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**Date:** 1-25-2021

**To:** Erin Reinders, City Manager, JR Pierson, Asst. Manager, Mayor Tutikoff, & Unalaska City Council Members

**From:** Frank Kelty, Fisheries Consultant

**Subject:** Harvest Updates on Federal Water Groundfish Harvests and State Water Crab.

**Federal Water Groundfish Harvest catch as of 1-16-21, State Water Crab, 1-25-21.**

**Fishing Season:** The 2021 Groundfish A season opened on January 1<sup>st</sup> with the fixed gear sector fishing Pacific Cod. Last week harvest ending on January 16<sup>th</sup> only 3,690MT for day of fishing almost all the harvested was from fixed gear Pacific Cod. The Pollock A season will open on January 20<sup>th</sup> the Pollock allocation for FY 21 fishing season is 1,375,000MMT a 3% reduction for FY 21 allocation of 1,425,000MMT. The Pacific Cod for Eastern Bering Sea 111,000MT a 23% reduction from FY 20 allocation 141,000MT. As you are aware the past 5 days the Pollock and Cod trawl fleets are in stand down mode from Covid-19 issues, and for potential bycatch issues on the fishing grounds. I received some information today that the Cod CV trawlers will be in stand down mode until 2-15-21 in hopes of avoiding bycatch and Covid-19 issues. Last year CV Cod trawlers they harvested their A season allocation in 12 days so this standdown should not have effect on their season their A season allocation is 18,000MT. Three of the processing plants await Covid-19 issues to abate at their facilities hopefully by the end of this week.

**Overall Groundfish Harvest:** The A season catch as of 1-16-2021 was 3,690MT (824,346lbs) with most of the harvest 3,307MT of Pacific cod. The season totals are 8,431MT (18 million pounds) harvested leaving 1,925,066MMT (4.3 billion pounds) 0% of the overall annual harvest of 1.93MMT (4.31 billion pounds) annual harvest.

**Pollock:** the Pollock A season opens on January 20<sup>th</sup> with and allocation of 596,000MT (1.3billion pounds) this 40% of the Pollock seasonal allocation of 1,375MMT (3.07Billion pounds). The A season breakdown by sector is as follows CV shoreside 267,000MT At Sea CPs 213,840MT Mothership 53,460MT, CDQ 61,875MT.

Pollock Incidental Catch: last week harvest was 49MT for the season 98MT leaving 49,402MT to harvest 0% over the annual allocation has been harvested.

Salmon bycatch: there was no salmon bycatch last week, the 2021 Chinook bycatch allocation is 55,000fish

**Pacific Cod:** federal water fishery landings of Pacific Cod last week was only two days of fishing. The harvest last week ending on January 16, 2021 was 3,307MT including the CDQ harvest. came from the fixed gear fleet in the Bering Sea. The seasonal harvest totals for the A/B season are 7,788MT from all harvesting sectors ((17.3million pounds). The remaining Pacific Cod allocation is 110,188MT including CDQ (in pounds 246million pounds) to harvest. The breakdown by harvesting sectors are listed below.

CV Pot/HL < 60'ft: harvested 698MT last week for the season 1,840MT leaving 1,259MT over their allocation of 3,122MT. 60% of the allocation has been harvested. This sector may receive a rollover before end of the year.

C/P Pot CPs harvested 390MT last week of B season Cod for the season 795MT.94% of this sector A sector allocation has been harvested leaving 55MT of A season allocation to harvest this fishery is now closed, we will have the final numbers next week.

CV Pot 60'>: harvested 989MT last week for the season 3,203MT. leaving 1,558MT of A season allocation to harvest 67% of the B season allocation has been harvested. This sector closed on January 21<sup>st</sup> we will have the final A season numbers next week.

Hook and Line C/Ps: harvested 1,229MT last week for the season 1,950MT from the A/B season allocation of 54,118MT 4% of the seasonal allocation has been harvested. The A season harvest is at 27,600MT leaving 25,650MT to harvest 7% of the A season allocation has been harvested.

Pacific Cod CDQ: had a harvest of 0MT last week for the season 0MT from an allocation of 11,918MT leaving 11,918MT 0% of the CDQ harvest has been taken.

Pacific Cod Trawl: this fishery will open on January 20<sup>th</sup>. With and A season allocation of 31,443MT the breakdown between sector is catcher vessels 18,281MT Amendment 80 11,234MT AFA At Sea fleet 1,928MT. I learned this morning that most CV cod trawlers will be standing down until 2-15-21 last year they harvested their A season allocation in 12 days of fishing, so this is not a big inconvenience for this sector.

Pacific Cod Jig: 0MT harvested last week, for the season 0MT harvested from the jig allocation of 665MT leaving 665MT 0% of the allocation has been harvested. NOAA reallocated 900MT of jig cod to 60'< pot cod vessels.

**Amendment 80 Fisheries:** will opened on January 20<sup>th</sup>. the Amendment 80 sector for the week ending on January 16, 2021 the total harvest stands 361MT of various species including the CDQ harvest. The harvest last week was 332MT the seasonal totals by

species are as follows, Yellowfin Sole 11MT, Rock Sole, 0MT Alaska Plaice, 0MT, Flathead Sole 9MT, Arrowtooth Flounder 1MT, Kamchatka Flounder 0MT other Flatfish 2MT other species harvested this season including Perch, 0MT Atka Mackerel 0MT Octopus, 13MT Skate 296MT Greenland Turbot, 0MT and Sablefish Trawl 0MT

### **State Water Fisheries 1-25-2021**

**Bristol Bay Red King Crab** opened at noon Thursday October 15<sup>th</sup> the allocation was set at 2.64 million pounds including CDQ poundage. As of this morning there were 3 small clean up landings made. The seasonal landings totaled 151 for a harvest 2.64 million pounds including CDQ poundage, leaving 1,126lbs. including the remaining CDQ poundage to harvest 100% of the harvest is complete. No vessels are actively fishing currently but the remains fishery open. The catch per unit (pot) effort (CPUE) pot is not bad based observer reports CPUE of 20-22 crab per pot which is surprisingly good. The live weight average is 6.0 pounds which is surprising new shell crab ADFG had thought there was little recruitment coming into the fishery I expected 7.0-pound average old shell crab to be delivered. This could be good news hope we have a survey next year. Opening price for Red King is \$9.00 per pound putting ex-vessel value at \$23.4 million but we expect that the ex-vessel price will go higher to the fleet when profit sharing agreements on sale prices come in. This season is still open until late January.

**Bering Sea Tanner Crab** opened on Thursday October 15<sup>th</sup> for the Western District only the allocation is 2.3 million pounds including CDQ allocation of 10%. There have been 38 landings made, for 625,000lbs. leaving 1.98 million pounds including CDQ harvest 27% harvest is completed. ADFG reports fishing has been slow with a CPUE of 16 crab per pot with seven vessels are currently fishing. There were no landings was made last week. The fleet is just getting ready to start fishing operations.

**Opilio Tanner Crab (Snow Crab)**, opens on Thursday October 15<sup>th</sup> for 45 million pounds, including the 10% for CDQ. Traditionally this fishery does not have much effort until early January due meat infill on the crab. The is just getting to the fishing grounds. There have been 26 so far for 3.6 million pounds 9% of the harvest is complete leaving 41.4 million pounds to harvest including the CDQ portion.

**Aleutian Island Golden King Crab Fishery:** this fishery opened on Saturday August 1<sup>st</sup> the allocation is set at 6.6 million pounds. the allocation by district is as follows the Eastern district was 3.65 million pounds and Western district at 2.96 million pounds. There have been 48 landings from 2 vessels in the Eastern District; the catch poundage the harvest stands at 3.49 million pounds there were n1 landing made last week. Leaving 154,000lbs. to harvest 97% of the allocation has been harvested the projected closure for the Eastern District could be in late December. The Western District the catch information is as follows 23 landings from 3 vessels for 1.62 million pounds 61% of the Western allocation has been taken, leaving 1.25 million pounds to harvest There were 3 landings made last week from the Western District.

Regards

Frank V Kelty

Attachments:

1. NOAA Notice 21-06 Closing 60'> Pot Cod Section as of 1-21-21

**Up Coming Meetings:**

**Jan 1-25-29-21** International Pacific Halibut Commission annual meeting, Victoria, British Columbia. The commission is expected to set catch limits for 2021.

**Jan. 26- 28-21** Alaska Marine Science Symposium virtual event, Jan. 26-28.

**Feb. 1-9-21** North Pacific Fishery Management Council meeting Portland, Oregon.

**March 5-10-21** Alaska Board of Fisheries meeting, March 5-10, Anchorage. The board will consider shellfish proposals around much of the state.