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

Subject: July Activities information from the Alaska Fisheries Communities meeting held on Friday July 24th by teleconference and Zoom.

The meeting focus was for updates to the by the various subcommittees on Bycatch of Halibut and Crab, MSA and National Standards issues, Strategy on Halibut Abundance Based Management (ABM) and Communications.

The bycatch committee was up first, they submitted a report which I will include in the report. The crab industry members were distressed that the Council once again was delay the discussion on their concerns on bycatch levels of crab when many of the crab fisheries in exceptionally when stocks are at low levels or not even opening the Council has delayed action on Crab bycatch reductions until February NPFMC meeting. . The Halibut folks were pleased that after 5 years they are finally getting their concern and issues before the Council in October. The Area 4 C-D folks and Southeast Alaska Halibut harvesters are genuinely concerned that the bycatch of Halibut levels is higher annually the amount of Halibut taken in some areas in the directed fisheries. The committee discussed how they can improve their advocacy on bycatch issues before the Council. And are working on various meeting with state, North Pacific Council members and NMFS federal officials on the Halibut AMB. The bycatch committee also recommended that Bob Alverson, Executive Director of the Fishing Vessel Association of America (FVOA) a major Halibut Harvester Owner group based in Seattle and Jim Johnson Executive Director of the Deep Sea Fishermen Union which represents the crew members fishing on Halibut on vessels that are members of the FVOA, be added to the bycatch committee, and recommended to the full Alaska Fishing Committee Group that they be allowed to join.

The MSA and National Standard sub-committee has not since early July we plan on meeting in early August to strategize on what we can do to influence potential changes to the MSA and the National Standards. The Communications committee was brief they are still strategize on topics they want to work on some of the items discussed included impacts of Corvid -19 to small boat fishermen and fishing communities, also included was impacts to the native subsistence users in small fishing communities and the impacts to their historical use of fishing resources in Alaska and impacts on prices paid to harvesters. We expect more input form this committee after the summertime fishing season is concluded.

We heard from the Halibut ABM folks on their strategy to get ready for the October Council meeting which appears will be done on a Zoom based platform once again which is a tough way to handle tough issues. The Halibut folks are setting up meeting with the Governor Office, ADFG, NMFS and North Pacific Council Members they really want not to see a reduction on bycatch adjustment reductions made by the Council.

Lastly the committee approved allowing Bob Alverson, Executive Director of the Fishing Vessel Association of America (FVOA) a major Halibut Harvester owner group based in Seattle, and Jim Johnson Executive Director of the Deep Sea Fishermen Union which represents the crew members fishing on Halibut on vessels that are members of the FVOA to join the group. The full committee will meet again in mid-August.

Regards

Frank Kelty