leaving 1,948MT 0% of the allocation has been harvested.

Amendment 80 Bottom Trawl Fishery 6-15-2024. The Amendment 80 bottom trawlers harvest last weeks decreased by 3,000MT to 5,435MT (11.9 million lbs.). The total harvest stands 154,191MT (339 million lbs.) of various flatfish and other species. The seasonal harvest totals by species are as follows, Yellowfin Sole 52,426MT, Rock Sole 24,097MT Alaska Plaice, 6,386MT, Flathead Sole 8,727MT, Arrowtooth Flounder 2,396MT, Kamchatka Flounder 1,720MT other Flatfish 2,076MT other species harvested this season including Perch and Rockfish, 6,499MT Atka Mackerel 33,340MT, Octopus 132MT Skate 15,254MT Greenland Turbot, 227MT and Sablefish Trawl 901MT.

State Water Pacific Cod 60' < Pot Boats 6-24-2024: 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 6-24-24: the season open on March 15th at noon, so far 1,133 landing for landings for 5.43 million lbs. leaving 11.7 million lbs. to harvest; 31% 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 1.77 million lbs. followed by Petersburg, at 601,613lbs.

Sablefish IFQ 6-24-24: there have been 824 Sablefish landings 17.2 million lbs. leaving 43.5 million lbs. to harvest 28% of the harvest is complete. Ports of Landings, Kodiak 4.0 million lbs. followed by Seward 2.9 million lbs.

Aleutian Island State Water Sablefish 6-24-24: There are eight vessels fishing they have made thirty-three landings for 334,204 lbs. leaving 2.37 million lbs. to harvest from the 2.7 million lbs. allocation 12% of the harvest has been taken. No landings were made last week.

Misc. Items: I attended the Bering Sea Fisheries Research Foundation Monthly Board of Directors (BOD) meeting last Thursday June 20th via zoom. After approving the minutes, the BOD revived the monthly financials, the reserves are down to \$767,000 due to the fact we have had to forward fund survey projects for vessels charters but we will received reimbursements from ADFG and NOAA on the receipts we have submitted for payment. We also expect to receive in a month or so \$1.2 million in disaster funding from the 2019 Tanner Crab disaster funding for research. So, the foundation will continue to be in decent shape financially.

We received and update from Scott Goodman, Executive Director of the BSFRF on the June Council meeting in Kodiak he attended as did I, and one or two other BSFRF board members. Scott gave an overview on the meeting for the BOD he discussed the Science Panel SSC research priorities that were approved by the Council highlighting the Crab research items. He explained why the Council committee on Unidentified Fishing Mortality (UFM) was mothballed until new research is brought forward to review. He also had comments on the Climate Workshop, and we have three of the case studies that we reviewed at the Workshop Gulf of Alaska Cod Collapse in the late 1990s, Opilio Tanner Crab Crash in 2022-2023 and Northern Bering Sea Rapid Climate Change. I will include that with this memo.

We then were update on completed projects that we partnered with North Pacific Research Board and ADFG on the Clam sled project and tagging efforts as well as the crab larval collects pots that are out in the Bering Sea and will be picked up this summer. We discussed the Opilio Tanner Crab survey project that will be a three week charter this summer one crabber and one trawler who will be work in concert with the

two NOAA trawl survey vessels who will be working the Opilio Tanner crab grounds NW of St Paul Island. The week the charter vessels should be chosen by the charter committee that will review the specification of the vessels that submitted applications. Lastly Scott Goodman gave the BOD an update the ongoing work by the BSFRF Science committee that will be working on the review of the Opilio Workshop in Eastern Canada, Crab Project C-2 summaries, an ongoing work on a proposal for Unidentified Fishing Mortality (UFM) research project to come up with information on the scope of impacts on crab populations. The foundation staff will try get preliminary information from the NOAA survey results on Red King Crab, Tanner Crab, and Opilio (Snow Crab) for planning purpose for the crab openings on October 15, 2024. The BSFRF next meeting will be on Thursday July 18th, 2024, the meeting adjourned at 11:30 AM.

Regards

Frank Kelty

Attachments:

1. Fishery Update Memo
2. Harvest Data
3. NOAA Reports
4. Climate Change Three Case Studies Opillio Tanner Crab, Gulf of Alaska Pacific Cod, and Northern Bering Rapid Climate Change