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**Date:** 8-26-2024

**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 August 19, 2024, Groundfish Harvest Data 8-17-2024 State Water Pacific Cod, Golden King Crab, Dungeness Crab, IFQ Halibut and Sablefish 8-26-2024

Fishing landings continue to be good this past week. The Groundfish harvest for the last week ending on August 17, 2024, was 57,060MT (125.7 million pounds) increase of 1,000MT from the previous week harvest due to the Pollock fishery increased catch. The overall Groundfish harvest is at 1,381,962MMT (3.04billion lbs.) leaving 604,520MT (1.33 billion lbs.) 70% of the harvest is complete from 1,984,465MMT allocation (4.3 billion lbs.)

The Pollock B season harvest for the week ending on August 17,2024 came in at 47,154MT (103 million lbs.) for the season the B season Pollock is at 501,505MT (1.10 billion lbs.) 72% of the B season harvest has been caught, that leaves 222,339MT (490million lbs.) of Pollock to harvest. The A/B season total harvest is at 1.04MMT (2.29billion lbs.) 80% of the 1.30 MMT harvest of (2.85 billion lbs.). Most of the last week's harvest came from Catcher Vessel sector that delivers to the onshore plants 18,066MT (39.8 million lbs.) It looks like we have 4-5 weeks to go if the fleet averages 50,000MT per week will put the season wrap-up by the end of September.

The total Pacific Cod harvest for 8-17-2024 came in at 1,542MT (3.39 million lbs.) for the A season is 102,490MT (225.8 million lbs.) 61% of the allocation of 165,658MT has been harvested leaving 67,282MT (148 million lbs.) of Pacific Cod to harvest including the CDQ harvest allocation.

The Amendment 80 bottom trawlers harvest last week increased by 2,200MT to 7,617MT (16.78 million lbs.). The total harvest stands 203,466MT (448 million lbs.) of various flatfish and other species.

The Halibut season opened on March 15<sup>th</sup>. at noon, so far 2,130 landings for landings for 9.50 million lbs. leaving 7.78million lbs. to harvest; 55% of the allocation has been harvested. The CDQ allocation is set at 1.17 million lbs. We have had 196 landings for 217,194lbs. leaving 956,806 lbs. to harvest 19% of the harvest of 1.17million lbs.

completed. Leading Port of Landings is Homer, AK at 2.55 million lbs. followed by Seward, at 951,987lbs.

The Sablefish fishery has had 1,169 IFQ Sablefish landings 23.44 million lbs. leaving 37.35 million lbs. to harvest 39% of the harvest is complete. Ports of Landings, Kodiak 4.42 million lbs. followed by Seward 4.35 million lbs.

Aleutian Island State Water Sablefish There are eight vessels fishing. They have made forty-three landings for 406,952lbs. leaving 2.29 million lbs. to harvest from the 2.7 million lbs. allocation 15% of the harvest has been taken. There were two landings that were made last week.

North Alaska Peninsula Dungeness Crab Harvest. We have seen twenty-five landings from two vessels for 441,211lbs average weight per crab is 2.17 lbs. CPUE 7 crab per pot. ADFG has stated that some of the South Peninsula Dungeness landings have been landed and processed in Unalaska as well, but the poundage amount is confidential.

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 8-17-2024:** The Groundfish harvest for the last week ending on August 17, 2024, was 57,060MT (125.7 million pounds) increase of 1,000MT from the previous week harvest due to the Pollock fishery increased catch. The overall Groundfish harvest is at 1,381,962MMT (3.04billion lbs.) leaving 604,520MT (1.33 billion lbs.) 70% of the harvest is complete from 1,984,465MMT allocation (4.3 billion lbs.)

**Bering Sea B Season Pollock 8-17-2024:** The Pollock B season harvest for the week ending on August 17,2024 came in at 47,154MT (103 million lbs.) for the season the B season Pollock is at 501,505MT (1.10 billion lbs.) 72% of the B season harvest has been caught, that leaves 222,339MT (490million lbs.) of Pollock to harvest. The A/B season total harvest is at 1.04MMT (2.29billion lbs.) 80% of the 1.30 MMT harvest of (2.85 billion lbs.).

Most of the last week's harvest came from Catcher Vessel sector that delivers to the onshore plants 18,066MT (39.8 million lbs.) It looks like we have 4-5 weeks to go if the fleet averages 52,000MT per week will put the season wrap-up by the end of September.

**Inshore CV:** the catcher vessels that deliver shoreside harvested 18,066MT (39.8 million lbs.) last week, leaving 104,259MT (229.78million lbs.) to harvest from the A/B season allocation 70% of the B season allocation has been harvested. Total A/B harvest is 461,581MT (1.01 billion lbs.) 82%. A/B Pollock season of 565,840MT has been harvested.

**At Sea CP:** the catcher processors harvested 16,486MT (36.3million lbs.) last week, leaving 93,245MT (205.5 million lbs.) to harvest of the A/B season allocation. The B season allocation has 67% harvested. The total A/B Pollock harvest is 359,427MT (792.1 million lbs.) 79% A/B Pollock season of 452,672MT has been harvested.

**Mothership:** this sector harvested 5,503MT (12.1 million lbs.) last week. Leaving 16,155MT (35.9 million lbs.) to harvest of the B season allocation of 62,242MT 74% of the B season allocation has been harvested. Total A/B harvest is 96,012MT (211.6million lbs.) 85% A/B Pollock season of 113,168MT has been harvested.

**CDQ:** this sector harvested 7,099MT (15.6 million lbs.) for the B season, 65,003MT (143.2 million lbs.) to harvest from the B season allocation 72,545MT 90% of the B season allocation have been harvested. Total A/B harvest is 124,221MT (273.7million lbs.) 94%. A/B Pollock season of 131,900MT have been harvested.

**Pollock Incidental Catch 8-17-2024:** the harvest last week was 314MT for the season 33,666MT (74.19 million lbs.) leaving 16,599MT (36.5 million lbs.) to harvest 68% of the allocation has been harvested.

**Salmon Bycatch 8-17-2024:** Chinook bycatch last week was twenty-six fish for a season total of 6,891fish leaving 38,809fish remaining 15% of the cap has been from the cap of 45,000 fish. Chum bycatch for the Pollock B season is estimate at 18,700 fish for the season this much less than previous years on Chum salmon bycatch.

**Pacific Cod: 8-17-2024:** The total Pacific Cod harvest for 8-17-2024 came in at 1,542MT (3.39 million lbs.) for the A season is 102,490MT (225.8 million lbs.) 61% of the allocation of 165,658MT has been harvested leaving 67,282MT (148 million lbs.) of Pacific Cod to harvest including the CDQ harvest allocation.

**Hook and Line C/Ps:** This sector harvested 1,111MT (2.44 million lbs.) last week for the season 45,103MT (99.4 million lbs.) Leaving the A/B season allocation at 22,267MT (49.07 million lbs.) to harvest, 67% 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 an A/B season allocation of 52,602MT (115.9 million pounds) We had a harvest of 422MT for last week (9.3 million lbs.) for the season 35,549MT (78.3 million lbs.) through August 17, 2024. The Amendment 80 sector, 133MT At Sea 15MT and CV sector 274MT. (leaving 15,671MT (34.5 million lbs.) of A/B season cod to harvest for the season, 68% 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 9MT (19,836lbs.) last week, for the season 8,634MT (19.02 million lbs.) from an A/B season allocation of 16,675MT leaving 8,219MT (18.11 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 8-17-2024.**

The Amendment 80 bottom trawlers harvest last week increased by 2,200MT to 7,617MT (16.78 million lbs.). The total harvest stands 203,466MT (448 million lbs.) of various flatfish and other species. Yellowfin Sole 51,278MT, Rock Sole 24,625MT Alaska Plaice, 6,547MT, Flathead Sole 10,220MT, Arrowtooth Flounder 6,775MT, Kamchatka Flounder 4,159MT other Flatfish 2,750MT other species harvested this season including Perch and Rockfish, 23,282MT Atka Mackerel 50,855MT, Octopus 145MT Skate 18,952MT Greenland Turbot, 615MT and Sablefish Trawl 3,353MT.

**State Water Pacific Cod 60’< Pot Boats 8-26-2024**: 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 8-26-24**: the season opens on March 15<sup>th</sup>. at noon, so far 2,130 landings for landings for 9.50 million lbs. leaving 7.78million lbs. to harvest; 55% of the allocation has been harvested. The CDQ allocation is set at 1.17 million lbs. We have had 196 landings for 217,194lbs. leaving 956,806 lbs. to harvest 19% of the harvest of 1.17million lbs. completed. Leading Port of Landings is Homer, AK at 2.55 million lbs. followed by Seward, at 951,987lbs.

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**Aleutian Island Golden King Crab 8-26-24:** So far, 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 has also been one CDQ landing and one IFQ landing from the Eastern District, the total poundage for both landing is from the Eastern District, the amount landed is confidential but estimated at around 200,000lbs. That leaves 4.6 million lbs. left to harvest from the 4.8-million-pound allocation.

**Misc. Items:** On Thursday last week August 22<sup>nd</sup>, I attended the Bering Sea Fisheries Research Foundation August Board of Directors meeting the focus of this meeting was to receive and update from Mike Litzow of NOAA Fisheries on the Crab survey that NOAA is wrapping and from Mark Stichert of ADFG Westward Region Shellfish Manager. They gave a 1.5-hour presentation to about sixty people on the zoom call many of members from the Alaska Bering Sea Crabbers Harvester Group were on the call. Overall, the news was incredibly positive starting with Bristol Bay Red King Crab, the survey showed female crab well over the threshold amount to have a fishery the females were in more than one area which is and improvement from last year survey.

Mature males and legal 6.5 crab male crab also increased in the survey analysis so far. They stated there is a potential to see and increase in the Red King Crab allocation in 2024 up from last year's 2.15-million-pound allocation up to 3.0 to 3.2 million pounds allocation in 2024. The Tanner the biomass of mature and of legal 5.0-inch crab in the Eastern District and the Western District keep improving. We could see a 50% increase in the Baiardi Tanner allocation for 2.0 million allocations in 2023. To a 4.0-million-pound allocation in 2024, split between the Western and Eastern Districts. A point of caution the agencies are still working on the analysis. The big news was on Snow Crab the (OpilioTanner) survey work both NOAA survey vessels and the FV Vesteraalen BSFRF trawl catcher vessels found many more mature male and legal size 4in crab than they had expected in many stat areas; the analysis is still on going and females and per-recruit crab were much improved over the 2023 survey as well.

The pot vessels FV Confidence has just started their pot survey work in areas that the Vesteraalen had worked. We hope to see similar good news from there work in a couple of weeks. Mark Stichert of ADFG stated that there may be a large enough surplus of legal males Snow Crab to justify a fishery of 4-5 million pounds. He wonders if the harvesters and processors would be interested in an opening on Snow Crab of such as small amount of crab. We still must wait a few more weeks for the analysis to be completed. I have enclosed with this memo some information and pictures from the FV Vesteraalen survey work on the Snow Crab Grounds.

Regards

Frank Kelty

Attachments:

1. Fishery Update Memo
2. Harvest Data
3. NOAA Reports
4. BSFRF Report on Crab Survey by FV Vesteraalen