

Executive Summary – Saint Paul Fisheries Issues

1. Halibut Abundance-Based Management:

- There are currently two motions. The first motion is based on the alternative presented by Saint Paul and other directed halibut fishermen. Current version simplifies action by focusing on A-80 sector, which generates most bycatch.
- The second motion contains 3 approaches. The first is a 3x3 look-up table using the two indices (setline survey and trawl survey), which is included as an idea in the original ABM analysis, to determine low, medium, and high breakpoints for abundance. The next two approaches are derived from the A80 proposal and ask for: 1) a Performance Standard to incentivize bycatch reduction, and 2) adjusting the halibut PSC limit downwards in years of low abundance (less than 1 million lbs) in area 4CDE with a formula for allocating halibut poundage to CDQ groups.
- Motion #2 is to come back for presentation at the June 2020 meeting. Any improvements from Motion #2 could be rolled into Motion #1 in October.

2. Increase in Halibut FCEY/Catch Limit at IPHC 2020:

- At the 2020 Annual Meeting, the IPHC adopted an FCEY of 1,730,000 lbs, for area 4CDE, a 15% decrease from last year's FCEY of 2.04 million lbs, but an improvement over the 690,000 lbs that had been recommended at the IPHC's Interim Meeting. It was also a better result than the one proposed by the Processor Advisory Board and the Conference Board, which would have resulted in an FCEY of 1,660,000 lbs for area 4CDE.

3. Alaska Fishing Communities Coalition:

- Saint Paul representatives lead efforts at the January 2020 NPFMC meeting to develop an Alaskan Fishing Communities Coalition. The Coalition is working on a Mission Statement and Potential Objectives based on common areas of concern which include community access to fisheries; reducing bycatch; and highlighting importance of these to SOA. The Coalition discussed the possibility of holding an event during the June 2020 NPFMC meeting. The Coalition will have a call on March 16th to discuss next steps.

4. Bering Sea Fishery Ecosystem Plan, LK&TK, and Climate Change:

- Two Action Modules have been established under the Bering Sea FEP. Recent discussions at the Council centered on budgetary limits and the growing needs that the development of these modules may require in the future. The Council

DTB Associates, LLP

1700 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20006-4707

bodies also discussed whether it made sense to merge these modules given the large overlap in the issues they are discussing.

- The Council's recent motion called for the creation of processes and protocols to identify and incorporate LKTK into Council decision-making processes and enhance the annual Ecosystem Status Report with Climate Change Task Force recommendations, while avoiding redundancies.

5. **Bairdi Ad Hoc Working Group:**

- CBSFA and the City are working with representatives of the crab industry on proposals before the AK Board of Fisheries (this week) to reevaluate how the bairdi stock quotas are assessed. The objective is to make ADF&G comfortable with the proposals in order to increase the size of the bairdi TAC.

6. **Crab Bycatch Reduction:**

- The City and CBSFA have supported efforts by the crab harvesters to reduce bycatch of crab in the trawl fisheries. This has become an increasingly contentious issue as several crab fisheries remain closed, but bycatch of these species continues. A related proposal involves evaluating crab habitat protection areas to determine if they need to be updated.