

CITY OF UNALASKA
UNALASKA, ALASKA

RESOLUTION 2020-68

A RESOLUTION OF THE UNALASKA CITY COUNCIL IN SUPPORT OF THE UNALASKA NATIVE FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION REQUEST FOR AN ANALYSIS OF A COMMUNITY COD ALLOCATION FOR UNALASKA

WHEREAS, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) is currently working on the development of a Bering Sea Aleutian Island (BSAI) Limited Access Privilege Program (LAPP) for the Trawl Catcher Vessel Pacific cod sector; and

WHEREAS, a LAPP program is needed per the Magnuson-Stevens Act for the development of entities such as Community Fishing Associations, Regional Fishing Associations, and Fishing Communities; and

WHEREAS, the continued race for fish results in compressed fishing seasons, negative economic impacts, decreased ability to maximize the value of the Pacific cod and discourages fishing practices that reduce bycatch; and

WHEREAS, this request from the Unalaska Native Fishermen's Association (UNFA) for a community fishing allocation is driven by their concern of increasingly compressed fishing seasons, continued overcapitalization in the <60 fleet, and the continued declining Pacific cod allocations in a fishery they are heavily dependent on for their continued economic viability and participation; and

WHEREAS, the Unalaska City Council passed Resolution 2019-55 in September of 2019 in support of the development of a LAPP program for both the trawl Pacific CV sector and >60 Pot cod sector and supported that the unused portion of the Pacific cod jig allocation for the Unalaska-based <60 fixed gear vessels; and

WHEREAS, in 1994 the NPFMC supported a request from UNFA for a 1.4% Pacific cod jig allocation to be used by the region's local small-boat vessels to provide additional participation in the Pacific cod fishery; and

WHEREAS, in 1999 the NPFMC created the <60 sector to protect small boats in the Bering Sea from increased competition in the Pacific cod fisheries; and

WHEREAS, past NPFMC actions to support Unalaska's small boat sector have eroded in recent years due in part to the growth of the <60 sector resulting in shorter seasons, safety concerns, and rising nonlocal participation; and

WHEREAS, the key goals of this request are to protect fishing opportunities in the BSAI cod fishery, maintain local community-based entry opportunity, and minimize economic barriers for new participants from other Bering Sea communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Unalaska City Council supports the request from UNFA for an analysis of a community cod allocation for Unalaska, Alaska to be accomplished during the development of the BSAI Pacific cod Limited Access Privilege Program for the Pacific cod trawl catcher vessel sector.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by a duly constituted quorum of the Unalaska City Council on October 27, 2020.

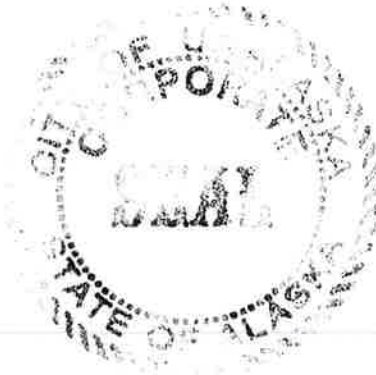


Vincent M. Tutiakoff, Sr.
Mayor

ATTEST:



Marjie Veeder, CMC
City Clerk



MEMORANDUM TO COUNCIL

To: Mayor and City Council Members
From: Frank Kelty, Fisheries Consultant
Through: Erin Reinders, City Manager
Date: October 22, 2020
Re: Resolution 2020-68, support of the Unalaska Native Fishermen's Association
Request for an analysis of a community cod allocation for Unalaska

SUMMARY: The Unalaska Native Fishermen's Association (UNFA) has been working on this issue for 2-3 years, driven by declining Pacific Cod allocations and the tremendous increase in <60 fixed gear fleet. These factors have decreased the length of seasons and reduced catch by the local Unalaska fleet, which is heavily dependent on the Pacific Cod fishery. Approval of Resolution 2020-68 is recommended.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION: In September 2019, Council passed Resolution 2019-55 which supported the development of the Bering Sea Aleutian Island Pacific Cod Limited Access Privilege Program (LAPP) for the trawl catcher vessel sector, >60' pot catcher vessels. The resolution also included in the preamble, support for the <60' fixed gear vessels for a community development quota based on the unused portion of the Pacific Cod Jig allocation. In October 2019 NPFMC passed a motion in support of developing a discussion paper to address community concerns and small boat access challenges identified in the <60 fixed gear BSAI Pacific cod sector, however this discussion paper has yet to be scheduled.

Council discussed this specific request at the October 13, 2020 work session. During that meeting, Council approved the following motion, and requested a related resolution be brought forward for consideration at the October 27, 2020 Council Meeting:

The City of Unalaska supports including analysis of a community cod allocation as part of the larger BSAI Trawl CV rationalization program in order to preserve small boat access for Bering Sea communities that have historically depended on the Pacific cod fishery. The City of Unalaska supports UNFAs efforts at the North Pacific Council to preserve small boat access, and allows Unalaska's fishery policy consultant to participate in these efforts.

BACKGROUND: UNFA has raised their local <60 boats concerns with NPFMC for many years and has asked for assistance in addressing the impacts to the local small boat fleet based in Unalaska. In Resolution 2019-55 Council supported an allocation based on the unused portion of the jig Pacific cod allocation.

In 1994, NPFMC supported a request from UNFA for a 1.4% Pacific cod jig allocation to be used by the region's local vessels to provide additional participation in the Pacific cod fishery. In 1999, the NPFMC created the <60 sector to support local small boats and address increased competition in Bering Sea Pacific cod fisheries. Over time and with the growth of the <60 sector, the opportunity provided by NPFMC past actions has been greatly diminished for local vessels.

DISCUSSION: Council was supportive of UNFA's request in 2019. The situation for the local small boat fleet is getting worse with a continued decline in the Pacific Cod allocation, and a continued over-capitalized fleet. Council was supportive of this request in discussions during the October 13, 2020 Work Session. I believe it would be prudent to support an analysis request to the NPFMC with Resolution 2020-68.

ALTERNATIVES: Adopt Resolution 2020-68 to support UNFA's request to the NPFMC; amend Resolution 2020-68; disapprove the resolution; or choose to take no action.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: I believe supporting UNFA's request with Resolution 2020-68, and my testimony on the City's behalf to NPFMC has no direct financial implications to the City.

LEGAL: N/A

CONSULTANT RECOMMENDATION: I recommend support of Resolution 2020-68 and to allow him to provide public testimony at the North Pacific Fishery Management Council in support of an analysis of a community cod allocation for Unalaska to be included in the LAPP request moving forward for the Pacific Cod Trawl Catcher Vessel fleet.

PROPOSED MOTION: Move to adopt Resolution 2020-68.

CITY MANGER COMMENTS: I support the consultant's recommendation, as it is in keeping with Council's direction and discussion at the October 13, 2020 meeting.