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To: Erin Reinders, Mayor Tutikoff, and Council Members

From: Frank Kelty, Fisheries Consultant

Re: January Fishery Activities Part 2 Alaska Fishing Communities (AFC) Information

I have provided some information from the Alaska Fishing Communities group we have two sets of minutes one from the Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA) Subcommittee group that worked on a draft letter to address the MSA Discussion Draft put forward by Rep Huffman of California I will include the AFC Draft Letter which bring to Rep Huffman attention some of the issues of concern by the AFC group. The MSA Draft will be attached with this memo. The work grouping reviewed the MSA Draft reviewed the draft document and addressed areas of concern that would be address in a letter to Rep Huffman. The group had concerns with some of the following areas Bycatch provisions in NS 9 definitions on overfishing and depletion. NS4 North Pacific Council participation on the Council by tribal representation the use of Local and Traditional Knowledge in Council decisions. Climate Change provisions should be included in the National Standards. Community participation could focus on NS 8 and Section 303 recommendations. Nation Standards in Section 305 Emergency rules provisions and other non-specific MSA topics. Such as sustained participation by coastal fishing communities and protection of the nation's fishery resources.

The Bycatch subcommittee group met on January 6th some of their comments on the Draft MSA document included bycatch reduction measure in Section 503, tribal representation on the Council Section 301, Section 505 definitions on over -fishing and fishery depletion, and Section 508 amendments to Section 303 affecting contents of Fishery Management Plans.

The Crab PSC Bycatch issue is front and center at the NPFMC February meeting the Alaska Bering Sea Crabbers have been working with ADFG to make their case on bycatch reductions in the BSAI crab fisheries. He Council proposed Amendment 2 does take narrow action on PSC reductions when a crab fishery closes, and crab PSC is not at its lowest limit. This action does prioritize the importance of a directed fishery by catch by the Amendment 80 fleet may be constrained on the bycatch of Red King Crab.

Regards

Frank Kelty

Attachments:

1. MSA Reauthorization Draft
2. AFC Draft Letter to Rep Huffman
3. MSA Sub Committee Minutes
4. Bycatch Sub Committee Minutes
5. Economic Crab Safe Document
6. Alaska Bering Sea Crabbers Survey