

**On-Time Advisory Committee Comment List**  
**Work Session**  
**October 21–22, 2015**

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Unalaska/Dutch Harbor Fish and Game Advisory Committee (Minutes 9/14/15)..... AC 01

UNALASKA/DUTCH HARBOR FISH AND GAME ADVISORY COMMITTEE

P.O. BOX 162 UNALASKA, AK 99685

September 14, 2015

Tom Kluberton, 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 August 29, 2015 in Unalaska, Alaska. Comments are on BSAI crab ACRs to be heard in Anchorage, AK October 21-22, 2015.

**ACR - 5 AAC 5AAC: 35.506 (i) (2)**

Allow the increased retention from 5% to 40% of Tanner Crab in the Bristol Bay Red King Crab fishery

Motion to support, ACR - 5 AAC 5AAC: 35.506 (i) (2) by Shockley, seconded by Goodfellow.

Discussion: ADFG staff provided no comment, as comments have not been completed. Unalaska/Dutch Harbor AC discussion on this proposal had strong support by all committee members except for one member. The majority of the committee felt that increasing the percentage of incidental harvest from 5% to 40% retention of Tanner crab in the Bristol Bay Red King Crab fishery would greatly help to reduce unnecessary discards and increased handling mortality of Tanner crab during the Bristol Bay Red King Crab fishery. The committee felt that an increase in incidental retention was also justified by the recent increase in Eastern District Bairdi allocation, which would lead to an increase in retention of Tanner crab. The committee didn't see an increase in incidental harvest of Tanner crab as becoming a major problem due to the fact that king crab gear is configured considerably different than Tanner crab pots, with large escape mechanisms making it very easy for Tanner crab to escape. The one concern heard was the impact on processors of unloading and processing of mixed crab species. **Motion to support** ACR - 5 AAC 5AAC: 35.506 (i) (2) from Alaska Bering Sea Crabbers **passed 9-1**

[1]



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**ACR - 5 AAC 5AAC: 35.506 (i) (2)** Allow the increased retention from 5% to 40% of Snow Crab in the Tanner Crab fishery west of 166° W long. :

Motion to support ACR - 5 AAC 5AAC: 35.506 (i) (2) by Shockley seconded by Good

Discussion: ADFG staff provided no comment, as comments have not been completed. Unalaska/Dutch Harbor AC discussion showed strong support for this proposal by all committee members. The committee felt that increasing the incidental harvest percentage from 5% to 40% retention of snow crab during the Western Subdistrict Tanner crab fishery, which occurs west of 166° W long., would greatly help to reduce unnecessary discards and increased handling mortality during that fishery. The committee also felt that an increase from 5% to 40% was justified in assisting fisherman to harvest the snow crab allocation, which has been considerably larger than the Tanner crab allocation in the past couple of years. Another factor considered was that the Tanner crab fishery takes place during the winter months and closes on March 31<sup>st</sup>. During this time, discard mortality of snow crab may be higher due to extreme cold temperatures and wind chill factors on the fishing grounds.

**Motion to support** ACR - 5 AAC: 35.506 (j) from Alaska Bering Sea Crabbers  
**Passed 10-0.**

**ACR - 5 AAC 5AAC: 39. 670(c) (3) (D)** Allow a vessel in a rationalized crab fishery to deploy crab pot gear for another rationalized target fishery if all of the following criteria are met 1. Gear conversion and setting occurs only at the conclusion of the final trip for the previously targeted species prior to offload 2. Re-rigged and baited gear is hauled within 14 days after setting; 3. Hauling of re-rigged and baited gear does not occur prior to registering for the new target fishery.

Motion to support ACR - 5 AAC 5AAC: 39. 670(c) (3) (D) by Good seconded by Shockley

Discussion: ADFG staff provided no comment, as comments had not been completed. The majority of the Unalaska/Dutch Harbor AC had no problem

[2]



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supporting this ACR. The committee felt that this proposal creates economic savings to the harvesters in the form of time, fuel, and extra pot handling hours. This allows harvesters to transfer directly from one rationalized fishery into another rationalized fishery without having to spend unnecessary time and effort removing gear from the grounds, and this proposal would increase operating efficiencies. The only member in opposition was worried about Alaska Dept. of Public Safety take of this ACR.

**Motion to support** ACR - 5 AAC: 39.670 (c) (3) (D) from Alaska Bering Sea Crabbers **Passed 9-1.**

 Date 9-14-2015

Frank Kelty, Unalaska / Dutch Harbor AC Chairman

[3]

