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To: Chris Hladick, City Manager, Marjorie Veeder, Michelle Price

From: Frank Kelty, Fisheries Consultant

Subject: Fishery Activities and Fishery Articles for 6-25-2022

More unwelcome news this week as it pertains to the Aleutian Islands Crab Fisheries, on Wednesday the State of Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game announced the allocation for the Aleutian Island Golden King Crab season for 2022/2023 the fishery was reduced by almost a million pounds from the 5.9 million allocations for the 20211/2022 season. The allocation for 2022/2023 will be 5.05 million pounds including CDQ and the City of Adak allocation a 16% reduction. The Western District had the largest reduction of 520,000lbs. I assume the only good thing out of this, will be and increase in the ex-vessel value for the five vessels that fish this fishery.

We just completed the for the first full week of the Pollock fishery which came in at 38,992MT the majority of that came from the catcher vessel allocation 25,000MT the At Sea Processors and Motherships sector vessels are just getting started. The overall harvest is at 48,337MT (104 million pound) for nine days of fishing. Early reports fishing has been good for the catcher vessels that deliver shoreside, the Pollock is mostly medium size five hundred grams, and so far,

not much salmon bycatch which is a good thing.

I attended on Thursday the Bering Fisheries Research Foundation Board of Directors meeting I serve on the board representing the City of Unalaska. We reviewed the financials for May we finally had some in coming revenue from the Snow Crab fishery we took in \$37K expenses came in at \$26K. We are at 34.4% of budget of \$477,316. We still have in reserves \$1.61million down from \$1.89 million in FY21. The loss of the Red King Crab Season the 90% reduction in Snow Crab has reduced revenues from the fleet the BSFRF had to reduce are FY 22 budget by 50% and draw down on reserves.

The next agenda item was update by Executive Director Scott Goodman on the Snow Crab rebuilding plan which the North Pacific Council Science and Statistical Committee (SSC) sent a great deal of time on as did the Council which incorporated the SSC comments into their motion.

The Council prefer Alternative is Alternative 2: with two sub-options. It states adopt a rebuilding plan and specify a target rebuilding time not to exceed T_{MAX} , as recommended

by the SSC. The stock will be considered “rebuilt” once it reaches B_{MSY} , hopefully with in ten years.

Option 1: No directed fishing until the stock is rebuilt, allow bycatch removals only

Option 2: Allow bycatch removals and a directed snow crab fishery under the current State of Alaska harvest strategy

The motion also included a request to staff to provide additional information about the extent to which specific bycatch management measures might affect the rebuilding timeline. This information will be included in the initial review analysis, currently scheduled for December 2022.

Additionally, the Council requests public comment at the October 2022 meeting on ways to reduce fishing-related mortality of snow crab. Comments from fishery participants and the public on the following issues would be particularly useful:

1. Voluntary measures for implementation in 2023 and beyond to avoid EBS snow crab and reduce crab mortality in the non-directed fisheries.
2. Measures in the directed crab fishery to reduce discard mortality of EBS snow crab.
3. Description of research that would inform the development of more flexible and effective spatial management measures, gear modifications to reduce impacts on the EBS snow crab stock, or to evaluate unobserved mortality in the trawl sector.

The measures that they want to have information at the October Meeting is not a lot of time to produce measures to reduced bycatch.

We moved on to and update on annual survey work that NMFS does, is just finishing leg one of the stock assessment surveys in the Bristol Bay area. Antidotal information is that that Bristol Bay Red King Crab and Tanner Crab in that area may be improved. I hope that is true we should have more solid information in about two weeks. NMFS next two survey legs are in the Pribilof Islands and the Northern Region with the focus on Snow Crab and Western District Tanner crab.

Moving on to project update Mr. Goodman gave us and update on the tagging study that we fund about 50 % of are satellite tags have popped up and we are recovery data on crab movements. The foundation is assisting on the development of smaller satellite tags that can be attached to smaller crab, such as snow crab and female king crab that work is progressing. We on grant funding with Schmidt Marine, which related to Google Corporation, the foundation is work with the Bering Sea Crabbers request through Senator Murkowski office which could be \$2.0 earmark for crab reach which we hope to hear more on this fall. We are update on projects that could assistance with or partner in with funding from North Pacific Research Board (NPRB) nothing solid yet.

We also had update on continuing work on bycatch issues with a committee of crab and trawl sectors to research ideas that will benefit all sectors in the reduction of bycatch of crab.

Regards

Frank