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Information from the Alaska Fisheries Communities sub-committee meeting on bycatch issues on Tuesday August 4th and on with then whole Alaska Fishing Communities meeting on Friday August 7, 2020 both to meetings by teleconference and zoom.

The subcommittee meeting on Tuesday focus was on the Bycatch of Halibut Abundance Based Management (ABM) issue and Crab bycatch by the trawl sector. The bycatch sub-committee discussed strategy for the October NPFMC for the Halibut ABM issues. The crab industry members continue to be concerned that many of the crab fisheries in facing exceptionally low stock levels or not even opening the Council has delayed action on Crab bycatch reductions until February NPFMC meeting. They will continue to reach out to the State ADGFG and NMFS to share their concerns.

Halibut folks were pleased that after 5 years they are finally getting their concern and issues before the Council in October. The bycatch committee discussed how they can improve their advocacy on bycatch issues before the Council. And are working on various meeting with state, North Pacific Council members and NMFS federal officials on the Halibut AMB.

On Friday's Alaska Fisheries Communities main group met we had a small turnout about 8-10 folks the meeting was basically was held to allow the sub-committee chairmen to report on their committees.

The MSA and National Standard sub-committee has not in August as of yet they plan on meeting in in a week or so. They continue to strategize on what we can do to influence potential changes to the MSA and the National Standards. The Communications committee report was brief, with many of the members out fishing. They continue to discuss topics they want to work on, some of the items discussed included impacts of Corvid -19 to small boat fishermen and fishing communities, also included was impacts to the native subsistence users in small fishing communities and the impacts to their historical use of fishing resources in Alaska. The next meeting of the group will be on August 21, 2020.

I have also included the draft minutes from the Bering Sea Fisheries Research Foundations July meeting. The foundation will be meeting again next Thursday.

Regards

Frank Kelty