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Crab Producers and Harvesters, LLC

March 25, 2016

Mr. Dan Hull, Chairman
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
605 W. 4th Avenue
Anchorage, AK 99501

RE: Voluntary Crab Harvesters Report

Dear Chairman Hull;

During the February 2013 meeting the Council passed the following motion:

“The Council requests that each of the BSAI crab rationalization cooperatives voluntarily provide an annual report detailing measure the cooperative is taking to facilitate the transfer of quota share to active participants, including crew members and vessel owners, and available measures which affect high lease rates and crew compensation. The annual reports should convey to the Council the effectiveness of the measures implemented through the cooperatives and the estimated level of member participation in any voluntary measures and include supporting information and data. These reports are requested to be delivered for the October meeting each year.”

These reports are on the agenda for the April Council meeting. The following is the 2015-2016 season report on behalf of Crab Producers and Harvesters, LLC.

Crab Producers and Harvester, LLC (“CPHLLC”) is a smaller unaffiliated crab cooperative with 26 members and 5 harvesting vessels. Our coop represents 3.8% of the Bristol Bay red king crab (BBR) quota share, 4.7% of the BSS quota share, 4.6% of both EBT and WBT Bairdi quota share and 1.25% of St Matthew Blue Crab quota share.

The following is in response to the seven questions outlined in the Council’s February 2013 motion.

1. *What measures is the cooperative taking to facilitate the transfer of quota share to active participants, including crewmembers and vessel owners?*

The CPHLLC membership is supportive of transferring quota share to active participants. When quota share becomes available for sale, all members are contacted and given opportunity to purchase.

2. *What is the level of participation from cooperative members regarding these measures?*

All members of CPHLLC cooperative are voluntarily adhering to these measures.

3. *How effective have these measures been?*

We believe it has been very effective. Although we have not had any quota shares available for sale this past year, in previous years all but one sale of quota share was made to members of CPHLLC who are active in Alaska fisheries and all but one of those purchasers are active in the BSAI crab fishery.

4. What measures is the cooperative utilizing to address the issue of high lease rates, as they affect crew compensation?

Our membership has been made aware of the Council's interest in lease rates and this topic is an important one. As a result of a voluntary industry effort over the past few years, the following lease rates have become more of the standard, 50% for BSS, 65% for BBR and 30% for EBT/WBT. It is my understanding that most of our harvesting vessels pay the standard lease rates.

5. What is the level of participation from the cooperative members regarding these measures?

Please refer to response in question #4

6. How effective have these measures been?

Please refer to response in question #4

7. What future measures does the cooperative plan to take to address the Council concerns over active participation and lease rates as they affect crew compensation?

CPHLLC will continue to encourage our members who are selling quota share to give preference to active participants in the fishery. CPHLLC will also continue to encourage members to adhere to the standard lease rates being mindful of how it affects crew compensation.

Sincerely,

CRAB PRODUCERS AND HARVESTERS, LLC



Brenda Clutter
Coop manager