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Date: 9-23-2024

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 September 23, 2024, Groundfish Harvest Data 9-14-2024 State Water Pacific Cod, Golden King Crab, Dungeness Crab, IFQ Halibut and Sablefish 9-23-2024

We had some positive news at the NPFMC Groundfish Plan team meeting last week in Seattle. The plan team had excellent on the Pollock resource this summer NOAA showed a 74% increase to 10.3 billion pounds in the Pollock biomass, up from the 2023 survey biomass amount 5.6 billion pounds. We received no breakdown was provide on the various size amounts by year class at the October NMFS meeting we may get that breakdown. The Pacific Cod 2024 survey decline slightly by 4% 436,530 from the 2023 total of 555,739, million pounds. Most of the flatfish stocks stayed about status quo except for Halibut it declined by 26% putting the 2024 survey amount to sixty-nine million pounds down from the 2023 amount ninety-five million pounds. The 2024 Mackerel stock declined about 6,000MT to 66,000MT from 2023 amount of 72,000MT the Perch resource stayed about status quo levels in the Aleutian Islands.

The Pollock B season harvest for last week came in at 27,678MT (61.00 million lbs.) for the season the B season Pollock is at 688,359MT (1.51 billion lbs.) 98.1% of the B season harvest has been caught, that leaves 68,741MT (151.5 million lbs.) of Pollock to harvest. The A/B season total harvest is at 1.19MMT (2.63billion lbs.) 92.2% 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 17,144MT (37.78 million lbs.) It looks like we have 1.5 weeks to go if the fleet averages 33,000MT per week will put the season wrap-up by the end of September.

The total Pacific Cod harvest for came in at 2,825MT (6.22 million lbs.) last week for the A/B season is 108,005MT (238.04 million lbs.) 69.9% of the allocation of 155,833MT has been harvested leaving 47,828MT (105.4 million lbs.) of Pacific Cod to harvest including the CDQ harvest allocation.

Overall Groundfish Harvest 9-14-2024: The Groundfish harvest for the last week, was 40,500MT (89.2 million pounds) decrease of 8,00MT from the previous week harvest due to the Pollock bottom fish harvest sectors decreased catch. The overall Groundfish

harvest is at 1,581,978MMT (3.48 billion lbs.) leaving 402,487MT (887.0 million lbs.) 80% of the harvest is complete from 1,984,465MMT allocation (4.3 billion lbs.).

Bering Sea B Season Pollock 9-14-2024: The Pollock B season harvest for last week came in at 27,678MT (61.00 million lbs.) for the season the B season Pollock is at 688,359MT (1.51 billion lbs.) 98.1% of the B season harvest has been caught, that leaves 68,741MT (151.5 million lbs.) of Pollock to harvest. The A/B season total harvest is at 1.19MMT (2.63billion lbs.) 92.2% 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 17,144MT (37.78 million lbs.) It looks like we have 1.5 weeks to go if the fleet averages 33,000MT per week will put the season wrap-up by the end of September.

Inshore CV: the catcher vessels that deliver shoreside harvested 17,144MT (37.7 million lbs.) last week, leaving 28,270MT (62.3 million lbs.) to harvest from the A/B season allocation 94% of the B season allocation has been harvested. Total A/B harvest is 537,570MT (1.18 billion lbs.) 95%. A/B Pollock season of 565,840MT has been harvested.

At Sea CP Fleet: the catcher processors harvested 6,928MT (15.2million lbs.) last week, leaving 39,673MT (87.4 million lbs.) to harvest of the A/B season allocation. The B season allocation is 89% harvested. The total A/B Pollock harvest is 412,999MT (910.2 million lbs.) 91% A/B Pollock season of 452,672MT has been harvested.

Mothership: this sector harvested 3,409MT (7.5 million lbs.) last week. Leaving 711MT (1.567 million lbs.) to harvest of the B season allocation of 62,532MT 100% of the B season allocation has been harvested. Total A/B harvest is 112,457MT (247.8million lbs.) 99% A/B Pollock season of 113,168MT has been harvested.

CDQ: this sector harvested 197MT (434,188 lbs.) for the B season, leaving 87MT 72,399MT (191,748 lbs.) 100% of the B season allocation have been harvested. Total A/B harvest is 131,813MT (290.5 million lbs.) 100%. A/B Pollock season of 131,900MT have been harvested.

Pollock Incidental Catch 9-14-2024: the harvest last week was 1,493MT for the season 38,265MT (84 million lbs.) leaving 11,985MT (26.4million lbs.) to harvest 76% of the allocation has been harvested.

Salmon Bycatch 9-14-24: Chinook bycatch last week was 109 fish for a season total of 7,527fish leaving 38,173fish remaining 16% of the cap has been from the cap of 45,000 fish. Chum bycatch for the Pollock B season is 37,000 fish for the season this much less than previous years on Chum salmon bycatch which in past 4-5 years ago were in 400,000 to 250,000 fish range.

Pacific Cod: 9-14-2024: The total Pacific Cod harvest for came in at 2,825MT (6.22 million lbs.) for the A season is 108,005MT (238.04 million lbs.) 69.9% of the allocation

of 155,833MT has been harvested leaving 47,828MT (105.4 million lbs.) of Pacific Cod to harvest including the CDQ harvest allocation.

Hook and Line C/Ps: This sector harvested 1,329MT (2.92 million lbs.) last week for the season 50,700MT (111.7 million lbs.) Leaving the A/B season allocation at 16,670MT (36.74 million lbs.) to harvest, 77% 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 661MT for last week (1.45 million lbs.) for the season 39,696MT (87.48 million lbs.) through September 14, 2024. The Amendment 80 sector, 444MT At Sea 213MT and CV sector 204MT. (leaving 13,324MT (29.3 million lbs.) of A/B season cod to harvest for the season, 75% of the A/B season allocation of 52,602MT has been harvested.

CV Pot/HL < 60'ft: harvested 439MT last week for the season 4,792MT (10.5 million lbs.) leaving 1,092MT cod allocation to harvest, 81% of the seasonal allocation has been harvested.

C/P Pot CPs 0MT was harvested last week of A season Cod, for the season 0MT. The A season remaining allocation is 2,075MT 0% of the A season allocation of 2,075MT has been harvested.

Pot Cod 60'>: harvested 339MT last week for the season 4,170MT (9.1 million lbs.) leaving 7,450MT (16.4 million lbs.) of A season allocation to harvest 36% of the A/B season allocation of 11,620MT has been harvested.

Pacific Cod CDQ: had a harvest of 56MT (123,424lbs.) last week, for the season 8,729MT (19.23million lbs.) from an A/B season allocation of 16,675MT leaving 8,002MT (17.63million lbs.) 52% 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 98MT leaving 98MT 0% of the allocation has been harvested.

Amendment 80 Bottom Trawl Fishery 9-14-2024.

The Amendment 80 bottom trawlers harvest last week decreased by 2,000MT to 8,441MT (18.6 million lbs.). The total harvest stands 235,082MT (518.1 million lbs.) of various flatfish and other species. Yellowfin Sole 56,681MT, Rock Sole 25,395MT Alaska Plaice, 8,244MT, Flathead Sole 10,751MT, Arrowtooth Flounder 8,028MT, Kamchatka Flounder 4,747MT other Flatfish 2,858MT other species harvested this season including Perch and Rockfish, 32,930MT Atka Mackerel 59,247MT, Octopus 159MT Skate 21,488MT Greenland Turbot, 734MT and Sablefish Trawl 3,820MT.

State Water Pacific Cod 60'< Pot Boats 9-23-2024: The state water Pacific Cod fishery has had 414 landings for 40.3 million lbs. leaving 4.08 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. But on September 1st federal waters reopen for Pacific Cod sector we may see some activity in State waters when the federal water fishery of 1,764MT closes. There were no landings in the State Water fishery last week.

Halibut 9-23-24: the season opens on March 15th at noon, so far 2,605 landings for landings for 11.56 million lbs. leaving 5.73 million lbs. to harvest; 67% of the allocation has been harvested. The CDQ allocation is set at 1.17 million lbs. We have had 240 landings for 302,405lbs. leaving 871,595 lbs. to harvest, 26% of the harvest of 1.17million lbs. completed. Leading Port of Landings is Homer, AK at 2.98 lbs. followed by Kodiak, at 1.89 million lbs. Halibut landings have been made in Unalaska but NOAA is keeping the data confidential until three buyers purchase Halibut.

Sablefish IFQ 9-23-24: there have been 1,424 Sablefish landings 28.3 million lbs. leaving 32.42 million lbs. to harvest 47% of the harvest is complete. Ports of Landings, Kodiak 5.28 million lbs. followed by Seward 4.97 million lbs. Sablefish landing have been made in Unalaska, but NOAA is keeping the data confidential until three buyers purchase Sablefish.

Aleutian Island State Water Sablefish 9-23-24: There are ten vessels fishing. They have made forty-nine landings for 480,724bs. leaving 2.27 million lbs. to harvest from the 2.7 million lbs. allocation 18% of the harvest has been taken. There were four landings that were made last week.

North Alaska Peninsula Dungeness Crab Harvest 9-23-24: We have seen forty-eight landings from eleven vessels for 842,316lbs average weight per crab is 2.17 lbs. CPUE 8 crab per pot.

Aleutian Island Golden King Crab 9-23-24: 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 two CDQ landing and 8 IFQ landing from the Eastern District, and 3 IFQ landing from the Western District the total poundage for landing is from the IFQ and CDQ, the amount landed is confidential but estimated slightly more than 1.0 million lbs. That leaves and estimated 3.8 million lbs. left to harvest from the 4.8-million-pound IFQ and CDQ allocation.

Misc. Items: As I mentioned earlier, I attend via Zoom the NPFMC Groundfish Plan team meeting last week for three days they were held for all attendees virtually. I will provide the preliminary numbers OFL, ABC, and TAC amounts for the groundfish stocks for the 2025-2026 fishing season via the Plan Teams Spread Sheet, and the Population Trend document on many of the Bering Sea stocks. the final OFLs, ABCs and TAC amount will not be approved until the December NPFMC meeting in Anchorage. The Groundfish Plan team will have another three-day meeting in November where they will make their final recommendations to the NPFMC Council Science and Statical Committee. I will also provide with this memo a power point presentation on the status of the Bering Sea Ecosystem report on impacts what we may see in the future.

I also attended two-half day meetings of the Alaska Legislative Fisheries Task Force that was just formed to assist the Alaska Seafood Industry harvesters, processors, and communities to get through the rough time everyone is facing in the industry. The committee is made up of three House members and three Senators Senator Gary Stevens of Kodiak is the Chairmen, and Rep Bryce Edgmon also serves on the committee. The first two days other meeting on Wednesday and Thursdays they received various presentations, from ADFG Commission Vincent-Lang, Alaska Seafood Marketing Association (ASMI) and Mckinley Research those presentation will be on a sperate email since the file are so large.

Regards

Frank Kelty

Attachments:

1. Fisheries Update Memo
2. Harvest Data
3. NOAA Report
4. Groundfish Plan Team 2025-2026 Preliminary Specifications
5. BSAI Groundfish 2024 NOAA Survey Populations Trends
6. BSAI Groundfish Plan Team Ecosystem Presentation