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

Subject: June Activities information on the North Pacific Fishery Management Meetings last week.

Last week I was attending the NPFMC meetings by adobe connect the meetings which started Monday -Wednesday for the Science and Statistical Committee (SSC). The Industry Advisory Panel (AP) meeting was on Thursday and Friday last week. The full Council started this morning on Monday June 8, through June 10, 2020 they have just finished reports and will start their agenda late today or on Tuesday morning. I will attach with this memo the SSC and AP meeting minutes from last week's meeting for your review. I will hit on some of the high points from last week's meetings.

The SSC started out on C-1 Scallop OFL and ABC they set the OFL at 1.2 million pounds and the ABC at 1.1million pounds. The SSC noted that the status of the Scallops stocks is unknown but noted that recent harvest has been at 20% of the OFL amount. They supported the recommendations of the Scallop Plan team and requested further documentation of the methods used in to standardize the time series that are used to form the Minimum Performance standards in stock trends.

C-2 Bering Sea, Aleutian Islands Crab Specifications the first specie taken up was the Aleutian Island Golden King Crab fishery the SSC excepted the Crab Plan Team recommendations for this stock the SSC recommended a 25% buffer they recommended and Over Fishing Limit (OFL) of 10.5 million pounds the ABC of 7.9 million pounds the State of Alaska will set the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) in July the OFL and ABC amounts are about 8% reduction from last year OFL and ABC. I would assume the TAC which was 6.8 million pounds last year will be reduced by the State of Alaska when the set the TAC amount in July.

Western Aleutian Islands Red King Crab which is a Tier 5 stock and has not a fishery in over 20 years and is still in bad shape. OFL was set at 123,000lbs. the ABC at 30,967lbs with a continue use of a 75% buffer this fishery, which will not open.

Pribilof Island Golden Kling Crab, this is an exceedingly small fishery that has 1-2 vessels that fish, the TAC amount is usually around 100,000lbs this stock is a Tier 5 stock .The SCC set the OFL at 200,000lbs and the ABC at 150,000lbs the State of Alaska will set the TAC in July.

The SSC then had a discussion on the Crab Plan Team Meeting, that was held in May and discussed the various model runs that they will see in October Council meeting where they will set the OFL and ABC for Bristol Bay Red King Crab, Tanner Crab, St Matthew Blue King Crab, Pribilof Red and Blue King Crab and the Snow Crab fishery. The setting of these stocks OFL and ABC allocation will be done without a 2020 summer trawl survey the Crab Plan Team recommended will be using last year's 2019 model runs, catch data from 2020 fishing season and observer reports. I believe that Snow crab fishery will not have any problems, but Red King Crab and Tanner crab fisheries will be a close call. St Matthew Blue King Crab and the Pribilof King Crab fisheries will be remained closed.

The SSC then moved on to D-2 the Sablefish Apportionment Report the SSC reviewed the report and the preliminary analysis for evaluating ABC apportionments alternatives for the sablefish stock in waters of Alaska. The purpose of the review was for the SCC to provide a review of the proposed methods and suggestions for structuring the discussion of apportionment alternatives to be brought forward at the October Council meeting.

The SSC moved on to D-3 Essential Fish Habitat 5 year review years the SSC reviewed the workplan and made numerous comments that are covered in there minutes the main take away I took was the SSC wants the Habitat Committee to explore approaches across species, regions, and life stages using generalized additive models (GAMs) describing abundance. The SSC further recommended consideration of error distributions that are suited. The SSC encourages expanded efforts to include additional information to describe and define EFH.

The last issues they took up was C-4 Cook Inlet salmon the SSC reviewed Alternatives 2-3 these alternatives that are still a work in progress. The comments made include the document would greatly benefit from an overview table that compares the main features of each alternative. They would like a graphic showing key decision points. The SSC also stated the Environment Assessment (EA) and the Regulatory Impact review (RIR) was written well.

The Advisory Panel met for just day and half and they followed the SSC lead on most of the issues. The first issue was the Scallop the AP noted that the fishery is not overfished and no overfishing is occurring The AP agrees with the Scallop Plan Team and the SSC on the OFL and ABC amounts recommended to the Council from the SSC by a vote of 19-0.

BSAI Crab Specifications C-2 the AP adopted the Safe report as well as the OFL and ABC amounts as recommended by the Crab Plan Team and the SSC to the NPFMC by a vote of 19-0.

The AP moved on to the C-3 St Matthew Blue King Crab rebuilding plan the AP support Alt. 2 which states target rebuilding time frame for the number of years to rebuild the stock to the BMSY level at a probability of 50%. The stock will be considered rebuilt once it reaches BMSY. No additional restrictions on bycatch of St Matthew Blue King

Crab while the other stock is rebuilding. The AP also support Option 2 which states allow a directed fishery to open based on the of State of Alaska harvest strategy while the stock is rebuilding. Passed the AP 19-0

C-4 Cook Inlet Salmon, the AP recommends that the Council adopt the existing Purpose and Need Statement and a range of the Alternatives 2, 3 presented in May and move those alternatives for analysis then forwarded for initial review. The motion passed the AP 19-0

D-1 Observer Report the AP recommends to the Council that they send a letter to National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) supporting Electronic Monitoring (EM) Exempted Fishing Permits (EFP) projects and grant request for the North Pacific Region. This motion passed 19-0. The second motion was more controversial The AP motion stated if the emergency waiver for Observer is not extended the AP recommended the following mid -season coverage of the partial coverage program. This proposal was tried to be amended twice and both times the proposed amendments failed the motion without any amendments was passed by AP 12-6 the rational on the failed amendments is include in the AP minutes.

Regards

Frank Kelty