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Date: 2-11-2025

To: City Manager William Homka, Deputy City Manager Marjorie Veeder, Kelly Tompkins, Karen Magdaong, Michelle Price, Mayor Vince Tutikaoff, and Unalaska City Council Members

From: Frank Kelty, Unalaska Fisheries Consultant

Subject: Fishery Update Memo for February 11, 2024, Groundfish Harvest 2-1-25, Aleutian Island Golden King Crab, Tanner Crab, Snow Crab and State Water Pacific Cod 2-11-2025

I spent all last week until noon yesterday in Anchorage, attending the North Pacific Fishery Management Council Special meeting of Chum Salmon Bycatch. This meeting was two issues meeting the C-1 Cook Inlet Salmon OFL, ABC and the TAC was set for the 2025 salmon season. The Council just finished up two hours ago on the C-2 Chum bycatch issues that took five days to finish, we just got a copy of this motion just now. The Council heard from almost 190 testifiers, mostly from Western Alaskan folks wanting reductions and restrictive hard caps on the Bering Sea Pollock fishery to increase returns of Chum salmon to their river systems. I believe the testimony by the fishery dependent communities, seafood industry, and CDQ groups was strong against placing restrictive hard caps on the Pollock Fishery. The Council motion just approved unanimously has rework Alternatives 2-5 for analysis. I have attached the motion which incorporates the changes, the underlined text in all Alternatives is new language, the strike through text is the deleted language. Alternative 4 Incentive Plan Agreements (IPA) within the harvester cooperatives and the new Alternative 5 which is to set up in season corridors with caps for Western Alaska Chum salmon to hopefully get through the corridors in sufficient numbers to the Kuskokwim and Yukon River systems. The motion combines cluster areas 1-2, which are the areas favored by the CV sector vessels that deliver to shoreside plants. If clusters 1-2 are closed by Chum caps being met.

The CV vessels would then have to fish further from Unalaska to the Northwest Bering Sea in Clusters 3-4 which cause quality issues for their Pollock, and increased fuel expenses as well. Many of the smaller CVs may choose not to fish at all and tie up. Until the closed clusters reopen on September 1st which may cause an increase in Chinook salmon bycatch which is another problem later in the year. Final action on C-2 Chum bycatch issue may come in December if the analysis can be completed in time.

Moving on to recap the groundfish harvest last week and crab harvest information through today.

The Pollock A season in the second week is completed, the harvest came in at 49,000MT (107million lbs. The Pacific Cod totals last week for the fixed gear, and trawl fleets had harvest 4,190MT (9.2 million lbs.) including CDQ. The season total so far is 15,573MT (34.5 million lbs.) The Amendment 80 sector last week had a slow week and harvested through February 1,2025 10,799MT (23.8 million lbs.) for season 15,246MT (33.6 million lbs.).

Aleutian Island Golden King Crab, through 2-11-25 we have two cost recovery landings. for ADFG. The poundage amount is 167,000lbs with another 52,000lbs to harvested. Both landings came from the Eastern District. There have also been 63 IFQ landings and 5 CDQ from the Eastern District, and Western Districts. The poundage for this year's landings of IFQ and CDQ, combined with the exact amount, is confidential, the estimated amounts at slightly more than 3.8 million lbs. That leaves an estimated 1.0 million lbs. left to harvest from the Eastern District from the 4.8-million-pound IFQ and CDQ allocation, 80% of the harvest has been completed. There were no Golden King Crab deliveries last week. There is currently one vessel starting fishing operations.

Eastern Bering Sea Tanner Crab as of 2-3-25 we have fifty-two Eastern District Tanner Crab landings in Unalaska, including CDQ 1,423,395 lbs. leaving 346,605bs. still available in the Eastern District 90% of the harvest is completed. In the Western District There has been eighteen landings so far from ten vessels for Western District Tanner Crab for 1,456 million lbs. leaving of 3.54 million lbs. to harvest 25% of the harvest has been completed.

Bering Sea Snow Crab: for 2-11-25 there are twelve vessels registered to fish and on the grounds. This season we have had forty-seven landings made into Unalaska plants for 2.1 million lbs. from the 4.7-million-pound allocation, leaving 2.1 million lbs.to harvest 45% of the harvest is complete.

Pollock A season: Through 2-1-2025; the second week of the season the harvest total was 49,574MT (109.2million lbs.) and an increase of 9,000MT over the previous week harvest, for the season 91,543MT (201.7 million lbs.) The breakdown by sector for last week is as follows.

CV Shoreside 15,575MT (34million lbs.) for the season 37,044MT (81.6 million lbs.) leaving 231,044MT A season Pollock to harvest (509million lbs.)

At Sea 19,349MT (42.6million lbs.) leaving 180,914MT of A season Pollock to harvest (398 million lbs.)

Mothership 3,110MT (685,444lbs) for season 7,620MT (16.7million lbs.) leaving 45,998MT of season A Pollock to harvest (101million lbs.)

CDQ 3,936MT (8.6million lbs.) for season 13,323MT (29.3 million lbs.) leaving 48,352MT of A season Pollock to harvest (106.5million lbs.)

Pollock Incidental Catch: Through 2-1-2025 the harvest was 1,341MT of Pollack came in as an incidental catch or which means Pollock was caught in the Pacific Cod and Flatfish fisheries. The season total on Pollock as incidental catch is up 1,841MT (4.0 million lbs.)

Pacific Cod: the harvest for the ending on February 1, 2025, we had a harvest of 4,190MT (9.2 million lbs.) including CDQ. The season total so far is 15,573MT (34.5 million lbs.) The breakdown by sector for the week ending on February 1st, 2025, for the Hook and Line Catcher Processor was 1,515MT (3.3 million lbs.) for season 5,461MT (12.0 million lbs.) leaving 56,022MT to harvest (123 million lbs.). The Pot Cod 60> over fleet had a harvested 1,344MT (2.8 million lbs.) Through February 1st the total harvest is 4,680MT (10.3 million lbs.) leaving 5,925MT to harvest (13million lbs.) The Pot Cod 60< under fleet was 0MT (0.) leaving 72MT (158,000lbs.) to harvest. The Trawl sector had a harvest for the week ending on February 1st 1,050MT (2.3 million lbs.) by sector At Sea 128MT (282,000) Amendment 80, 622MT (1.37 million lbs.) CV Sector 300MT (661,200lbs) 584MT (1.2 million lbs.) by sector At Sea 102MT (224,000) Amendment 80, 346MT (762,000lbs) CV Sector 136MT (299,744lbs) leaving 46,397MT to harvest (102 million lbs.) CDQ Harvest CDQ Harvest 223MT (491,492lbs.) leaving 13,963MT (30.7 million lbs.) to harvest.

Pacific Cod ADFG State Water 58'< Pot Cod harvest 2-11-2025, 64 landing s for 4.8 million lbs. leaving 39.1 million lbs. to harvest 11% of the allocation of 44 million lbs.

Amendment 80 Bottom Trawlers: Last week we had a harvest through February 1,2025 10,799MT (23.8 million lbs.) for season 15,246MT (33.6 million lbs.) total by species Perch Rockfish, 11MT Kamchatka Sole 6MT Other Flatfish 127MT Mackerel 794MT, Arrowtooth Flounder, 122MT Flathead Sole, 551MT Rock Sole, 3,367MT Yellowfin Sole 8,475MT Alaska Plaice 353MT MT Octopus, 122MT Greenland Turbot 1MT Skate 1,317MT. Trawl Sablefish 0

Groundfish Harvest 2-1-2025: Last week's harvest was 62,506MT (137.7 million lbs.) and an increase of 13,000MT from the previous week's harvest. For the season 120,894MT (266 million lbs.) leaving 1,920MMT (4.2 billion lbs.)

Best Regards

Frank Kelty

Attachments:

1. Fisheries Update Memo 2-11-25.
2. Harvest Data on Crab Species 2-11-25.
3. Groundfish Harvest Date 2-1-2025
4. Council Motion C-1 Cook Inlet Salmon OFL, ABC and TAC for 2025 fishery.
5. Council Motion C-2 Chum Salmon Bycatch