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To: Erin Reinders, JR Pearson, Mayor Tutikoff and City Council

From: Frank Kelty, Fisheries Consultant

Re: Fishery Activities for June 17, 2021, NPFMC meeting final actions.

This week I have been attending the North Pacific Council meeting via Abode Connect. The Council reconvened on Monday after taking the weekend off. They finished up their work on Wednesday afternoon after deliberations.

Option on Staff tasking issues. Listed below I will comment on some of important actions taken by the Council this past week, I will attach with this memo all the Council motions on the various agenda items the Council acted on.

C-3 BSAI Crab Specifications: The Council accepts the Crab Safe Report and the SSC panel's recommendations on Aleutian Island Golden King Crab with a OFL for 2021/2022 at 4,817MT and the ABC for 2021/2022 at 3,372MT The Pribilof Blue King Crab the 2021/2022/23 OFL is set at 0.00116MT the ABC 0.00087MT in pounds (7.5million) the Total Allowable Catch(TAC) amount is set by the State of Alaska sometime in early July.

C-4 Bering Sea Aleutian Island Pacific Cod CV Trawl LAPP Program: The Council recommended releasing the analysis for final action in October after making the following revisions to the elements. and analysis. The Motion is 9 pages long, I will hit on some of the most important elements in the motion. The purpose and need statement were approved without and changes, and clearly outline why this Catcher Vessel trawl fishery needs to trawl fishery move forward into rationalized cooperative program and urge you to read the statement.

Element 1: Holders of qualified trawl CV LLP licenses must joint a cooperative annually in association with an eligible licensed processor. Harvesters may change cooperatives and cooperative associates annually without penalty. No limitation on the number of licenses holders or catch history to form a cooperative and no limit on the number of cooperatives. Option three LLP licenses needed to form cooperative.

Element 2: Allocation to LLP Licenses, catch history allocations will not be considered beyond December 31,2019.

2.2.2 Harvest allocations preferred years 2009-2019

### Element 3: Prohibited Catch Limits

Option 3.3.1 PSC limits on Halibut reduce by 25% preferred.

Option 3.3.2 PSC limits on crab reduce by 35% preferred.

### Element 4: Gulf of Alaska sideboards

Option 4.1 All AFA non-GOA exempt CVs and AFA LLP licenses will be side boarded for all GOA groundfish activity except for the CGOA Rockfish program.

### Element 5: Processor and Community Provisions

Option 5.1 no closed class of processors, all processors with and eligible are eligible to process BDAO Pacific cod under this program under this program under BSAI FMP Amendment 120 to limit catcher processors acting as motherships (only the 2 grandfathered in CPs can act as motherships.)

Option 5.4 Percentage of harvest shares to processors the options are 5% 10% 15% 20% 25% 30%. I am hoping that amount chosen will be in the 20%-30% range to make it meaningful to the processing sector that has made huge investment in the communities they operate in.

### Element 7: Transferability

7.1 Catch Histories are attached to trawl CV LLP licenses and are non-severable from the LLP. Transfers of an LLP license eligible for this program results in the transfer of any program eligibility and catch history/harvest shares associated with the LLP license.

7.2: Allocations based on processing history are issued as separate permits, and the permit is only transferable to another processor. Shoreside permits are only transferable to other shoreplants operations.

### Element 8: Ownership and Use Caps.

8.1 Harvested -issued cooperative shares. Processor -issued cooperative shares do not count toward this use cap. No person may hold or use more than the following options 5% -10%. Of the Pacific Cod Cooperative Quota.

8.3 Processor issue cooperative shares, no person may hold or use more the following options 15%-20% of the Pacific cod cooperative quota.

Element 14: Gear Conversion, Pacific cod CQ associated with a trawl CV LLP licenses may be fished annually by a CV with pot gear. A pot endorsement is not required but the LLP license used by the CV must have the appropriate area endorsements. Harvest would be deducted from the annual trawl CQ account to which the LLP is assigned and will not affect sector allocations. Pot CV harvesting would not be subject to 100% observer coverage and PSC use would be deducted for the PSC allocated to the cooperative.

D-1 Bering Sea Aleutian Islands Pacific Cod Small Boat: The Council was incredibly supportive of Dustan Dickerson proposal at this meeting. They recommended that the Purpose and Need Statement be adopted, which spells out the problem for the Unalaska local small Pacific Cod Harvesters. The Council moved two alternatives for initial review they are as follows.

Alt.1: No Action

Alt 2: Redefine the current BSAI Pacific Cod jig sector to include HAL/pot CVs less than or equal to Option 1: 55 feet LOA. Option 2: 56 feet LOA.

The Council motion passed unanimously, sending this action out for intimal review. This issue had a lot of support in testimony including form the City of Unalaska this action may finally get passed.

D-2 Sablefish Trawl Overages: The Council after hearing staff report and public testimony took no further action at this time on this issue. I believe the Council felt that the harvesters' groups involved were taking all the measures they could to avert Sablefish bycatch, but with the huge biomass of small Sablefish on the grounds that they did not have other measures to take, except to stop fishing Pollock or go into areas that would have increased bycatch of Chinook salmon.

D-3 Bering Sea Fishery Ecosystem Plan Team (FEP): The Council commends the Ecosystem committee and the Climate Taskforce on their fine work. The Council directs the BS-FEP Team to incorporate the input from the Ecosystem Committee and the Science and Statistical Committee urged the FEP to continue the work in the presented outline. The Council also supports the milestones and timeline developed by the Climate Change Taskforce.

D-4 Risk Table Report: The Council supports the preliminary SSC guidance on the application of the risk tables and looks forward on the final recommendation for the SSC at the October of 2021 Council meeting. The Council requests the SSC to consider the following recommendations.

- Include description of new or modified categories, including positive stock trends should be included.
- Request the SSC consider the roles of the stock assessment authors and /or Plan teams in presenting risk and the role of the SSC in making recommendations on potential reduction of the max ABC if appropreate.
- Clear language relative to SSC guidance that the risk tables are intended to inform the SSC determination of adjusting ABC from maximum permissible when needed. Previous reductions to max ABC should not be the basis for reducing unless relevant risk factors for as stock continue to be present.

Staff Tasking Council Motion: The Council Supports the Executive Director to schedule an outreach trip to the Yukon River area proposed by the Tanana Chiefs Conference.

Staff Tasking Council Motion: The Council Requests discussion paper to consider two possible changes to the Eastern Aleutian Island Golden King Crab (EAIGKC) fishery. The discussion paper should analyze two options.

1. Identify potential regulatory changes that would allow EAIGKC and Western Aleutian Island Golden King Crab (WAIGKC) that would allow regulatory changes to allow fishing prior to August 1<sup>st</sup>. and would allow Golden King Crab IFQ to be issued or fished earlier in the year.
2. Council supports EAG facility use caps and discuss impacts of removing or changing them to recognize custom processing arrangements. The paper should include history and the intent of the facility use caps, and a discussion of current processing conditions.

Staff Tasking Council Motion: on the Ecosystem Committee (EC): The Council supports the recommendations for the staff to finalize plans for the going briefings with norther fur seal co-managers and researchers and schedule them on the EC calendar. The Council also would like the EC committee to receive and update from Protected Species Division on the status of the Pribilof Island fur seal conservation plan. The EC should contact organizations that are addressing Marine Debris issue in Alaska. The Council also has a few more asks of the EC committee that are included in the Council motion that is attached with this memo.

Regards

Frank Kelty

#### Attachments

1. C-1 Council Motion Observer Report
2. C-2 Council Motion Trawl Electronic Monitoring
3. C-3 Council Motion BSAI Crab Specs
4. C-4 Council Motion on BSAI Pacific Cod Trawl Lapp Program
5. D-1 Council Motion BSAI Pacific Cod Small Boat
6. D-2 Council Motion Sablefish Overages
7. D-3 Council Motion Bering Sea Fishery Ecosystem Plan Report
8. D-4 Council Motion Risk Table Report
9. Staff Tasking Council Motion Eastern Aleutian Golden King Crab
10. Staff Tasking Council Motion on Ecosystem Committee Report
11. Staff Tasking Council Motion Outreach Travel to Yukon River Villages