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Date: 9-30-2024

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 9-21-2024 State Water Pacific Cod, Golden King Crab, Dungeness Crab, IFQ Halibut and Sablefish 9-30-2024

The Pollock B is about finished only two sectors still have allocation to fish the Shoreside Catcher Vessels and the At Sea Processor Factory Trawlers still have 54,000MT (119 million lbs.) to harvest, some of that Pollock may be left unharvested. Last weeks harvest was only 12,00MT of Pollock. I believe the Unalaska plants have all finished their B season allocations there could be a small amount of harvest next week. The Amendment 80 bottom trawl fisheries are also slowing down they harvested 8,000MT las week and Pacific Cod is also slow with some activity about 2,400MT a week being harvested. The North Pacific Council meets this week in Anchorage I will be in attendance in person, the Council first item on Thursday morning is approving the Bering Sea Crab Fisheries, Overfishing Limit (OFL) and Allowable Biological Catch (ABC) amount after that is approved. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game will set the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) amounts for the Crab stocks on Friday October 4th the season opens on October 15th at noon. We expect a Bristol Bay Red King Crab opening and Bering Tanner Crab fishery with slightly higher allocations than last year. A Snow crab fishery for Opilio Tanner is a long shot but we will see what develops this week.

The Pollock B season harvest for last week 9-21-24 came in at 12,743MT (28.00 million lbs.) for the season the B season Pollock is at 701,102MT (1.54 billion lbs.) 98.5% of the B season harvest has been caught, that leaves 55,998MT (123.4. million lbs.) of Pollock to harvest. The A/B season total harvest is at 1.20MMT (2.66billion lbs.) 92.3% 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 8,875MT (19.56 million lbs.) It looks like we have 1 weeks to go if the fleet will have a cleanup week, will put end of season next week.

The total Pacific Cod harvest for9-21-24 came in at 2,113MT (4.65 million lbs.) for the A season is 110,118MT (242.7 million lbs.) 70.9% of the allocation of 155,833MT has been harvested leaving 45,715MT (100.7 million lbs.) of Pacific Cod to harvest including the CDQ harvest allocation.

Overall Groundfish Harvest 9-21-2024: The Groundfish harvest for the last week, was 24,917MT (54.9 million pounds) decrease of 16,00MT from the previous week harvest due to the Pollock, and bottom fish harvest sectors decreased catch. The overall Groundfish harvest is at 1,607,917MMT (3.54 billion lbs.) leaving 376,548MT (829.09million lbs.) 81% of the harvest is complete from 1,984,465MMT allocation (4.3 billion lbs.).

Bering Sea B Season Pollock 9-21-2024: The Pollock B season harvest for last week came in at 12,743MT (28.00 million lbs.) for the season the B season Pollock is at 701,102MT (1.54 billion lbs.) 98.5% of the B season harvest has been caught, that leaves 55,998MT (123.4. million lbs.) of Pollock to harvest. The A/B season total harvest is at 1.20MMT (2.66billion lbs.) 92.3% 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 8,875MT (19.56 million lbs.) It looks like we have 1 weeks to go if the fleet will have a cleanup week, will put end of season next week.

Inshore CV: the catcher vessels that deliver shoreside harvested 8,875MT (19.5million lbs.) last week, leaving 18,432MT (40.6 million lbs.) to harvest from the A/B season allocation 98% of the B season allocation has been harvested. Total A/B harvest is 547,408MT (1.20 billion lbs.) 97%. A/B Pollock season of 565,840MT has been harvested.

At Sea CP Fleet: the catcher processors harvested 3,868MT (8.5 million lbs.) last week, leaving 35,812MT (78.9 million lbs.) to harvest of the A/B season allocation. The B season allocation is 91% harvested. The total A/B Pollock harvest is 416,860MT (918.7 million lbs.) 92% A/B Pollock season of 452,672MT has been harvested.

Mothership: this sector harvested 0 MT 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 0MT last week. 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 9-21-2024: the harvest last week was 1,452MT for the season 39,717MT (87.5 million lbs.) leaving 10,533MT (23.2million lbs.) to harvest 79% of the allocation has been harvested.

Salmon Bycatch 9-21-24: Chinook bycatch last week was thirty-two fish for a season total of 7,574fish leaving 38,126 fish remaining 17% of the cap has been from the cap of 45,000 fish. Chum bycatch for the Pollock B season is 34,500 fish for the season this much lower than previous years on Chum salmon bycatch which in past 4-5 years ago were in 200,000 to 450,000 fish range.

Pacific Cod: 9-21-2024: The total Pacific Cod harvest for 9-21-24 came in at 2,113MT (4.65 million lbs.) for the A season is 110,118MT (242.7 million lbs.) 70.9% of the allocation of 155,833MT has been harvested leaving 45,715MT (100.7 million lbs.) of Pacific Cod to harvest including the CDQ harvest allocation.

Hook and Line C/Ps: This sector harvested 958MT (2.1 million lbs.) last week for the season 51,688MT (113.8 million lbs.) Leaving the A/B season allocation at 15,712MT (34.6 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 474MT for last week (1.04 million lbs.) for the season 40,170MT (88.5 million lbs.) through September 21, 2024. The Amendment 80 sector, 416MT At Sea 18MT and CV sector 40MT. (leaving 12,850MT (28.3 million lbs.) of A/B season cod to harvest for the season, 77% of the A/B season allocation of 52,602MT has been harvested.

CV Pot/HL < 60'ft: harvested 437MT last week for the season 5,231MT (11.5 million lbs.) leaving 653MT cod allocation to harvest, 89% 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 180MT last week for the season 4,358MT (9.6 million lbs.) leaving 7,262MT (16.8 million lbs.) of A season allocation to harvest 38% of the A/B season allocation of 11,620MT has been harvested.

Pacific Cod CDQ: had a harvest of 65MT (143,260lbs.) last week, for the season 8,794MT (19.38million lbs.) from an A/B season allocation of 16,675MT leaving 7,937MT (17.49million lbs.) 53% 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 9-21-2024. The Amendment 80 bottom trawlers harvest last week 9-21-24 decreased by 300MT to 8,146MT (17.9million lbs.). The total harvest stands 243,228MT (536.million lbs.) of various flatfish and other species. Yellowfin Sole 59,001MT, Rock Sole 25,649MT Alaska Plaice, 8,761MT, Flathead Sole 10,907MT, Arrowtooth Flounder 8,317MT, Kamchatka Flounder 4,781MT other Flatfish 2,890MT other species harvested this season including Perch and Rockfish, 34,377MT Atka Mackerel 61,759MT, Octopus 187MT Skate 21,941MT Greenland Turbot, 742MT and Sablefish Trawl 3,913MT.

State Water Pacific Cod 60' < Pot Boats 9-30-2024: 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 9-30-24: the season opens on March 15th at noon, so far 2,682 landings for landings for 11.86 million lbs. leaving 5.43 million lbs. to harvest; 69% of the allocation has been harvested. The CDQ allocation is set at 1.17 million lbs. We have had 241 landings for 313,704lbs. leaving 860,704 lbs. to harvest, 27% of the harvest of 1.17million lbs. completed. Leading Port of Landings is Homer, AK at 3.04 million lbs. followed by Kodiak, at 1.26 million lbs. Halibut landings have been made in Unalaska but NOAA is keeping the data confidential until three buyers purchase Halibut.

Sablefish IFQ 9-30-24: there have been 1,472 Sablefish landings 29.3 million lbs. leaving 31.4 million lbs. to harvest 48% of the harvest is complete. Ports of Landings, Kodiak 5.48 million lbs. followed by Seward 5.03 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 9-30-24: There are ten vessels fishing. They have made fifty-three landings for 504,864bs. leaving 2.2 million lbs. to harvest from the 2.7 million lbs. allocation 19% of the harvest has been taken. There were two landings that were made last week.

North Alaska Peninsula Dungeness Crab Harvest 9-30-24: We have seen fifty landings from eleven vessels for 905,144lbs average weight per crab is 2.17 lbs. CPUE 8 crab per pot.

Aleutian Island Golden King Crab 9-30-24: 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 three CDQ landing and 14 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 1.2 million lbs. That leaves and estimated 3.6 million lbs. left to harvest from the 4.8-million-pound IFQ and CDQ allocation.

Misc. Items: I attended only one meeting last week which was the Bering Sea Fisheries Research Foundation (BSFRF) monthly Board of Directors (BOD) meeting on Thursday September 26,2024. The Foundation Board after approving the usual house keeping issues approving the minutes and financials the foundation still has about \$1.1 million in reserves, so we are still holding are own financially. The main topic of this meeting was to update the BOD on issues brought up during the NPFMC Crab Plan Team meetings the previous week as well as the one day Crab Symposium that was held in Ballard in

person for the crab industry, and online for people that were not in Seattle well over 100 people attended. Executive Director Goodman went through the information provide at the Crab plan team for the three main stocks the Bristol Bay Red King Crab, Bering Sea Tanner Crab, and the Snow Crab Tanner Fishery. Overall, the summer survey from NOAA was one of the most positive surveys in years and show positive results and improvement for juvenile crab, except for Bristol Bay Red King, females stock size increased and large preferred size crab for all three of the major crab stocks all had increases stock amounts. I shared with the Council two weeks ago a document that showed. The Crab plan team amounts for OFL and ABC they are listed below as follows.

Bristol Bat Red King Crab

Tier: 3b

OFL: 11.07 mill LBS

ABC: 8.86 mill LBS

Buffer Pct: **20%** (no change from last year)

Tanner Crab

OFL: 91.03 mill LBS

ABC: 72.82 mill LBS

Buffer Pct: **20%** (no change from last year)

Snow Crab

Tier: Tier 3c

OFL: 0.05 mill LBS

ABC: 0.04 mill LBS

Buffer Pct: **20%** (no change from last year)

The major problem we have with this is the Snow Crab OFL and ABC they are too low to support bycatch needs in the Western Tanner Crab fishery and in Groundfish fisheries as well, we know that the SSC panel at the October NPFMC will have to adjust these low numbers in Anchorage so we will be able to avoid fishery closures. The Crab Symposium was very well attended and had great speakers from NOAA , ADFG, Alaska Bering Sea Crabbers and the BSFRF that discussed all of the major crab fisheries a lot of the carb harvesters attend and made there case for fishery allocation increase and pain that have been facing for many years of crab closures .

The BOD were update by the Executive Director on the research planning activities for 2025 on mainly Snow crab, and Bairdi Tanner crab with both trawl an crab pot vessels and we hope to also work with the ADFG clam shed which is dragged by a vessel on the bottom with tremendous high definition cameras that take great videos of crab habitat on the seafloor. We also received and update from the Executive Director on the work of the inhouse science committee is working on I understand the are getting a presentation on propped changes on trawl gear to avoid help crab bycatch in trawl fisheries. The BOD took only one formal voting action that was to approve paying Global Trust Certification's technical and financial proposal to conduct the second

surveillance audit after the 2nd Recertification of the Alaska Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands commercial crab fisheries. The BSFRF split this cost with the Golden Aleutian King Crab Association. Global Trusts does an excellent job keeping all crab produced in the BSAI and GOA certified as harvested and processed in a safe manner.

Regards

Frank Kelty

Attachments:

1. Fisheries Update Memo
2. Harvest Data
3. NOAA Reports
4. NPFMC October meeting Agenda