

Alejandro Bong Tungul

Trip Report

North Pacific Fishery Management Council Meeting

October 6 –11 2022

Travel started leaving Dutch Harbor on October 5th at 10:00 AM, arriving in Anchorage at 1:30 PM.

The first day start with the election of officers and the B reports and continue the C1 BSAI crab overfishing limit by the council total allowable catch that is set by ADFG, on this issue Mayor Vincent Tutiakoff and our Fishery Consultant Frank Kelty testified to the council on the importance of having at least two small seasons for Bristol Bay Red King Crab and Bering Sea snow Crab Fishery. They Spoked on all the concern regarding the impacts to the Harvester, Processors, and support Sectors business in Unalaska. The goal is to ask the council for additional research work including Fall crab trawl survey, and additional research surveys work on using pots as well.

Then our group Mayor Tutiakoff, Fishery Consultant Kelty, Council Member Nicholson and Myself are a part of the Crab industry Group that met for a long hours with ADF&G Commissioner Vincent Lang in the following Morning two days before the ADF&G set the TAC amounts for the 2022/2023 Crab Season We made it clear how important and critical the need to have some small season for Snow Crab & King Crab to keep the Harvester's Captains and Crew pay their Bills and support the family, so they could stay on keeping the industry.

We also brought the impacts of other communities from this closed season especially St. Paul Island which crab deliveries make up their main revenue source. We also asked for additional state funds for research work and surveys and the State of Alaska support for disaster declaration to NOAA.

Things did not turn out the way we anticipated it, a couple a days after, the decision was made Red Crab and Snow Crab had closed and small Tanner Crab Season of 2 million pounds is the only one on the table. The industry plea for help once again and went on deaf ears, it was a big disappointment for all the Harvesters, hope they do a good positive job on research and study for next year.

Next is the C-2 Pacific Cod Small Vessel Access: After four years of work the NPFMC recommend approval of the proposal from Unalaska Native Fisherman's Association led by Dustan Dickerson for a small boat allocation for the city of Unalaska small boat fleet. The preferred alternative 2 with option 1 and the sub option that will allow for a new cod fishery for vessel in the 55 ft. Under LOA class. In September C season any rollovers from POT CV, HL and Jig season, would be utilized by all vessel in the 60 ft. LOA class. Mayor Tutiakoff, Fishery Consultant Kelty testified to the council and Vice Mayor Robinson called in on the phone with his personal testimony, as well as other Unalaska Supporters, it all went very well the motion passes and was adopted by a vote of 10 Yes and 1 No.

Overall, the trip was a really good experience having to stand up together with other communities and Fishing industries to Benefit our communities for the future.