

Frank Kelty  
43915 Via Granada  
Palm Desert, CA 92211  
fvkelty@gmail.com

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To: Erin Reinders, Mayor Tutikoff, JR Pearson,

From: Frank Kelty, Fisheries Consultant

Re: Fishery Activities ,2021

I will provide an overview on the three main fisheries that are open at this time and their status Bering Sea Trawl Pollock, Bering Sea Snow Crab (Opilio Tanner) and Pacific Cod. Additionally, information on fishery meetings I have been attending.

### **Pollock Trawl Fishery,**

Currently, it appears that the Pollock fleet has gotten some relief as both UniSea and Alyeska resumed production this week. That leaves Trident awaiting to come back online. Fishing within the Catcher Vessel (CV) fleet manager yesterday he confirmed the plants not impacted that their vessels are reporting fishing is good with large fish which is good for fillet production and good quality Pollock roe. The NOAA reports as of 1-30-21 all sectors have harvested 34,478MT (75.9 million pounds) harvested so far 5% of the A season allocation. Much of that harvest is from At Sea Fleet at 26,800MT shoreside CV 7,500MT. When you compare these number with the 2020 season during the same time frame 93,177MT were harvested for (207 million pounds) so you can see that impacts the plant closures have had on the Pollock fishery start. At this time, we still have plenty of time to harvest the A Season allocation of 500,000MT which is 40% of the seasonal allocation of 1.375 Million Metric Tons, with 158,000MT 351million pounds which is the allocation to be delivered to the 4 Pollock cooperatives that are tied to the Unalaska shore plants the A season lasts until noon on June 10, 2021. I have not heard when Trident Akutan plant may be back online.

**Pacific Cod Pot Cod and Trawl**, this fishery is totally different from the Pollock fishery the Pacific Cod a pot and trawl sectors are both un-rationalization which means they are in a race to harvest the allocation in their pot and trawl sectors. The trawl fishery just opened on the January 20<sup>th</sup> and all the trawler catcher vessels have been standing down until February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021 we did see 73MT delivered by the CV sector I would guess most of that may be from Independent trawlers from Kodiak. The fleet manager stated that they are looking to form a volunteer cooperative to be in place when they go out to fish on February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021. The trawl A season allocation for catcher vessels is 18,500MT the only amount harvested so far is 563MT, mostly by the Amendment 80 sector vessels 294MT probably bycatch in their flat fish operations.

**Pot Cod fishery the 60'> over**, pot cod fishery closed on Thursday January 21<sup>st</sup> with most of 4,390MT harvested. Most all that fish has delivered as of this weekend it is my understanding This sector will reopen on September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021.

**The 60'< pot fishery**, closed on noon on Tuesday the 26th they have harvested 3,226MT. I am sure Westward and Northern Victor are received some landings. I believe the tenders taking fish into King Cove will get much of the fish from 60'< Pot cod vessels. The 60'< pot boats will start fishing again on February 2<sup>nd</sup> for 27.5 million pounds in the state water fishery. There could be delays for these vessels with many of the plants now busy with Pollock and Crab processing, possibly more tenders could be on the grounds as well, we will see what happens next week.

**The Pacific Cod Freezer Longline Catcher Processors**, everything is normal with this fleet since January 1<sup>st</sup> opening, they have harvested 5,600MT last week they had there best week with a harvest of 2,015MT.

**Snow Crab Opilio Tanner**, this fishery is underway with an allocation of 45 million pounds as of Friday morning 7.2 million has been landed by the fleet, 18% of the total allocation has been harvested. The break down by region is North 4.4 million pounds harvested 10.6 million still to harvest 29% of the allocation taken. South region 2.2 million pounds harvested with 14.9 million to harvest 12% of the allocation has been taken. There is an additional CDQ harvest of 4.0 million pounds still to harvest.

I believe with Unisea and Alyeska back online things may be back too normal soon except for the Trident vessels. The Crab Rationalization Coordinating Committee has been meeting on this situation may come up with an agreement that would allow for crab to move from one region to another at this point it appears that Trident Akutan vessels that may have a problem that may have to be addressed.

**Biardi Tanner Crab**, this fishery has not had a major impact since most of the landings of 627,000 lbs. 30% of the harvest has been landed mostly as bycatch in the Snow crab fishery. This fishery still has 1.5 million pounds to harvest.

**Golden King Crab Fishery**, there are three vessels still fishing 1 in the eastern district and 2 in the western district, with UniSea, Alyeska as markets again there should not be any issues for this fleet. There is 1.1 million pounds of Golden King Crab still to harvest.

**Meetings**, I attended the North Pacific Council meeting for three days this week most of my time was spent at the AP I will mention some of the actions that they took actions on by motions. The full Council started today

**C-1 Bering Sea Aleutian Islands Cod (BSAI) Pot Cod Catcher Processors LLP License Endorsements**, the AP recommended to take no action which was approved 19-1 the harvesters involved were all over the place the bottom line is even with the late licenses taken out this fishery is very small just under 800MT so even if some of

the licenses were taken out of the fishery you would still have an overcapitalized fishery that no longer gets any Cod rollovers from other sectors.

**C-2 Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology**, this was a house keeping issues that the AP stated there is a need to update the FMP for Scallop, Salmon, and BSAI crab stock, for consistency with the national guidelines as outlined in the MSA. This motion passed 20-0

**C-3 Small Sablefish**, the AP recommended the Council initiate another review draft of the Sablefish Release Allowance paper with the addition of the 2 options list in the motion and the SSC recommendation the main motion passed 14-5 and was very controversial at the AP. This exceptionally long motion is attached with the fixed gear in support and trawl representatives objecting. This program would allow for the careful release of small Sablefish it was pointed that that on the Pacific Coast fisheries that there is a high successful rate of survival. The sablefish stakeholders want these small year fish to survive for harvest later when they have reached marketable size. The AP support a review of this action in 3-5 years.

**C-4 Crab PSC Limits**, they AP supported, Alt 2 that states reduces PSC limits for BSAI trawl CDQ and non-CDQ groundfish fishing for the upcoming fishing year when a corresponding directed crab fishery is closed. The main Motion passed 14-6

In Zone 1. Bristol Bay Red King Crab 32,000 animals Opilio Tanner 4.3 million animals, and Biardi Tanner 0.5% of total abundance minus 20,000 animals.

In Zone 2. Biardi Tanner lower 1.2% of total abundance minus 30,000 animals or 2.0 million animals.

Regards

Frank Kelty

#### Attachments

1. C-1 AP Motion BSAI Pacific Cod Pot Cod Catcher Processors LLP Licenses
2. C-2 AP Motion Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology
3. C-3 AP Motion Small Sablefish Release
4. C- 4 AP Motion Crab PSC Bycatch Reduction
5. Fishery Articles