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Date: February 13, 2023

To: Chris Hladick, Bill Homka, Marjorie Veeder, Michelle Price:

From: Frank Kelty, Fisheries Consultant

Re: Fishery Activities Memo on North Pacific Fishery Management Council Meeting.

I attended the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) meeting in Seattle last week. I testified before the Council on behalf of Mayor Tutiakoff on two issues Unalaska has supported in the past. They were the C-1 Snow Crab Rebuilding Plan and D-1 Eastern Aleutian Golden King Crab Facility Use Cap the Mayor's letters are attached with this memo. With this memo I will most important issues covered by the NPFMC at this meeting Motion adopted Unanimously g l and the motions they adopted.

C-1 Eastern Bering Sea snow crab rebuilding plan: this motion was up for final action the Council adopted Alternative 2 and Option 2. Alternative 2 would adopt a rebuilding plan and set a target of 6 years in the December Council motion it was 10 years. The Council also stated that the fishery would be considered rebuild once it reaches B_{MSY} . Option 2 would allow for a allow for a directed fishery during the rebuilding process based on the State of Alaska harvest strategy. There was no opposition in public testimony, the Council adopted motion unanimously.

C-2 Norton Sound Red King Crab: The Council set the OFL and ABC amount for Norton Sound Red King Crab at OFL 683,000lbs and ABC at 483,000lbs the State of Alaska will set the TAC. Adopted unanimously by the Council.

C-3 Area 4 Vessel Use Caps: The Council set Alternative 2 as the preferred alternative at initial review. Alternative 2 would remove vessels cap limitations on Halibut harvested in areas 4A, B, C, and D for a five-year period on until 2027. If the Council takes subsequent actions to modify cap limits in area 4 such action will supersede if implemented before 2027. Final action will be taken in June. Adopted by the Council 7-4

C-4 EFH Five Year Review: The Council initiates an analysis to incorporate the advancements in the five-year review. The Council adopts the following purpose and need statement and the and the following alternatives for analysis. The long motion and the two alternatives and components are in the motion attached with this memo. Adopted unanimously by the Council.

C-5 Pot Catcher Processor Monitoring Initial Review: The Council selected Alternative 2 as its preferred alternative, this implements additional monitoring requirements for Pot

Catcher Processors participating in the BSAI groundfish fisheries. This alternative contains three Elements and three Options for the Council consideration at final review. Adopted unanimously by the Council.

D-1 Aleutian Island Eastern Golden King Crab Facility Use Cap: The Council adopted a purpose and need statement and three alternatives for analysis. Alternative 1 was No Action: Alternative 2 Removed the Eastern Aleutian Golden King Crab and Western Aleutian Red King Crab facility use cap together. Alternative 3 exempted custom processing of Eastern Bering Sea Snow Crab from custom processing IPQ with a south designation. Bristol Bay Red King Crab IPQ and Western Aleutian Golden King Crab from the PQS/IPQ processing facility use caps under the program regionalization of crab deliveries would stay in place. The Council requests the analyst examine the potential for consolidation of PQS and IPQ associated with the options for changing the facility use caps for processing of Aleutian Island Golden King Crab. There was no opposition in public testimony only three testifiers. Motion passed unanimously.

D-2 Programmatic EIS: The Council initiates, the process of considering a Programmatic EIS with the purpose of providing a comprehensive analysis of the cumulative impacts of Federal groundfish fisheries on the human environment given both ecosystem and management changes that have occurred since the last review. Adoption of a final alternative would include updating the Council's current suite of 45 management policy objectives. As guidance:

- The Ecosystem Committee is tasked with reviewing the guidance above and developing recommendations to the Council on a purpose and need statement and alternatives.
- Ongoing Council efforts specifically tasked to create more climate-resilient federal fisheries (e.g., ACLIM 2.0, Climate Change Task Force, pending SSC workgroup on groundfish harvest control rules accounting for ecosystem change) should be incorporated as applicable.
- The process should include opportunity for meaningful engagement of Alaska Native Tribes and stakeholders, through informal scoping, formal scoping as part of the NEPA process, and Tribal consultations conducted by NMFS. Motion adopted Unanimously.

D-3 Groundfish Stock Prioritization: The Council supports the SSC recommendations under D-3 which includes maintaining BSAI Yellowfin Sole, BSAI Rock Sole, Aleutian Islands Pacific Cod on the current schedule two year stock assessment and accepting the proposed reduced frequency of all other stocks recommended by the Alaska Fisheries Science Center. Motion adopted Unanimously.

D-4 Trawl EM Committee report: The Council recommends the FMAC membership be updated to include the following representation to provide expertise on EM programs: shoreside processing, full coverage EM, WGOA EM fisheries. The May FMAC meeting agenda should include a discussion of how EM issues are addressed at FMAC

meetings. The Council recommends that a specific EM subcommittee be identified by the FMAC as needed when specific EM projects arise that require more involved Council engagement. The current Trawl EM Committee should convene only if necessary to provide feedback on Trawl EM proposed rules, or implementation issues.

D-5 Universal Data Collection: The Council is considering collecting a limited amount of data from vessels in federal fisheries relative to crew licenses/residency, crew compensation, and number of crew positions to support economic and community impact analyses required for Council actions and program reviews. The proposed collection mechanism is intended to remain simple and provide useable data by fishery across all commercial sectors, while minimizing reporting burden and costs to fisheries participants and NMFS.

The Council requests the SSC review the staff discussion paper on this issue and provide input to the Council on the proposed mechanism, value of the crew data to be collected, and any additional recommendations that would aid in a simple data collection process.

E-1 Staff Tasking: The Council moves to rescind the February 2022 Halibut CSP Review Motion.

Regards

Frank Kelty

Attachments:

1. C-1 Eastern Bering Sea snow crab rebuilding plan
2. Mayor Tutiakoff Letter Snow Crab Rebuilding
3. C-2 Norton Sound Red King Crab
4. C-3 Area 4 Vessel Use Caps
5. C-4 EFH 5- Year Review
6. C-5 Pot CP Monitoring
7. D-1 Golden King Crab Facility Use Caps
8. Mayor Tutiakoff Letter on Golden King Crab Facility Use Caps
9. D-2 Programmatic EIS
10. D-3 Groundfish Stock Prioritization
11. D-4 Trawl EM Committee Report
12. D-5 Universal Data Collection
13. E-1 Staff Tasking Council Rescind 2022 D-1 Halibut CSP Review

