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To: Erin Reinders, City Manager, JR Pierson, Asst. Manager, Mayor Tutikoff, & Unalaska City Council Members

From: Frank Kelty,

Subject: June Activities for the week ending on 6-23-2020.

This morning just wrapped up a morning long Bering Sea Fisheries Research Foundation board of directors meeting. The issues discussed today included an update on the North Pacific Council actions as it pertained on the various crab species, including the Golden King Crab allocations. The major concerns discussed was the lack of the summer time crab survey work and the potential impacts on the Bristol Bay Red King Crab that has had very low allocations the last few years and the Bering Sea Tanner Crab fishery that was closed last year. The board was told that the Crab Plan Team and ADFG should have time to look at this year catch data, and observer reports, that information could be looked at as well as the 2019 survey data to make a decision on if we will have a fishery in October of 2020. The Crab plan team meets in September to do their analysis for the October North Pacific Council meeting where the Overfishing Limits and Allowable Biological Catch numbers are recommended to the Council and the Total Allowable Catch is adopted by the State of Alaska ADFG. We reviewed the NMFS Cancellation notice from Bob Foy the Alaska Science Center Administrator on the summer trawl surveys for groundfish and crab and we told that all 3 on the NOAA research vessels are tied up until further notice.

The next item for discussion was the Research Foundation Crab tagging project that is kicking off next week the Foundation has chartered the FV Provider out of Kodiak for a two week charter to tag close to 4,000 Red King Crab in the Bering Sea with three types of tag we have 300 of the very expensive acoustic tags that the sail drones that were launched out of Unalaska last fall to find the tags. Well NMFS service cut in front of us to use the sail drones to do acoustic work on the Bering Sea Pollock stocks since they have no research vessel this summer. That left the sail drone company without the time and the staff do the fall crab survey work for the foundation. The foundation has decided to move forward with put extra life batteries of the acoustic tags so if the sail drones come on line next year we might be able to get the data on the tags that survived fishing activities. Executive Director Scott Goodman is looking into other methods to work with the special tags possibly outfitting a crabber with a tracking device or finding another drone company in the world to do this work. The FV Provider plan of operations for this research project had to submitted that addressed Corvid -19 protections that was excepted by the State of Alaska. The Science crew for the tagging work has 2 ADFG Biologists 2 NOAA Crab Biologist and 1 Research Foundation scientist. The next agenda item was a discussion on the ongoing planning for a Research Foundation

sponsored Opilio Tanner Crab workshop for this fall in either Anchorage or in Seattle for the seafood industry, and NMFS and ADFG.

The foundation hope to attract scientists and crab biologists from around the world to present at the workshop.

The last agenda item of the meeting was and update from Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute (ASMI) on the Certified Seafood Collaborative (CSC) of which the Research Foundation is a member of for the Bering Sea Crab Fisheries. We were update on the outreach that ASMI is doing internationally with outreach to Iceland and Norway fishery producers to join the Certified Seafood Collaborative group we will see what develops with this outreach early next year.

Last Monday afternoon I attended the monthly Alaska Fishing Communities Coalition meeting. We had a good discussion on the bycatch issues that were addressed by the North Pacific Council meeting that had taken place the previous week. The Halibut ABM item will be on the October agenda that item has been pushed by the directed Halibut Harvesters in Southeast Alaska and the Pribilof Islands and work on reducing Halibut bycatch in the Bering Sea trawl fisheries. The Crab harvesters they also had bycatch reduction they wanted to be addressed by the Council, but they were pushed all the way back until February 2021 they were not happy about that. We discussed how difficult it is to address Council members on issues of importance during online meetings is going to be it is almost certain that the October meeting will be done online. The Pacific Cod CV LAPP and Pot CP LAPP programs has fallen all the way back to the December meeting and these issues will have a lot of people that will want to testify on these cod issues I hope that meeting can be done in public in Anchorage. We wrapped up this meeting by reports by the chairs of the sub-committees on Trawl CV LAPP and MSA Reauthorization and National Standards and Bycatch Committee.

Regards

Frank Kelty