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Date: 10-16-2023

To: City Manager Bil Homka, Marjorie Veeder, Patricia Soule, Karen Magdaong, and Michelle Price

From: Frank Kelty, Fisheries Consultant

Subject: Fishery Update Memo for October 16, 2023, Harvest Data and NOAA Reports.

Federal Water Groundfish Harvest 10-7-2023, State Water Fisheries on Sablefish, Cod, Dungeness Crab, Herring, and IFQ Halibut and Sablefish, for 10-16-23.

I apologize for not having the fisheries report last week, but while in Anchorage attending the NPFMC meeting I had medical issues come up that put me out of action last week. We will all be caught up today. I have also included an update on the Council meeting that I attended with other members of the Unalaska delegation last week.

Fishery activity in Unalaska continues to be slow, with the Pollock B season basically completed. The Pollock B season harvest is 99% complete, and last week's harvest declined by 2,000MT from the previous week to 6,333MT due to harvest IFQ allocations almost completed. Trident Seafoods is the only shore plant still processing Pollock, the CV sector that shore plant receive Pollock from, still has 3,700MT to harvest. The Mothership sector still has 12,400MT to harvest. I believe they will leave Pollock unharvested when the fishery closes by regulation on November 1st, 2023. The total groundfish harvest last week was 21,312MT (46 million lbs.) a 3,000MT decline from the previous week's harvest. The Pollock fishery B season totals for sixteen full weeks of harvest totals, is 694,031(1.52 billion lbs.) of 99% of the B season harvest is complete leaving 17,712MT to harvest (39.0 million lbs.). The catcher vessel fleet lead the way last week with a Pollock harvest of 4,502MT (9.9 million lbs.) we expect the season to be completed on November 1, 2023.

We continue to see Halibut and Sablefish landings; fishing continues to be slow. We have had landings of Halibut and Sablefish to Unalaska the landings are still held confidential until one more buyer purchase Halibut and Sablefish. Halibut Statewide landings are at 13.7 million pounds 77% harvested from 18.6 million lbs. allocation leaving 4.0 million lbs. to harvest. Sablefish is at 34.2 million lbs. harvested, 55% harvested from the 62 million lbs. leaving 27.7 million lbs. to harvest. Crew changes and offloads by the Pacific Cod freezer longline fleet and the Amendment 80 Bottom trawl catcher processors as well will continue during the fall.

The Bristol Bay Red King Crab and Bering Sea Tanner Crab season opened at noon of Sunday October 15, 2023; 20 vessels are registered to fish. The Red King Crab allocation 2.1 million pounds and the Tanner Crab is at 2.08 million pounds.

The North Peninsula Dungeness crab fishery opened on May 1st caught is awfully slow so far 1.5 million lbs. have been harvested from seventy landings. The fishery closes on October 18th, 2023. The Aleutian Island Golden King Crab fisheries re-opened on Tuesday August 1st, 2023, the allocation is 5.6 million lbs. We had 38 IFQ Golden King Crab deliveries into Unalaska in the past month. The estimated poundage is 2.37 million lbs. from 32 IFQ landing from the Eastern/Western Districts. We have also had 8 CDQ landing from the Eastern District for 200,000lbs.

Overall Groundfish Harvest 10-7-2023: The harvest for the last week was 21,512MT (47.4 million pounds) 4,000MT decrease over the previous week's harvest due decrease in Pollock and flatfish harvest. The season totals are 1,702,771MMT harvested (3.75 billion pounds) leaving 288,231MT (635 million lbs.) to harvest; 86% of the overall annual harvest of 1,986,285MMT (4.37 billion pounds) has been completed.

Pollock: 10-7-2023: Last week we had harvest of 6,331MT (13.9 million lbs.) The total B season harvest is 694,031MT (1.52 billion lbs.) for all four harvesting sectors 99.8% of the harvest is completed leaving 17,743MT to harvest. (39.1 million lbs.). The seasonal harvest is 1.246MMT (2.74 billion pounds) leaving 17,712MT (39 million pounds) to harvested, 96% of the A/B season allocation has been harvested. The At Sea Catcher Processor, and CDQ sector allocations are done. The Catcher Vessel sector that delivers to the shore side has 3,781MT Trident still has the Akutan plant shore-plant still operating the other shore plant have finished their allocations. The Mothership sector still has 12,458MT still to harvest; they may leave part of that allocation unharvested. The Pollock trawl B season closes by regulation on November 1,2023

Inshore CV: The harvested last week was 4,502MT (9.9 million lbs.) from the B season allocation which puts the B season allocation at 320,040MT harvested (705 million lbs.) 103% of the B season allocation harvested. The seasonal harvest is 562,519MT (1.23 billion lbs.) 99% harvested. The B season allocation is 311,465MT leaving 3,781MT (8.3 million lbs.) of B season to harvest, with 103% of the B allocation having been harvested the additional amount is carry over poundage from the Pollock A season. The Pollock trawl B season closes by regulation on November 1,2023

At Sea Processors: The At Sea fleet harvested 0MT last week, the B season total is at 250,974MT (553 million lbs.) 101% of the B season harvest is complete. The seasonal harvest is 451,680MT (995 million lbs.) 100% of the harvest is complete. The B season allocation is 249,172MT (549 million lbs.) leaving 1,360MT (2.9 million pounds) of the B Season allocation to harvest, 100% of the B season harvest is completed.

Mothership Sector: The harvested last week was 1,829MT (4.0 million lbs.) the B season total is 50,521MT (111 million lbs.) 81% has been harvested. The seasonal harvest is at 100,802MT (222 million pounds) 89% of the harvest. The B season harvest allocation is 62,293MT leaving 12,458MT (27.4 million lbs.) to harvest 89% of the B/A

season allocations has been harvested. The Pollock trawl B season closes by regulation on November 1,2023

CDQ Sector: The harvested last week was 0MT. The B season harvest is at 72,842MT (160 million lbs.) seasonal harvest is 131,787MT (290 million pounds) 100% of the harvest is completed. The B season allocation is 70,026MT (154 million lbs.) leaving 113MT (249,052lbs) to harvested 100% of the B season Pollock allocation has been harvested. The Pollock trawl B season closes by regulation on November 1,2023

Pollock Incidental Catch 10-7-23: Last week's harvest was 1,753MT for the season 42,922MT leaving 7,260MT to harvest 87% the annual allocation has been harvested.

Salmon bycatch 10-7-23: The bycatch total is 11,733 Chinook salmon fish taken as bycatch for the season. Chinook bycatch allocation is at 26% leaving 33,967 fish of the cap amount of 45,700 fish. The Chum salmon bycatch totals no new totals from last week still at 108,002 fish compared to 240,000 fish at the end of the 2022 Pollock season.

Pacific Cod: 10-7-2023: the fishery pot gear fixed gear fisheries are wrapped up. The trawl harvest and freezer longline CPs have also slowed down. Last week's harvest was only 2,666MT (5.8 million pounds) including CDQ harvest. The A/B season harvest with CDQ is at 119,893MT (264.2 million pounds) leaving 15,974MT to harvest (35.2 million pounds). Including CDQ 88% of the Pacific Cod seasonal allocation of 135,867MT has been harvested.

Hook and Line C/Ps: This sector harvested 1,153MT (1.3 million lbs.) last week for the B season harvest 26,679MT (58 million lbs.) leaving the B season allocation at 2,071MT to harvest, 93% of the B season allocation has been harvested by this sector. The total A/B season catch is 56,518MT (124 million lbs.) 96% of the seasonal harvest has been taken, leaving 2,154MT (4.7 million lbs.) to harvest.

Pacific Cod Trawl: This fishery will be opened on January 20,2023, with the A season allocation of 50,722MT. (111.9 million pounds) We had a harvest last week through October 7, 2023, last week 561MT mostly as bycatch. The Amendment 80 sector, 447MT At Sea 39MT and CV sector 75MT A/B season harvest stands at 39,815MT (87.7 million pounds) leaving 5,236MT (11.5 million pounds) of A/B season trawl cod to harvest 78% of the A/B season allocation has been harvested.

CV Pot/HL < 60'ft: harvested 121MT last week for the season 4,728MT leaving 312MT cod allocation to harvest, 94% of the seasonal allocation was harvested.

C/P Pot CPs 126MT was harvested last week of A/B season Cod, for the season 1,450MT. The A season remaining allocation is 357MT 80% of the A season allocation of 1,807MT have been harvested.

Pot Cod 60’>: harvested 635MT last week for the season 9,256MT leaving 864MT of B season allocation to harvest 91% of the A/B season allocation has been harvested.

Pacific Cod CDQ: had a harvest of 50MT last week for the season 7,788MT from an allocation of 14,470MT leaving 6,682MT 54% of the 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 10-7-2023: Amendment 80 sector fishing is slow with increased catch of Sole species as it traditionally is during at the end of the B season and less Perch and Mackerel harvest. The total harvest stands 286,543MT (631 million lbs.) of various species including the CDQ harvest. The seasonal harvest totals by species are as follows, Yellowfin Sole 92,054MT, Rock Sole 25,602MT Alaska Plaice, 13,506MT, Flathead Sole 8,229MT, Arrowtooth Flounder 6,438MT, Kamchatka Flounder 6,840MT other Flatfish 2,919MT other species harvested this season including Perch and Rockfish,43,881MT Atka Mackerel 58,817MT, Octopus 157MT Skate 22,820MT Greenland Turbot, 1,265MT and Sablefish Trawl 4,015MT

Halibut IFQ 10-16-2023: The Fishery opened on March 10th landings reported as of this morning, 3,141 landings for 13.78 million pounds. and leaving 4.02 million lbs. to harvest 77% of the fishery is complete. Fishing has been slow with 700,000lbs harvested for the past two weeks. The IFQ allocation is 17.8 million pounds. The CDQ allocation for the 6 CDQ groups is at 116 landings for 328,771lbs. leaving 855,229lbs. of Halibut to harvest 28% of the harvest has been taken. Landings of Halibut have been made in Unalaska, but the totals are still confidential. The leading port for Halibut landings is Homer with 2.8 million lbs. and Kodiak, 1.57 million lbs. Halibut ex-vessel prices for Halibut are in the \$5.50 to \$6.50 range depending on size.

Sablefish IFQ 10-16-2023: The Fishery opened on March 10th landings reported as of this morning show 1,806 landings for 34.2 million lbs. leaving 27.7 million pounds to harvest 55% of the allocation have been harvested, fishing has really slowed down last week's harvest was 2.0 million lbs. For the last two weeks. The Sablefish allocation for Alaska is 62.04 million pounds. The leading Port for Sablefish landings is Seward at 5.95 million lbs. and Kodiak at 3.9 million lbs. Landings of Sablefish have been made in Unalaska, but the totals are still confidential. Sablefish prices range depending on size \$0.50-\$7.00 for large fish, we understand the fleet is harvesting many 1-2- and 2-3-pound fish which is driving down ex-vessel values.

ADFG Aleutian Island State Water Sablefish, Aleutian Island State Water Pacific Cod, Dutch Harbor Sub District Pacific Cod Pot Fishery 10-16-23: as of this morning the Sablefish harvest is at 154 landing landings for 1.962million lbs. harvested, leaving -55,068lbs. Over the allocation to harvest, 103% from the allocation 1.907 million pounds has been harvested four landings last week. The fishery will close on October 1st, 2023. There are twenty-seven vessels registered for this fishery. The Pacific Cod Aleutians Islands State water fishery is at 140 landings for 9.9 million lbs.

from and allocation 11.8 million lbs. leaving 1.9 million lbs. to harvest 84% of the harvest is complete. There were no landings last week. The Dutch Harbor State Water Pacific Cod fishery may reopen after the September 1st 60' and under pot cod federal water fishery closes. There is 728,145lbs 2% remaining which is 98% of the state water fishery harvest amount of 38.3 million lbs. We are waiting to see if ADFG will open after the federal water fishery is closed.

Aleutian Islands Golden King Crab 10-16-23: The fishery opens on Tuesday August 1, 2023, at noon. There were four vessels registered to fish. The Eastern District allocation including CDQ is 3.7 million lbs. the Western District allocation including the City of Adak allocation is 1.8 million lbs. for a total allocation of 5.6 million lbs. We had a total of 38 IFQ landings for the season, 24 landings from the Eastern District and 14 IFQ landings from the Western District. The total poundage for the Eastern District is 24 IFQ landings with an estimated poundage of close to 1.7 million lbs. leaving and estimated 1.6 million lbs. to harvest. The Western District IFQ landings stand at 670,651 leaving 1.1 million pounds to harvest. There have also been 8 CDQ landings from the Eastern district for 199,950lbs leaving 172,050lbs to harvest.

Bristol Bay Red King Crab and Tanner Crab: The fishery opened on Sunday at noon October 15, 2023. I visited with ADFG this morning, and they have 20 vessels registered and on the grounds with the possibly of 5 more vessels coming. The Bristol Bay Red King allocation is IFQ 1.9 million lbs. and CDQ 215,000 for a total of 2.15 million lbs. The Tanner Crab IFQ allocation is 1.87 million pounds for both the East and Western Districts. The CDQ totals are 208,000lbs lbs. for both the East and West Districts for a total allocation of 2.08 million lbs. I would expect the first landings in Unalaska in a week or so. The price rumors for Red King are possibly between \$7 to \$8 dollars for opening prices on Tanner Crab no information yet. As you are aware the Bering Sea Snow Crab fishery is closed for the second year in a row.

Dungeness Crab 10-16-23: since this fishery started in May, fishing has been awfully slow, there have been seventy landings of 1.51 million lbs. from eleven vessels. Last week's harvest was 150,000lbs. from five landings, most of crab landings have been landed and processed in Unalaska. ADFG announced the closure of the fishery on October 18, 2023

Misc. Items: I will cover some of the highlights from last weeks NPFMC meeting in Anchorage that are important to Unalaska. I have already emailed out the Council Motions they adopted last week and the Council Meeting Newsletter as well that gave a great overview of the issues. The Council spent all day Thursday on the B reports. I provide some of the material from ADF&G, NMFS and USCG. The Council on Friday started with the issues on the agenda.

C-1 Crab specifications approval for the BBRKC Overfishing Limit (OFL) 4.42 Allowable Biological Catch (ABC) 3.54MT Total Allowable Catch (TAC) set by ADF&G 2.1million lbs. Tanner Crab OFL 36.20 MT ABC 28.96 TAC set by the ADF&G is

2.01million lbs. Both of the above fisheries will open on October 15th at noon. The Snow Crab Fishery is closed for the second year in a row.

C-2 the Council approved the Observer Deployment Plan for partial coverage plan for the 2024 fishing season.

C-3 BSAI Groundfish Specifications for the 2024 fishing season the Council adopted the preliminary number the final specifications will be adopted at the December meeting and the Groundfish plan team has one more meeting in November to firm up their recommendations The preliminary number for. Pollock are the same as in 2023 1.300MMT 2.86 billion pounds. Pacific Cod down by 7,000MT from 2023 to 123,000MT 271 million lbs. The other species such as Mackerel, Perch, Sole, and Rockfish are all in good shape at status quo levels or slight increases.

C-4 Chum Salmon Bycatch: The Council moved forward all 4 alternatives forward for initial review and analysis. This was this meeting hot button issue, with many western Alaska residents in attendance to testify about the need for restriction on Chum salmon bycatch in the Bering Sea Pollock fishery and in the Area M salmon fishery. They demanded action be taken by the Council as they do get to fish commercially or subsistence fish for years and the lack of salmon is affecting the residents of western Alaska greatly and they want action taken these issues is received a lot of press across the country. The AP panel heard from over 25 testifiers and the Council had over 50 people testify. Alt 2 set a PSC bycatch limit based on historical bycatch numbers 200,000-550,000 fish. They will analysis various scenarios for the Yukon Kuskokwim and Norton Sound systems on either 3- or 5-year averages. Alternative 3 sets a hard cap associated with bycatch of Western Alaska salmon annual limits in the range of 40,000 to 53,000 fish based on a three-year average 2020-2023.They will also look at each sector percentage of the PSC as an annual limit.

Alternative 4 is an additional regulatory requirement for Industry to develop and other Incentive Plan Agreements (IPA) this was done by industry on the Chinook bycatch issue, and it has worked well through Amendment 91 that was passed by Council. This IPA would a retention plan signed all harvester cooperatives to prioritize avoidance of Chum salmon and that they would develop a Chum salmon catch rate and two work on a genetics composition program that would evaluate Western Alaska Chum fish to other non-Western Alaska Chum salmon. Secondary the IPA agreement would utilize refined genetics to try and prioritize avoidance areas and times of highest proportion of Western Alaska and Upper Yukon Chum salmon stocks. The Council also provided a laundry list of potential measures that could be developed into the IPA program.

The Unalaska dilation at the meeting testified at the AP reported on the importance of the Pollock Fishery to Unalaska and not just of revenue to the city. But to all sectors of the community from the longshore men to the clinic staff, and the schoolteacher. We shared our concern on a too conservative hard cap, would devastate Unalaska and other Pollock dependent communities in the region. We stated are support for Alternative 4 that IPA developed in the past by industry on Chinook bycatch issue have worked well and we support the development of the IPA. We also stated that 80% of the

bycatch of Chum is not related to the Western Alaska river systems, and it is a proven fact that climatic change and water temperatures are a major cause of the Chum stock collapse. At the Council meeting on Sunday afternoon myself and Vice Mayor Robinson carried the same message to the Council before they acted. Unalaska testimony received a fair amount of support from the seafood industry and other communities. The Council also sent out a press release on this action and the action taken at this meeting. These issues will be back before the Council in February or April 2024 for initial review.

C-5 Crab Facility Use Caps: The Council will support Alternative 2 and 3 as their preferred alternative which Unalaska has supported in the past. This will help industry operate effectively in period of low TAC and will assist IPQ holders that are not connected to processing plant to be able to get competitive custom processing agreements. This motion would only affect the facility caps on Golden King Crab, Eastern Bering Sea Snow Crab, and Bristol Bay Red King Crab.

D-1 Local Knowledge/Traditional Subsistence Protocol and on Ramps.: The supports and commends the work on (LKTCS) and approved the two-page 10 protocols for improving and including LKTCS into the Council decision making process.

D-2 BSAI Crab Rationalization Program Review Workplan: The Council approved that workplan and wants the SSC recommendations included with the plan review.

D-3 IFQ program Review and Workplan: The Council approved that workplan and wants the SSC and IFQ committee recommendations included with the plan review.

The Council adjourned on Tuesday October 10th, 2023.

Regards

Frank Kelty

Attachments:

- 1.Fishery Update Memo
- 2.Groundfish Harvest Data
- 3.NOAA Reports
- 4.NPFMC Newsletter for the October Meeting