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Date: 7-22-2024

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 July 22, 2024, Groundfish Harvest Data 7-13-2024 State Water Pacific Cod, IFQ Halibut and Sablefish 7-22-2024

Fishing landings continues to be strong this past week. The Groundfish harvest for the last week was 60,369MT (133 million pounds) decreased by 300MT (661,200 lbs.) from the previous week harvest mostly due to the Pollock fishery catch decrease by the At Sea Processing sectors harvest reduction las week.

The Pollock B season harvest for the week ending on July 13,2024 came in at came in at 53,474MT (117.8 million lbs.) for the season the B season Pollock is at 456,630MT (1.0 billion lbs.) 46% of the harvest has caught, that leaves 480,914MT (1.05 billion lbs.) of Pollock to harvest. Most of the last week's harvest came from Catcher vessels that deliver shoreside 21,977MT (48.4 million lbs.) It looks like we 9 weeks to go if the fleet averages 50,000MT per week put the season wrap-up by the end of September or early October.

The total Pacific Cod harvest for 7-13-2024 came in at 1,714MT (3.7 million lbs.) for the A season is 94,090MT (207 million lbs.) 56% of the allocation of 165,658MT has been harvested leaving 75,691MT (168 million lbs.) of Pacific Cod to harvest including CDQ harvest allocation.

The Amendment 80 bottom trawlers harvest last weeks increased by 2,000MT to 3,761MT (8.2 million lbs.). The total harvest stands 171,517MT (378 million lbs.) of various flatfish and other species.

The Halibut season open on March 15th so far, we have had 1,433 landing for landings for 6.76 million lbs. leaving 10.4 million lbs. to harvest; 39% of the allocation has been harvested. The CDQ allocation is set at 1.17 million lbs. we have had seventy-one landings for 62,945lbs leaving 1.11million lbs. to harvest 5% of the harvest of 1.17million lbs. has been completed. Leading Port of Landings is Homer, AK at 2.08 million lbs. followed by Petersburg, at 648,794lbs.

The sablefish fishery opened on March 15th there have been 954 Sablefish landings 19.4 million lbs. leaving 41.3 million lbs. to harvest 32% of the harvest is complete. Ports of Landings, Kodiak 4.17 million lbs. followed by Seward 3.36 million lbs.

Aleutian Island State Water Sablefish fishery: There are eight vessels fishing they have made thirty-six landings for 347,303 lbs. leaving 2.35 million lbs. to harvest from the 2.7 million lbs. allocation 13% of the harvest has been taken. There were three landings last week.

The State Water Pacific Cod 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.

Overall Groundfish Harvest 7-13-2024: The Groundfish harvest for the last week was 60,369MT (133. million pounds) decrease of over 300MT from the previous week harvest due to the Pollock fishery increased catch. The overall Groundfish harvest is at 1,080,387MMT (2.38 billion lbs.) leaving 904,078MT (1.99billion lbs.) 54% of the harvest is complete from 1,984,465MMT harvest allocation.

Bering Sea B Season Pollock 7-13-2024: The Pollock B season harvest for the week ending on July 13,2024 came in at 53,474MT (117.8 million lbs.) for the season the B season Pollock is at 456,630MT (1.0 billion lbs.) 46% of the harvest has caught, that leaves 480,914MT (1.05 billion lbs.) of Pollock to harvest. Most of the last week's harvest came from Catcher vessels that deliver shoreside 21,977MT (48.4 million lbs.) It looks like we 9 weeks to go if the fleet averages 50,000MT per week put the season wrap-up by the end of September or early October.

Inshore CV: the catcher vessels that deliver shoreside harvest 21,977MT (48.4 million lbs.) last week, leaving 216,375MT (476 million lbs.) to harvest from the A/B season allocation of 282,291MT 34% of the B season allocation has been harvested. Total A/B harvest is 349,465MT (770 million lbs.) 62%. A/B Pollock season has been harvested.

At Sea CP: the catcher processors harvested 17,951MT (39.5 million lbs.) last week, leaving 165185MT (364 million lbs.) to harvest of the A/B season allocation. The 34% of the B season allocation has 34% harvested. Total A/B Pollock harvest is 287,487MT (633 million lbs.) 64% A/B Pollock season has been harvested.

Mothership: this sector harvested 6,032MT (13.2 million lbs.) last week. Leaving 42,018MT (92.6 million lbs.) to harvest of the A/B season allocation of 63,243MT 34% of the B season allocation has been harvested. Total A/B harvest is 71,150MT (156 million lbs.) 63% A/B Pollock season has been harvested.

CDQ: this sector harvested 7,514MT (16.5 million lbs.) for the season, leaving 57,336MT (126.3 million lbs.) to harvest from the A/B season allocation 74,564MT 21% of the B season allocation has been harvested. Total A/B harvest is 74,564MT (164.3 million lbs.) 57%. A/B Pollock season has been harvested.

Pollock Incidental Catch 7-13-2024: the harvest last week was 163MT for the season 32,405MT (71.4 million lbs.) leaving 17,845MT (39.3 million lbs.) to harvest 65% of the allocation has been harvested.

Salmon Bycatch 7-13-2024: Chinook bycatch last week was 48fish for a season total of 6,720 fish leaving 38,980 fish remaining 15% 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: 7-13-2024: The total Pacific Cod harvest for 7-13-2024 came in at 1,714MT (3.7 million lbs.) for the A season is 94,090MT (207 million lbs.) 56% of the allocation of 165,658MT has been harvested leaving 75,691MT (168 million lbs.) of Pacific Cod to harvest including CDQ harvest allocation.

Hook and Line C/Ps: This sector harvested 1,585MT (3.4 million lbs.) last week for the season 38,277MT (84.3 million lbs.) Leaving the A/B season allocation at 29,075MT (64 million lbs.) to harvest, 57% 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 110MT for last week (242,440lbs.) for the season 34,044MT (75 million lbs.) through July 13, 2024. The Amendment 80 sector, 71MT At Sea 10MT and CV sector 29MT. (leaving 17,176MT (37.8million lbs.) of A/B season cod to harvest for the season, 65% 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 20MT (4,408 lbs.) last week, for the season 8,520MT (18.77 million lbs.) from an A/B season allocation of 16,675MT leaving 8,363MT (18.43 million lbs.) 51% 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 7-13-2024. The Amendment 80 bottom trawlers harvest last weeks increased by 2,000MT to 3,761MT (8.2 million lbs.). The total harvest stands 171,517MT (378 million lbs.) of various flatfish and other species. The seasonal harvest totals by species are as follows, Yellowfin Sole 50,255MT, Rock Sole 24,285MT Alaska Plaice, 6,462MT, Flathead Sole 9,712MT, Arrowtooth Flounder 4,022MT, Kamchatka Flounder 2,486MT other Flatfish 2,287MT other species harvested this season including Perch and Rockfish, 13,233MT Atka Mackerel 40,085MT, Octopus 140MT Skate 16,725MT Greenland Turbot, 379MT and Sablefish Trawl 1,446MT.

State Water Pacific Cod 60'< Pot Boats 7-22-2024: 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 7-15-24: the season open on March 15th at noon, so far 1,433 landing for landings for 6.76 million lbs. leaving 10.4 million lbs. to harvest; 39% of the allocation has been harvested. The CDQ allocation is set at 1.17 million lbs. 71 landings for 62,945lbs leaving 1.11million lbs. to harvest 5% of the harvest of 1.17million lbs. has been completed. Leading Port of Landings is Homer, AK at 2.08 million lbs. followed by Petersburg, at 648,794lbs.

Sablefish IFQ 7-22-24: there have been 954 Sablefish landings 19.4 million lbs. leaving 41.3 million lbs. to harvest 32% of the harvest is complete. Ports of Landings, Kodiak 4.17 million lbs. followed by Seward 3.36 million lbs.

Aleutian Island State Water Sablefish 7-22-24: There are eight vessels fishing they have made thirty-six landings for 337,303 lbs. leaving 2.35 million lbs. to harvest from the 2.7 million lbs. allocation 13% of the harvest has been taken. There were three landings were made last week.

Dutch Harbor Food and Bait Fishery 7-22-24: there have been multiple landings so far, with an estimated landings in the 900-1,000 short tons range around 1.8 million lbs. The fishery is still open, but the two boats registered are not fishing at this time. Exact harvest information is still confidential by the State of Alaska until more buyers purchases Herring.

North Alaska Peninsula Dungeness Crab Harvest: We have seen seven landing from two vessels for 89,228lbs average weight per crab is 2.1 lbs.

Misc. Items: I attended two meetings last week, with the Crab Disaster Community Coalition discussing are response to ADFG Initial Draft Crab Disaster Spend Plan for Snow Crab Fishery for the loss of the 2023/2024 fishing season. ADFG initial draft plan reduced the communities from 5% and an additional 1% for the St Paul Island a total of 6% down to 4% for communities and 1% for St Paul for a total of 5%. ADFG also additionally in the first draft state took away funding off the top of the total gross amount

of funding that we do not have that amount as of, yet which will cost the communities additional funding. We were extremely disappointed by their decision and there was no explanation by the state on why they did this. The proposed cuts to the communities went to the harvesters and processors. We responded back to the State with the community's concern with the group letter and the communities also sent in individual letters as well. I have cut and pasted some highlights of the community letter below in italics.

Concerning the Initial Draft Spend Plan, we are surprised by the State's proposal to reduce the community sector allocation from 5% to 4%. This is at a time when our municipalities and boroughs have been hit hard by the extended crab disasters and the multiple challenges affecting the North Pacific fishing industry including the loss of processing capacity in various locations. We would therefore urge the State to maintain the framework arduously developed in 2023 for the Red King Crab and Snow Crab disaster request over the course of several months, which allocated 5% to communities "off the top" and set aside 1% for Saint Paul Island community entities.

Developments in recent months, in fact, point to the need for increasing the State's support for its crab-dependent communities. The complete closure of the Peter Pan plant in King Cove in December 2024, for example, will result in a 60-70% drop in this community's general fund revenues which on average amount to \$2 million and are derived from local and general sales taxes. Saint Paul Island for its part has seen no meaningful economic activity since the closure of the BSS fishery in the 2022-23 season and is similarly relying on the crab disaster funds to survive in 2024 and 2025.

Across the board, as the crab closures extend into their third year, and as the North Pacific fishing industry is buffeted by instability in other fisheries as well as domestic and global markets, our communities are increasingly constrained, and in some instances, unable to provide, run and maintain essential services, utilities and infrastructure without incurring major deficits. As we have stated before, disaster funds that are disbursed to assist affected Alaskan communities are funds that are invested in our State and more likely to remain in Alaska, benefitting our residents. The prolonged economic crises impacting us and even a failure by some of our communities to recover would result in additional economic burdens to our State.

Should ADF&G, as it proposes, remove the "off the top" consideration for the community allocation and reduce the allocation to 4%, our estimates based on an equal dollar amount of disaster funding received for 2022-22 and 2022-23 crab seasons, are that communities would receive about \$1.7 million less, whereas all the other sectors except for research would see an increase. This is unacceptable to us given the abovementioned considerations. If, however, ADF&G maintains its position, we would request an increase in the community allocation to 6% plus the additional 1% for Saint Paul.

We expect a second draft spend plan after ADFG reviews the comment letters received on this draft, and when they receive the final dollar amount from NOAA for the Snow Crab fishery disaster which will be sometime this fall.

Regards

Frank Kelty

Attachments:

1. Fishery Update Memo
2. Harvest Data
3. NOAA Reports
4. ADFG Initial Draft Crab Disaster Spend Plan Snow Crab Closure 2023/2024
5. Communities Coalition Comment Letter to ADGFG on Draft Spend Plan