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Date: June 13, 2023

To: Bil Homka, Marjorie Veeder, Michelle Price,

From: Frank Kelty, Fisheries Consultant

Re: Fishery Activities Memo, and NPFMC Motions

The North Pacific Council went into session on Thursday morning June 8<sup>th</sup> at 8:00AM. The first order of business during the morning session was Thanking OF outgoing Chairmen Simon Kinneen of Nome, for his nine years of service on the Council. The B reports came next from the Council staff, Federal agencies, and the State of Alaska. I will attach with this memo the NMFS Federal Waters Fisheries Report, the State of Alaska State Water Fisheries Report, and the Coast Guard Enforcement Report. We also heard a report from NOAA Fisheries staff on the proposed reevaluation of the National Standards 4,8 and 9 with a public comment period due in September the national Fisheries Management Council are asking for an extension into mid-October we don't know if that will be granted at this time. NS 4. has to do with Conservation and Management measures shall not discriminate between residents of different states. NS 8. Conservation and Management measures shall be consistent with the conservation requirements of this ACT including prevention of overfishing and rebuilding of overfished stocks. NS 9. Conservation and Management measures shall minimize bycatch and minimize to the extent practicable minimize the mortality of bycatch.

The Council after lunch moved into their regular agenda.

C-1 Bering Sea Crab specifications the Council accepted the recommendations on the OFL and ABC for the Aleutian Island Golden King Crab at OFL 4.18MT ABC 3.137MT the State of Alaska sets the TAC amount in about 3 weeks we expect it to be in the 5.0-million-pound range for the East and West Districts that fishery opens on August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023.

The Council also adopted a secondary motion on C-1 to form an inter-agency working group to develop a framework on how to estimate the magnitude and extent of unobserved fishery mortality for crab stocks from all gear types and how to include this in crab assessments models. The Council will host a workshop on the working group's progress in the future.

C-2 Council Motion on Observer Annual Report and 2024 Annual Deployment Plan/Partial Coverage Cost Efficiencies: This is a two-page comment I have attached the motion with this memo.

C-3 Crab C share recent participation requirement:

The Council revised the Purpose and Need Statement and reworked Alternative 2 to modify the CVC QS and CPC QS recency requirements. The Council also added three options and three sub-options and Alternative 3 which removes the active participation requirements for CVC and CPC QS holders or maintain eligibility requirements to receive CVSs and CPC QS by transfers. This motion will go out for Public Review and the Council may take final action at the October meeting.

C-4 Bristol Bay Red King Crab Closure Areas: the SSC panel which is the Council science peer review panel stated that this initial review document wasn't ready for public review and recommended strongly for another initial review draft to be worked on. The public testimony on C-4 also stated the same and wanted the document to be reworked. The Council concurred and added 12 bullet points on areas to be reworked and added another separate motion as it pertains to pelagic trawl gear definition. This item probably won't come back until the February 2024 meeting.

D-1 Small Sablefish Release:

The Council adopted a purpose and need state and two Alternatives for Initial review.

Alt1. No Action

Alt.2 Allow Release of Sablefish in the IFQ Fishery this alternative would modify regulations to allow the release of small sablefish and would require the retention on sablefish 22 inches in length head on. Element 1 DMR applies to the release of sablefish and lists six options.

## D-2 Programmatic EIS:

The Council adopted a Purpose and Need Statement and Two Alternatives for public review.

Alt 1. Maintain current ecosystem- based management policy for the council managed fisheries.

Alt 2. Adopted a more adaptive ecosystem based managed policy for the Council managed fisheries that would allow the council to develop and implement climate -resilience tools for new pathways to incorporate indigenous, local, and traditional knowledge as new tools to address climate driven and marine ecosystem changes.

### Staff Tasking Motions:

1. BSAI Pot Cod Catcher vessels 60'> and Pot Cod Catcher Processors Cooperatives data request. The Council Request a discussion paper to request information from the harvester involved in this fishery to form a LAPP limited access privilege program. The council also established a control date of June 11, 2023, for any future management actions.
2. Kodiak Tanner Crab: The Council request the following information to inform potential GOA Tanner Protections: Various gear types that fish in stat areas 525702-525630 from 2019-2023 Groundfish Harvest Tanner Crab Bycatch and the number of trips from those areas. Current Tanner and King Crab distribution in the Kodiak Island district. The option available for full monitoring requirements in stat area 525702-525630 either observers or EM programs.
3. Observer Availability: The council requests a discussion paper for review by FMAC and the Council on observability and training opportunities on vessels to include. The three options listed in the motion.
4. Universal Data Collection: The Council initiates an analysis to establish collection of crew data from Federal water fisheries with the purpose and need statement and alternatives listed below.

Alt1. No Action

Alt 2. Implement an annual survey to collect crew license data, compensation, crew positions on a vessel, one option was added as well.

Regards

Frank Kelty

Attachments:

1. Fishery Activity Memo
2. C-1 Crab Specifications and Crab Bycatch
3. C-2 Observer Annual Report
4. C-3 Crab C Shares
5. C-4 Bristol Bay Red King Crab Closed Areas/ Motion pelagic trawl gear definition.
6. D-1 Small Sablefish Release
7. D-2 PEIS Council Motion
8. Staff Tasking Four Motions
  1. Observer Availability
  2. Pot Cod 60> over LAPP Program
  3. Kodiak Tanner Crab Protections
  4. Universal Data Collection
9. ADFG Harvest Report
10. NMFS Harvest Report
11. Coast Guard Enforcement Report
12. SSC Report