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To: Erin Reinders, Mayor Tutikoff, JR Pearson,

From: Frank Kelty, Fisheries Consultant

Re: Fishery Activities for February 11, 2021

I will provide an overview on the North Pacific Council Meeting held this week including an update on three main fisheries that are open at this time and their status Bering Sea Trawl Pollock, Bering Sea Snow Crab (Opilio Tanner) and Pacific Cod.

North Pacific Fishery Management Council: met on Friday February 5th they took their B reports and agenda items C-1 and C-2 they then adjourned and reconvene on Monday and worked until Wednesday afternoon. February 10th.

C-1 BSAI Pacific Cod Catcher Processor Pot Gear LLP: The Council decline to action on limiting CP Pot latent licenses. This is an exceedingly small fishery with and annual quota of 1,600MT with no rollover from other cod sectors. Due to those factors, they saw no reason to reduce latent licenses, the issue is taking care of itself at this time.

C-2 Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology: The motion adopted was basically a house keeping issues the Council recommend that the BSAI Crab, Scallop, and Salmon Fishery Management Plans to explain how it meets the purpose of collecting, recording, and reporting bycatch. These are only updates, no regulations will be changes because of these amendments.

C-3 Small Sablefish Bycatch Release: There was a lot of public testimony and concern on bycatch of small Sablefish and the future impacts to the directed fishery harvesters. The Council postponed action on this issue until they get recommendations from the IFQ committee concerning the relative priority of this action.

C-4 Crab PSC Limit Reductions: Once again the Council took no action on this issue. Once again, the Council felt they did not have enough solid information that a reduction of PSC Crab limits if a Crab fishery is closed is warranted at this time based on the information they have especially since bycatch levels of crab are already well under the bycatch cap amounts.

C-5 BSAI CRAB Specifications for Norton Sound Red King Crab: The Council approved the specifications for Norton Sound Red King Crab Overfishing Limit of 63,000lbs. and an Allowable Biological Catch of 38,000lbs.

D-1 Community Engagement Committee: The Council listed a whole host of recommendations to improve community engagement the motion is attached but some of the items included. Providing cultural training for Council staff and Council members, the Executive Director of NPFMC will appoint a staff member to work on rural fisheries Community /Tribal Liaison, the Community Engagement Committee will be re-constituted to recommend strategies to Council, and the Council will explore ways to improve opportunities for public testimony and allow any member of the public to waive questions by Council members during testimony.

D-2 Experimental Fishing Permit (EFP) Application: The Council recommended that the Alaska Seafood Cooperative application be approved by NMFS noting suggesting by the SSC for some experimental protocols where possible.

D-3 Climate Change Taskforce (CCTF) Workplan: The Council supports the goal of the Climate Change Module as development by the Taskforce and approved the workplan as presented.

Staff Tasking Motions:

E-1 Emergency Rule request to change the Central Gulf Rockfish Program Start Date: The Gulf trawlers and Processors made this request to change the start date to April 1st from May 1st due to the Arrowtooth fishery not going to be fished due to market conditions and to keep the processing plants crew working especially in a COVID-19 type environment they want to start the Rockfish fishery a month early motion was approved.

E-1 Emergency Rule request to modify IFQ transfer provisions of the Halibut and Sablefish IFQ Program: The Council request the Secretary promulgate emergency regulations under the authority of Section 305 of the Magnuson-Stevens Act to allow the temporary transfer of catcher vessel halibut and sablefish IFQ for all quota share holders for the 2021 fishing season. This the same emergency action requested a granted by the Secretary in the 2020 fishing season due to COVID-19.

E-1 Emergency Rule to suspend resident harvester requirements for Adak CQE: The Council request the Secretary promulgate emergency regulations under the authority of Section 305 of the Magnuson-Stevens Act to suspend the residency requirements applicable to the Adak Community Quota Entity (CQE) Program for the 2021 fishing season. This the same emergency action requested a granted by the Secretary in the 2020 fishing season due to COVID-19.

E-1 Request expedited rulemaking to waive IFQ vessels use caps: The Council request the Secretary promulgate emergency regulations to remove use cap regulations under b50 CFR Section 679.42(h) (10 for the IFQ halibut harvested in IPHC Areas 4-A 4-B, 4-C, and 4-D for the 2021 IFQ fishing season. This the same emergency action requested a granted by the Secretary in the 2020 fishing season due to COVID-19 issues.

Pollock Trawl Fishery,

Pollock fleet as of February 6th the Pollock fleet last week was almost back too normal with all plant operating except Trident in Akutan. Last week harvest was 46,850MT in pounds 104 million. The breakdown by sector last week was Catcher Vessels 14,336MT At Sea Processors 13,336MT Mothership 6,663MT CDQ 12,130MT. The harvest for the season is 81,000MT in pounds 180million pounds. The 2020 season was totals during the same time frame is 150,000MT 335 million pounds. I heard a rumor today that the Alyeska plant may have to be shut down again for two weeks I hope that not true. This start and stop is hard on everyone.

The Snow Crab,

The fishery continues to have slow fishing through this morning 10.3 million pounds harvested from 45 million allocation 23% of the allocation harvested including the CDQ allocation. The break down by region is as follows North 5.9 million pounds leaving 9.1 still 39% harvested. South 2.6 million harvested leaving 14.4 million pounds 15% of the allocation harvested. CDQ allocation 930,000lbs leaving 3.5 million to harvest 21% harvested.

Pacific Cod, still slow fishing on Pacific Cod last week 2,925MT harvested much of that harvest is in the Freezer Longline Sector 1,815MT there was 754 MT in the trawl sector mostly bycatch in the Pollock and Flatfish fisheries and the CV trawl sector had 154MT, I believe a few independent trawlers may be fishing many of the CV trawlers are supposed to go fishing today I will know on next Thursday if that is the case. The state water pot cod fishery is going well3.4 million pounds harvested leaving 23.9 million pounds to harvest from the 27.5-million-pound allocation.

Regards

Frank Kelty

Attachments

1. **C-1 BSAI Pacific Cod Catcher Processor Pot Gear LLP**
2. **C-2 Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology**
3. **C-3 Small Sablefish Bycatch Release**
4. **C-4 Crab PSC Limit Reductions**
5. **C-5 BSAI CRAB Specifications for Norton Sound Red King Crab**
6. **D-1 Community Engagement Committee**
7. **D-2 Experimental Fishing Permit (EFP) Application**
8. **D-3 Climate Change Taskforce (CCTF) Workplan**
9. **E-1 Emergency Rule request to modify IFQ transfer provisions of the Halibut and Sablefish IFQ Program**
10. **E-1 Emergency Rule to suspend resident harvester requirements for Adak.**
11. **E-1 Request expedited rulemaking to waive IFQ vessels use caps.**
12. **E-1 Emergency Rule request to change the Central Gulf Rockfish Program Start Date:**

- 13. ADFG Report**
- 14. NMF Management Report**
- 15. USCG Report**
- 16. Executive Director Report**