

Frank Kelty  
Fisheries Consultant  
City of Unalaska

**Date:** 3-10-2025

**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 March 10, 2025, Groundfish Harvest 3-1-25, Aleutian Island Golden King Crab, Tanner Crab, Snow Crab and State Water Pacific Cod 3-10-2025

The Pollock A season continues with strong fishing for both Pollock and Pacific Cod, the flat fisheries in the Amendment 80 sector continue to be slow. The crab fisheries are moving along at a steady rate the Snow Crab harvest we have had one hundred - two landings made into Unalaska plants for 4.0 million lbs. including CDQ from the 4.7-million-pound allocation, leaving 714,577 lbs. to harvest 85% of the harvest is completed. The Tanner Crab Total harvest for both East and West Districts is at 3.5 million lbs. leaving 2.76 million lbs. to harvest. Aleutian Island Golden King Crab fishery is at 4.1 million lbs. harvest leaving 700,000lbs to harvest from the 4.8 million lbs. allocation.

The Pollock A season the fifth week is completed, the harvest came at amount of 4,000MT less than the previous weeks harvest. The season by all four sectors came in at 55,928MT (123.2 million lbs.) for the season 315,554MT (695.4 million lbs.) leaving 283,400MT to harvest (624,613 million lbs.) 52.8% of season allocation is harvested from the A season allocation of 598,000MT (1.3 billion lbs.). If the weekly catch continues in 55,000 to 58,000MT weekly rate that would leave about four to five weeks of harvest left in the A season which would be last week of March.

The Pacific Cod totals week ending on 3-1-25 for the fixed gear, CDQ and trawl fleets had harvest 8,851MT (19.5 million lbs.) for the season 40,056MT (88.2 million lbs.) for the season fixed gear, CDQ, and trawl harvests still have 96,149MT to harvest 41% of the A/B season allocation has been harvested leaving (211 million lbs.) from a 2025 A/B season allocation of 141,000MT to harvest (312 million lbs.)

State Water Pacific Cod 58'<pot cod vessels harvest 3-10-25 landings stand at 258 for 22.8 million lbs. leaving 21.1 million lbs. to harvest 52% of the harvest is complete.

The Amendment 80 bottom trawl fisheries for the week ending on 3-1-25 for Sole, Perch, Mackerel, Sole and Flounders. Last week this sector had another slow week.

The harvest through March 1, 2025 was 7,375MT (16.5 million lbs.) for season 37,573MT (82.8 million lbs.).

Aleutian Island Golden King Crab, through 3-10-25 we have two cost recovery landings for ADFG. The poundage amount is 167,000lbs with another 52,000lbs to be harvested. Both landings came from the Eastern District. There have been 73 IFQ landings and 5 CDQ landings from the Eastern District, and Western Districts. The percentage for this year's landings of IFQ and CDQ, combined with the exact amount, is confidential, the estimated amounts at slightly more than 4.24 million lbs. That leaves an estimated 550,000lbs. left to harvest from the Eastern District. The Western District allocation of 1.0 million lbs. has been harvested and that area is closed. The 4.8-million-pound IFQ and CDQ allocation, harvest is at 88% complete. There was one Golden King Crab delivery last week. There is currently one vessel still fishing in the Eastern District.

Eastern Bering Sea Tanner Crab as of 3-10-25 we have fifty-eight Eastern District Tanner Crab landings in Unalaska, including CDQ 1,467,999 lbs. leaving 125,001lbs. still available in the Eastern District, 92% of the harvest is completed. In the Western District there have been sixty-three landings so far including CDQ from twelve vessels for Western District Tanner Crab for 2.6 million lbs. leaving 1.39 million lbs. to harvest 66% of the harvest has been completed. Total harvest for both East and West Districts is 4.5 million lbs. leaving 1.74 million lbs. to harvest 71% of the harvest is complete.

Bering Sea Snow Crab: there are twelve vessels registered to fish and on the grounds. This season we have had one hundred – ten landings made into Unalaska plants for 4.0 million lbs. including CDQ from the 4.7-million-pound allocation, leaving 515,197 lbs. to harvest 88% of the harvest is complete. The split between North and South deliveries is North 1.576 million lbs. South 1.792 million lbs. CDQ 816,882lbs.

Pollock A season 3-1-25: the fifth week is completed, the harvest came in 4,000MT less than the previous week. The harvest by all four sectors came in at 55,928MT (123.2 million lbs.) for the season 315,554MT (695.4 million lbs.) leaving 283,400MT to harvest (624,613 million lbs.) 52.8% of season allocation is harvested from season A allocation of 598,000MT (1.3 billion lbs.). If the weekly catch continues in 55,000 to 58,000MT weekly rate that would leave about four to five weeks of harvest left in the A season which would be last week of March.

CV Shoreside 22,686MT (50.2 million lbs.) for the season 123,472MT (272 million lbs.) leaving 144,616MT A season Pollock to harvest (318 million lbs.) 46% of the season A harvest is complete.

At Sea 19,815MT (43.6 million lbs.) for season 112,392MT (204 million lbs.) leaving 102,078MT of season A Pollock to harvest (224 million lbs.) 52% of the season A harvest is complete.

Mothership 4,415MT (9.73 million lbs.) for season 24,947MT (54.9 million lbs.) leaving 28,671MT of season A Pollock to harvest (63.1million lbs.) 47% of the season A harvest is complete.

CDQ 9,012MT (19.8million lbs.) for season 54,743MT (120.6 million lbs.) leaving 7,780MT of season A Pollock to harvest (17.1 million lbs.) 88% of the season A harvest is complete.

Pollock Incidental Catch: Through 3-1-2025 the harvest was 1,931MT 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 7,780MT (17.1 million lbs.) 17% of the harvest is complete leaving 38,220MT 84.2million lbs.) of incidental catch available.

Salmon Bycatch 3-1-25: Chinook last week was 925 fish, the season total on Chinook bycatch has been high compared to last year is 9,139 fish 20% of the total bycatch of 45,700 fish. Chum salmon bycatch numbers are not available yet.

The Pacific Cod totals week ending on 3-1-25 for the fixed gear, CDQ and trawl fleets had harvest 8,851MT (19.5 million lbs.) for the season 40,056MT (88.2 million lbs.) for the season fixed gear, CDQ, and trawl harvests still have 96,149MT to harvest 41% of the A/B season allocation has been harvested leaving (211 million lbs.) from a 2025 A/B season allocation of 141,000MT to harvest (312 million lbs.)

The breakdown by cod sectors for the week ending on March 1, 2025.

The Hook and Line Catcher Processor was 2,300MT (5.0 million lbs.) for season 12,516MT (27.5 million lbs.) leaving 48,967MT to harvest (117 million lbs.) 20% harvested.

The Pot Cod 60> over fleet had harvested 0MT (0 million lbs.) total harvest is 5,711MT (12.5 million lbs.) leaving 4,894MT to harvest (10.7million lbs.) 54% harvested.

The Pot Cod 60< under fleet was 0MT (0 lbs.) leaving 71MT (158,000lbs.) 98% to harvest.

Pot Cod Catcher Processor: 100MT harvest (220,000lbs) for the season 689MT (1.5million lbs.) leaving 1,205MT (2.6million lbs.) to harvest 36% of the allocation of 1,894MT has been harvested.

The Trawl sector had a harvest of 5,690MT (12.5 million lbs.) by sector At Sea 21MT (46,000lbs.) Amendment 80, 1,421MT (3.1 million lbs.) CV Sector 4,48MT (9.3 million lbs.) for season 19,080MT (42.0 million lbs.) leaving 28,954MT (63.8 million lbs.) to harvest, for the trawl sectors 39% of the harvest is complete from 48,033MT (105.8 million lbs.) trawl allocation.

CDQ Harvest: 761MT (1.6 million lbs.) for season 3,891MT (8.5 million lbs.) leaving 11,544MT (25. million lbs.) to harvest 25% of the harvest is complete.

State Water Pacific Cod 58'<pot cod vessels harvest 3-10-25 landings stand at 258 for 22.8 million lbs. leaving 21.1 million lbs. to harvest 52% of the harvest is complete.

Amendment 80 Bottom Trawlers: Last week we had a harvest through March 1,2025 7,375MT (16.5 million lbs.) for season 37,573MT (82.8 million lbs.) total by species Perch Rockfish, 77MT Kamchatka Sole 32MT Other Flatfish 1,148MT Mackerel 5,035MT, Arrowtooth Flounder, 429MT Flathead Sole, 3,049MT Rock Sole, 10,924MT Yellowfin Sole 12,430MT Alaska Plaice 1,096MT Octopus, 171MT Greenland Turbot 2MT Skate 3,174MT. Trawl Sablefish 6MT

Groundfish Harvest 3-1-2025: Last week's harvest was 74,101MT (163.3 million lbs.) a decrease of 400MT from the previous week's harvest. The season harvest is 406,162MT (895 million lbs.) leaving 1,635MMT (3.6 billion lbs.) to harvest 20% of the season allocation of 2.04MMT (4.4billion lbs.) is complete.

I attended the meetings in the past two weeks: I attended two Bering Sea Fisheries Research Foundation (BSFRF) monthly board meeting last week of February. The focus of the meeting was to get the Board of Directors up to speed on the status of the Crab disaster funding for the Red King Crab and Snow Crab funding from 2021-2022 season is in the \$14 million dollar range and will research project funding for next four years. The first amount of funding is still 4-6 months out and the board has already had to cancel a three boat Snow Crab charter until March of 2026. The board is moving forward with the second Red King Crab Habitat clam dredge project with ADFG using existing funds we have on hand and ADFG funds this fall this project is under a million dollars and will take about 30 days to complete that dredge is towed around by a Bering Crab vessels with a large amount of high definition video cameras.

Other topics of discussion included updates on requirements on policies and pending contacts to meet federal regulations. The individual board members had to submit conflict of interest statements. The executive Director had to have the BSFRF internal control policies including sole source justifications policies. The board of directors received an update on North Pacific Research Board Projects. We are still awaiting if the projects, the BSFRF crab projects that were submitted will be funded. We had a brief discussion at the March Board of Fisheries meeting in Anchorage to be held this week on Tuesday in Anchorage. There are about ten crab proposals on the Bering Sea Crab fisheries that were submitted. I will be attending the BOF meeting via Zoom starting on Tuesday.

On Friday March 7<sup>th</sup> I attended a special BSFRF science planning meeting for about an hour. We received some good news that the Pacific States Fisheries Commission have approved the BSFRF proposals and research plan for the use of the federal disaster funds over a four-to-five-year plan. The Board still must adopt a few items a procurement policy and sole source policy, but this was a big hurdle to finally get

completed. The Board still must finalize the disaster relief funding budget that is almost complete. We also need to finalize the work that we do with our partners ADFG and NOAA and adjustments with integrated work we do with NPRB funded projects. We also must build into the research budget upcoming work in 2026 on Snow Crab survey revisions related to maturity and size metrics work. And finally, we discussed that on the agenda at the March 20<sup>th</sup> Board meeting to approve the research budget and have a discussion on how to assist NOAA if summer crab survey work is jeopardized by DOGE layoffs or lack of survey vessels personal.

Best Regards

Frank Kelty

Attachments:

1. Fisheries Update Memo 3-10-25.
2. Harvest Data on Crab, State Water Cod Species 3-10-25.
3. Groundfish Harvest Date 3-1-2025