

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

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To: Erin Reinders, Michele Price, JR Pierson

From: Frank Kelty, Fisheries Consultant

Re: October Fishery Activities, and Fishery Articles,

I attend the United Fishermen of Alaska, (UFA) fall board meeting via Zoom on Tuesday, Wednesday of this week. I am an individual member, and the City of Unalaska has a Business Membership. UFA has a large Board of Directors almost 40 members almost of the harvesting, processing associations and individual fishermen are on the board of directors.

Tuesday, October 27th the morning session was mostly and over of the conference by UFA President Matt Award, from Homer and various committee reports. We did have an interesting presentation by a group that is supporting Ballot Measure 2 in Alaska that is looking for UFA support at the ballot box on next Tuesday. Ballot Measure 2 would force Alaskans to elect political leaders using so-called ranked choice voting (RCV) in which voters assign a rank to multiple candidates, rather than voting for just one. It results in many voters having their ballots thrown out and leads to candidates "winning" without most of the votes cast. The group that presented stated that Ballot Measure 2 is nonpartisan. It enhances campaign financing disclosure requirements, creates a top-four primary open to all Alaska voters, and empowers them to rank each candidate in order of their preference in the general election. Together, these reforms are designed to take back the power of our election. UFA took no action in support of this group.

After the lunch break the marketing committee made a presentation with two guest Mark Palmer CEO of Ocean Beauty/Icicle Seafoods and Allen Kimball Vice President of marketing with Trident. They gave an overview of the 2020 impacts to the various fisheries and gave a market report on

domestic and export markets of products produced in Alaska. They explained that it has been a tough year, with all the added costs to their operations due to the Covid-19 impacts especially domestic sales to the restaurant sectors due to all the closures nationwide. They felt that industry and the fishermen did a great job compiling with the new regulations. They shared concerns on impacts of the trade war with China that has hurt the sale of Alaska products.

They noted that that over all volume of landings have not gone down that much, but ex-vessel prices have been down in many fisheries as an example in Bristol Bay Sockeye ex-vessel was 50% lower in 2020 the Halibut and Sablefish prices are down as well. The processors first wholesale prices for the have also been impacted by Covid-19 expenses, transportation issues in Alaska and overseas for export deliveries. The government purchases of seafood through USDA have been great help especially of salmon products. They are also hopeful of increased Care funding to help offset the Covid-19 impacts to there operations which they believe will continued to impact industry during 2021 fishing season as well.

Later in afternoon the board had a request from Chris Woodley of Groundfish Forum (Amendment 80 fleet) for UFA to sign on to a letter to the Coast Guard to work with the Canadian Government on travel issues through the inside passage due to the Covid -19 boundary restrictions to US vessels who are forced to travel in international waters and can not use the inside waters in Canada. This is a major safety issue especially during the winter months. UFA supported the request and will sign on as a signatory on letter.

The first day of the conference wrapped up with Senator Sullivan spending about 30 minutes with the group. He covered a wide range of topics and even at the start made some political statements about his opponent in the Senatorial race and was glad UFA was supporting him. He gave a good update and firmed up his position in opposition on the Pebble Mine in the Bristol Bay. He did receive questions on his position by gillnetters that fish in the bay. He gave and update on the Coast Guard Bill that he believes will be passed for more cutters and six icebreakers he believed some of those vessels should be home ported in Alaska.

He detailed his response to the Russian Harassment of US Fishing in the EEZ with the Coast Guard and the State Department after being contacted by the At Sea Processors and Freezer Longliners Group.

He felt there was a lack of communication by the State Department and the Coast Guard with the Alaska Seafood Industry on the exercises the Russians carried out in that area and that he would stand for further disruptions of legal American fishing operations. He stated that another round of funding for the Cares Act would be coming forward and that he would do his best to get a larger share for the Alaska fishing industry. Lastly he mention the fiber optic cable grant to GCI for 25 million that would finally bring fiber cable into the communities in the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands The Senator was thanked by me and other fishing groups for his years of work on this project.

Wednesday October 28th the morning was started off with a Membership Committee update they reported how the drive for new members was going. The first panel discussion of the morning was the State of Alaska group with John Moller for Governor Dunleavy, and a group for ADFG Commissioner Vincent-Lang, Deputy Commissioner Rachel Baker Commercial Fisheries Director Sam Rabung, the ADFG gave an overview of fishery activities in the various state waters fisheries, the impact the department faced with Covid-19 measures for their workforce. The group covered upcoming topics for the Board of Fisheries and the problems they face with the delays in scheduling of meetings and how they must deal with Zoom type board meetings. Commissioner Vincent Lang mentioned that there was 100 million still unspoken for in the State of Alaska funds in community cares funding. The Commercial Fisheries director asked for support during the budget process for Commercial Fisheries Budget which has been impacted by lower revenues especially in the sportfish division with less visitors to Alaska to fish.

There were also comments by commercial fishermen, that they had to face quarantine rules in most places in Alaska but the same wasn't true for out of state sport fishermen that in some communities they didn't have to quarantine but commercial fishers had to , They felt the rules should be the same for all. John Moller has some questions on the Board of Fisheries Members the Governor was still supporting the candidate for the board that is employed by the Pebble Mine but is also a drift fisherman in Bristol Bay. He also stated that the Governor has not made up his mind on the reappointment of the existing Board of Fisheries members.

Later that morning we had about 15 minutes of bluster from Rep Don Young mostly on his opponent in the House race, and if she is elected Alaska will be in big trouble. He spoke on Pebble Mine that he reminded us that most of the land on where the mine would be built was State land. He felt that the federal Government should not mandate what happens on State Land. He stated that he is opposed to the mine, he was thanked in funding programs for crewmembers and new entrants trying to buy quota shares in the Alaska IFQ Fisheries.

After lunch we had along session on the rewrite of the UFA Policy manual and two reports from the Administration and Environmental Committees. The last speaker of the conference was Sen. Lisa Murkowski, she covered a host of issues including, her continued support for USDA purchases of Alaska Seafood Products which is of critical importance. She pledged to continued to do her best of the next round of Cares money that the amount for the Alaska Seafood industry would be much more that the \$50 million that was available for harvesters during the first round and would do her best to get more funding for the State of Alaska in the next round. She realizes the tremendous job the processors and harvesters did this summer to keep fishing operation going and would do all she can on federal side to assist in 2021.

The last item the UFA board discussed and approved going out with a one page advertisement from UFA PSPA and other non-affiliated groups of harvesters and processors promoting the good works of the Alaska Seafood industry and the fine products they produce.

This was my first UFA conference, and it was highly informative that they made in work very well using a zoom format.

Regards
Frank

Attachments:

1. Fishery News Articles

