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Date: February 17, 2023

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

From: Frank Kelty, Fisheries Consultant

Re: Fishery Activities Memo and Fishery Articles for the week ending on February 17, 2023.

On Thursday I attended a two-hour Bering Sea Fisheries Research Foundation (BSFRF) Board of Directors meeting on via zoom. We did the usual beginning of the meeting issues we review of the financials we still have \$1.4 million in reserves the we had to draw down from reserves \$350,000 due to the lack of crab landing revenues to support the FY22 budget.

The meeting focus was on four areas 1.) The on going work on the mid-March King Crab tagging work in the Bristol Bay area we expect the two charter vessels crab vessel tagging and survey work will be done by the FV Silver Spray and FV Summer Bay are just about finalized each vessel will have a research party of representatives from NOAA, ADFG and BSFRF. The teams will be deploying 175 satellite tags and some other tags that will be tracking the movement of Red King Crab male and females, we expect the satellite tags to pop up in the fall with their data. The researchers will also be tracking the CPUE of crab caught and the locations they will also be doing some testing of various crab pot modifications in the hope of reducing crab bycatch in directed crab and pot cod fisheries. The charter will cost \$850,000 that amount is split between ADFG and NOAA the BSFRF will be managing the tagging project.

2.) We had presentation by Executive Director Goodman on the breakdown of the research funding that the BSFRF we will receiving over the next three years. The foundation appears to be in great shape in 2023 we should receive \$2.0 in ADFG research funding, and additional 1.3 from the 2019 Tanner Crab disaster funds and in late August or September the \$2.7million direct Congressional Appropriation for crab research funding that the BSFRF will use for 2-3 years for research projects. I will attach with this memo for pages of information on research funding. The board also discussed additional hiring of staff member that is a crab research scientist to assist the executive director on all of the upcoming research work we will consider the request at the March BSFRF board meeting.

3.) We had an update on the presentations that Mr. Goodman and Dr. Gordon Kruse did on gear work on pot cod /crab pots modification projects to reduce crab bycatch at the February NPFMC meeting in Seattle. I will attach the photo PowerPoint presentations with this memo, there is some promising information on the use of soft sock type of soft tunnels to keep crab out of Pot Cod pots.

4.) Lastly we had an overview of the January Crab Plan team meeting that Scott attended in Anchorage and report of the actions of the NPFMC meeting in Seattle last week on the adopted Snow Crab rebuilding Alternative Two and Option Two, on final action, the rebuilding plan time frame was reduced for six years instead of ten years that was the original timeframe. Option Two that was adopted, will allow a directed fishery during the rebuilding years if it meets the State of Alaska harvest strategy. Scott also briefed the Council on the upcoming Crab tagging and survey work the BSFRF is working on and he asked on the Council's continued support for Crab Research, to help the industry get back on its feet.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30AM on Thursday February 16, 2023.

Regards

Frank Kelty

Attachments:

1. Fishery Activities Memo
2. Current BSFRF Research Funding and Plan
3. BSFRF Board Packet Open Packet to Table of Contents to Review Attachments Listed Below.
4. Tale of Two Crab Disasters Pages 86-117
5. Kruse and Goodman Alaska Marine Science Symposium presentation in Anchorage Pages 118-138
6. Research Projects Gear Modifications, Pages 141-164