

P.O. BOX 162 UNALASKA, AK 99685

March 11, 2015

Tom Kluberton, Acting Chairman
Alaska Board of Fisheries
Fish and Game Board Support
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Subject: Comments from the Unalaska/Dutch Harbor AC from their meeting held on February 28, 2015 in Unalaska, AK. Comments pertain to various proposals included for the Alaska Board of Fisheries Meeting on Statewide Dungeness Crab, Shrimp and Mic. Shellfish for the Board of Fisheries meeting to be held in Anchorage, AK March 17-20 2015.

Proposals 236 -5AAC 32.410 Fishing seasons for Registration Area J. Establish an earlier season closure for the Kodiak, Chignik, Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian districts commercial Dungeness crab fisheries as follows. Motion to support Proposal 236; by Jennifer Shockley seconded by Don Goodfellow.

Discussion: ADFG proposal, ADFG staff comments in support of the proposal. Committee member's discussion this proposal had support by the committee members, not much of an impact for our area, but an earlier closure would assist with safety for smaller vessels by not having them fishing for Dungeness crab in severe winter weather. The earlier closure would also reduce the amount lost pots that may ghost fish. Motion to support passed 7-0

Proposals 268-5ACC 35.508. Bering Sea District *C. bairdi* Tanner crab harvest strategy. Reduce the size of exploitable legal male Tanner crab, from 5.5 to 5.0 inches carapace width, for calculating total allowable catch in waters east of 166°W long in the Bering Sea District as follows. Motion to support Proposal 268; by Don Goodfellow seconded by Steven Gregory.

Discussion: ADFG staff comments were neutral on the proposal. The committee members were almost split on this proposal, those that opposed were concerned with an increase of harvest of the Tanner Crab resource and the impact that it would have on the strength of the resource long-term as well as concerned on marketing issues with smaller tanner crab going into the market place competing

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with Snow Crab sales. Committee members in support mentioned the positive survey's and increased allocations the past two years and the economic benefit to the community and seafood industry with an increased allocation with the reduced size limit if this proposal was adopted. The Motion to support failed 4-3 with 1 abstention.

This concludes the Unalaska Fish and Game Advisory Committee comments on proposals for the Alaska Board of Fisheries Meeting on Statewide Dungeness Crab, Shrimp and Mic. Shellfish proposals for the Board of Fisheries meeting to be held in Anchorage, Alaska March 17-20 2015.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frank Kelty', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Frank Kelty,

Unalaska / Dutch Harbor AC Chairman