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To: Erin, Mayor, and Council Members

From: Frank Kelty, City of Unalaska Consultant

Re: April Fishery Activities

The Science Statistical Committee (SSC) and the Industry Advisory Panel (AP) started a 2-week marathon of the April North Pacific Fishery Management Council on Monday, April 5<sup>th</sup> the AP on April 6<sup>th</sup>, and the full Council today on April 12<sup>th</sup>. Since these meetings, our done via Adobe Connect, I spent most of my time listening to the AP panel last week. I have also attached with this memo the various B reports that the Council reviewed on Monday.

C-1 Scallop Safe 2021 Allocation the AP approve the allocation adopted by the Science Statistical Committee (SSC) of 226,130lbs of retained Scallop Meats for all fishing areas in Alaska.

C-2 BSAI Halibut Abundance Based Management, this was a very continece issue that the AP struggled with for a day and half with a lot of public testimony in support of moving forward in setting a Preliminary Preferred Alternative (PPA) with most support for Alt 4. This action would greatly impact the Amendment 80 bottom trawl fleet in reducing the PSC Halibut amount for there fleet and would greatly impact their operations. The AP heard a lot of testimony from that fleet and business that work with that sector. They also heard concerns by Halibut directed fishery harvesters, on there concern that the continue bycatch of Halibut by the Amendment 80 fleet is not reduced their fishery, livelihoods and communities are threatened. The Amendment 1 to select Alternative 4 failed 7-13. Amendment 2 asked for additional analysis listed below.

- The purpose need statement needs to spell out possible effects of bycatch specifically on Areas 4CDE at low levels of Halibut abundance.
- Alternatives need to spell out possible impacts Area4CDE and the native peoples living in those areas. Include in the analysis ratio between the directed Halibut fishery and the bycatch fishery in Areas 4CDE under each alternative. This should also include the ratio in previous years.
- The analysis should quantify possible effects on the directed fishery catch limits in the downstream areas from bycatch of Under 26-inch fish in the BSAI.

Amendment 2 passed by a margin of 13-7.

D-1 Gulf of Alaska Sablefish Pots 3-Year review.

The AP had numerous Motions on this issue they include the following.

Motion 1 AP recommended to the Council to remove the pot tag requirement in the fishery this passed 16-4

Motion 2 AP recommends adopt the following Purpose and Need Statement and a range of Alternatives for the following alternative I will attach the two alternatives and a long range of 4 Elements on this motion it passed the AP 17-3

D-2 IFQ Access Opportunities the AP struggled with this issue which would assist people to enter this fishery with a set aside of 0.5 to 2% of Halibut and Sablefish IFQ for new entrants. The existing IFQ harvesters were totally opposed to doing this they took the risks and got loans to get into the fishery. The Motion to make recommendation to the Council to form a committee to refine a proposal and assist in the development of a program that motion failed 10-10. No further action by the AP on this issue.

D-3 Recreational Quota Entity (RQE) the AP recommended to the Council to adopt the Purpose and Need Statement and 2 Alternatives with Alternative 1 being no action. Alternative 2 would direct NMFS Alaska region to work with the Council staff and development a fee collection mechanism to supply halibut stamps to charter operators to generate funds to the RQE program. Once completed this framework would be described in a draft Regulatory Impact Review. This motion passed the AP19-0.

D-4 IFQ Committee Report the AP made 3 recommendations to the Council 1. Allow Jig gear as a legal gear type for Sablefish in the Gulf of Alaska Passed 19-0 2. The AP recommends that the Council do an analysis to suspend the Adak residency requirement for a period of 3-5 years. Passed 17-2 3. The AP recommends that the Council move forward with its work on the release small Sablefish Passed 19-0.

D-5 Salmon Genetics the AP recommends the following information on the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska Chinook salmon bycatch.

- Historic bycatch numbers and trends including spatial and temporal trends.
- Genetic stock identification information.
- Stock status of Chinook salmon stocks including Alaska, US Westcoast, and British Columbia.
- Updates on progress on the Council June 2019 motion.
- Update on impacts analysis for Chinook bycatch in the Bering Sea Pollock fishery.

This motion passed the AP 20-0

D-6 Economic Data Reports and Social Science Planning Team EDR/SSPT Reports The AP recommends the Council modify the Alternative form January 30, 2020 as follows the AP made some revisions on the Crab EDR section also under Amendment 80 section and the AP removed component 3 EDR of the Gulf of Alaska trawl fishery the changes can be viewed in the AP Minutes Attached with this memo.

E- Staff Tasking, the AP passed the following Motions.

- Motion 1- AP recommends to Council that longline pots be legal gear to fish Greenland Turbot tis would mitigate Whale predation. Passed 19-0
- Motion 2-AP recommends to the Council to returns to the practice of publishing all public comments simultaneously at the conclusion of the comment deadline. This would stop the uncalled-for nasty comments made on comments already submitted by other individuals. The opposition to this stated that it would reduce the time to review comments before the meeting started. The AP Motion passed 10-9

The full Council started on Monday and all day was taken up by various reports, this morning they are now into the various action items they will be meeting into Saturday. I will have a report and will included motions passed at the end of the week.

Regards

Frank Kelty

Attachments:

1. Executive Director Report
2. NOAA Emergency Order on Climate
3. NOAA Emergency Order Presentation
4. NPFMC Letter on Emergency Order on Climate
5. ADFG Report
6. NMFS Management Report
7. Coast Guard Report
8. US Navy Report Northern Edge Exercises in 2021 in the Gulf of Alaska
9. AP Minutes
10. AP minutes on C-2

