

RL15

PACIFIC NORTHWEST CRAB INDUSTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PNCIAC)

Lance Farr, Chair
8941 179th Place SW
Edmonds, Washington 98040
fffish@hotmail.com
C 206 669 7163; F 425 776 9894

January 20, 2014

Mr. Glenn Haight, Executive Director
Alaska Board of Fisheries
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 9981
Fax: 907 465 6094

Re: Support letter for emergency petition to the Alaska Board of Fisheries submitted by Alaska Bering Sea Crabbers

Dear Mr. Haight

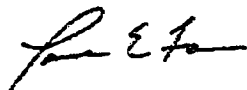
The Pacific Northwest Crab Industry Advisory Committee (PNCIAC) is the Alaska Board of Fisheries (AKBOF) and North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) designated non-resident industry advisory committee, representing industry participants from Washington and Oregon. It was established in 1990 at the time that the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands King and Tanner crab Fishery Management Plan was approved by the Governor of the State of Alaska, followed by the Secretary of Commerce. PNCIAC has balanced representation of harvesters and processors. PNCIAC since its beginnings, has worked with the Board of Fisheries, ADF&G, the NMFS, and the NPFMC. Together, the PNCIAC and the agencies have worked together to improve resource management.

PNCIAC supports the emergency petition submitted by Alaska Bering Sea Crabbers to change the industry-standard size limit for retention of Bairdi crab for Eastern Subdistrict Tanner crab from 5.5 inches to 5.0 inches. PNCIAC agrees with ABSC letter outlining the benefits of the petition and notes that there is no biological impact to stock productivity. PNCIAC further believes that industry has only recently become aware that the Crab Plan Team anticipates a substantial increase in mature harvestable size in the Eastern Subdistrict, large numbers of which will not reach 5.5 inches in carapace width. If the size limit is not reduced (at 5.0 inches, it will still exceed the minimum biological size for reproduction, plus a buffer), there will be substantial foregone harvests in the next 3-5 years.

PNCIAC recommends the ABOF accept the Emergency Petition for the March 2014 Board of Fisheries Statewide King and Tanner crab meeting.

Thank you in advance for your consideration,

Regards,



Lance Farr, Chairman
PNCIAC

JAN 22 2014
BOARDS

RLIS

PACIFIC NORHTWEST CRAB INDUSTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PNCIAC)
January 2013 through December 2015

Keith Colbern
F/V Wizard

Lance Farr (Chair)
F/V Kevleen K

Kevin Kaldestad
Kaldestad Fisheries

Garry M Loncon
RAS Seafoods

Steve Minor
UniSea Seafoods

Gary Painter
F/V Trailblazer

Kirk Peterson
UniSea Inc.

Rob Rogers (Vice Chair)
General Mgr Floating Production
Icicle Seafoods

Vic Scheibert
Trident Seafoods Corporation

Dale Schwarzmiller
Peter Pan Seafoods Inc

Gary Stewart
F/V Polar Lady

Tom Suryan
Skippers For Equitable Access (SEA), President

Elizabeth Wiley
Westward Seafoods Inc.

Mark Gleason
Alaska Bering Sea Crabbers

Arni Thomson Secretary (non-voting)
Alaska Crab Coalition