

**Proposal 272***Oppose/Support with Amendments*

Kelsi Ivanoff

Unalakleet, AK

Board Chair & Board of Fisheries,

My name is Kelsi Ivanoff, and I'm from Unalakleet, Alaska. My family participates in the Norton Sound red king crab fishery. I am writing with regards to Proposal 272, amending this fishery (regulation area Q) to start July 1<sup>st</sup>. I oppose a July 1<sup>st</sup> start date, however, would support the proposal with an amendment to June 20<sup>th</sup>.

Historically, a July 1<sup>st</sup> start date worked for our area due to ice and crab migration. As we all know, climate change has drastically affected our waters, including ice. Ice is gone from our area earlier, and our crab are migrating differently. Moving the start date to July 1<sup>st</sup> would put Eastern Norton Sound crab fishermen at a disadvantage.

A July 1<sup>st</sup> start date would require Eastern Norton Sound fishermen to travel further for the start, closer to Nome. Most of these fishermen use small 32 foot boats, converted to crabbing boats from herring bowpickers. Not only does this mean more fuel for small operation fishermen, this puts smaller boats into deeper, more dangerous waters, further from their home port. Lastly, in all our years both subsistence and commercial crabbing, low meat fill has never been an issue.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this matter.

Kelsi Ivanoff