

Memorandum

Date: June 3, 2022

To: Chris Hladick, JR Pearson, Michelle Price, Mayor Tutikoff and City Council

From: Frank Kelty, Unalaska Fisheries Consultant

Re: Fishery Activities for the week ending 6-3-2022

Bering Sea Fisheries Research Foundation Board of Directors Meeting Wednesday June 1, 2022

I attended the Bering Sea Fisheries Research Foundation Board of Directors (BOD) meeting I am on the board representing Unalaska. The BOD after introductions and approval of minutes from the April meeting. We moved on to a review of the April financials, not much revenue once again due to a small Snow Crab allocation of 5.5 million pounds. April revenues were \$5,600 with expenses of \$24,673 leaving \$477,316 of the FY 22 budget. The foundation reserves stand at the end of April at \$1.61 million down from \$1.89 million in FY21. Listed below are some of the major items discussed at the BSFRF board meeting on Wednesday.

Item 4. Was a review of the Crab Plan Team meeting minutes of a week ago, this was done for the benefit of Board Members that did not attend the four-day meeting. This overview took about an hour, I covered the Crab Plan Meeting which I attended via Zoom for four days. In last week's report I gave an update on this meeting, I will attach the official Crab Plan Team minutes which are very thorough, they cover each topic at the meeting in very great length. Of special note would be sections on the Snow Crab rebuilding plan, Aleutian Island Golden King Crab OFL and ABC reductions, and a host of bycatch and crab mortality information.

Item 5. Scott Goodman, the BSFRF Executive Director covered range of planning activity updates, for the board of directors they included ongoing Red King Crab (RKC) tagging projects and the new tag development for female Red King Crab which must have a much smaller tag that can stay

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attached. He also stated that we should have more satellite tag information in about a month time from movement of RKC in the Eastern Bering Sea area. Scott, then discussed some research funding opportunities he has been engaging in, he submitted a proposal to Schmidt Marine which has just launched a \$3.5 million fisheries technology initiative. The BSFRF has sent in a tentative proposal request \$250K in funding for fisheries data collection to assist in crab stock assessment. We also received an update on Senator Murkowski earmark of \$3.0 million for crab research her office is looking for a bill to attach the earmark to, this money would be a pass through to the BSFRF and would be used for collaborative research with ADFG and NOAA we hope to know more on this in the fall. We also had an update on potential funding for projects with the North Pacific Research Board the BSFRF is working on these submittals for various projects by June 30, 2022. Scott also updated the Board on the ongoing meetings with the Amendment 80 bottom trawlers on continuing discussion on collaborative work on bycatch reduction of crab in the Eastern Bering Sea.

Item 6. We received updates that NOAA summer Crab survey work has started leg one, for Red King Crab, which should be completed by mid-June, the first leg of the survey is working on Bristol Bay Red King Crab stock assessments. Scott will also provide written comments to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council in June on the Snow Crab alternatives for rebuilding plan and concerns with some of the issues that came from Crab Plan Team meeting two weeks ago.

The BSFRF Board Meeting adjourned at 12:15 PM

Bairdi Tanner Crab Disaster \$13 Million Spending Coordination Meeting on Thursday June 2, 2022

We had the first planning session on the distribution of the \$13 million dollars from the federal government for the loss of the 2019/2020 Tanner Crab season which will be distributed by the State of Alaska through ADFG. Fish and Game has asked for feedback by the Harvesters, Processors, CDQ Groups, and Communities on the percentages and amounts that may go to the various sectors. I had reviewed the last two disaster funding plans provided by ADFG one was for Gulf of Alaska Pacific Cod collapse of 2018 and the Chignik salmon disaster also in 2018. In both cases the harvesters and processors receive the bulk of the funding, which is appropriate in most cases, after viewing the two distribution plans it was

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apparent that the communities were short changed. On the Gulf Cod communities received only 5% and on Chignik salmon 2%. I spoke up to get things rolling with a breakdown of percentages as follows.

- Harvesters 45% \$5.85 Million
- Processors 40% \$5.2 Million
- Communities 10% \$1.3 Million
- Research to the BSFRF 4-5 % \$ 520,000
- ADFG Administration Cost 1% \$ 130,000

Most of the group did not object to opening proposal except it was apparent the harvesters wanted more either by reducing the Processors, Communities and the Research amount my best guess they would want another 5% to 10% I hope they remember no one gets whole on this small amount of money. The argument they made was they do not much other funding to get by on during this crisis, other than some salmon tendering and small crab harvesting opportunities. I agree if this goes on long term the harvesters will be in big trouble. They pointed out that processors and communities have revenue from groundfish, salmon, Halibut and Sablefish processing. I supported the 10% for communities on the overall impacts we face from not just from fish taxes losses, but the reduction in 3% sale tax revenues on fuel sales, and on other goods and services. We also had lost revenue in the support sector business faced and the reduction in employment at the processing plants.

It is important that what we get in place this small distribution plan which may be used by ADFG on the next federal disaster request which will be going forward late this year for \$250 Million for the crash of the Snow Crab, closure of the Bristol Bay Red King Crab season, and continued failure of the Bairdi Tanner Crab fishery. So, we need to get this right. I have one other comment on the 10% for communities of the \$1.3 million for this Tanner Crab funding if that percentage holds. I will be doing my best to get 50% of the allocation for Unalaska we have for many years landed between 50-54% of the Tanner Crab harvested in the Eastern Bering Sea annually and ADFG confirms that percentage as well. I believe the full group will be meeting around June 13-15 ADFG want comments in on June 15th on the spending plan recommendations. I believe the communities should have a separate meeting before the full meeting that would include Unalaska, Aleutian East Borough, King Cove, Akutan, and City of St Paul to discuss

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the percentages for each community. I feel that the revenue from this disaster should just go the General Fund. It would be too much work to try and do a distribution plan within all the community sectors. I would appreciate your thoughts after you review the memo.

Regards

Frank Kelty

Attachments:

1. Gulf of Alaska Pacific Cod Distribution Plan
2. Chignik Salmon Distribution Plan
3. Agenda for Bairdi Tanner Disaster Meeting
4. Crab Plan Team Meeting Minutes