

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Dan Hull, Chairman
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December 21, 2017

Ms. Paula Cullenberg
Alaska Sea Grant
1007 W. 3rd Ave #100
Anchorage, AK 99501
VIA EMAIL paula.cullenberg@alaska.edu

Dear Paula:

Thank you for the opportunity to be part of the Young Fishermen's Summit that you hosted in Anchorage on December 6-8, 2017, during our Council meeting. The Council members all enjoyed the enthusiasm and curiosity that the young fishermen brought to the summit, and the opportunity to interact that was afforded through the evening reception and the debrief session following their attendance at the Council meeting on Thursday afternoon.

The logistics of having the whole group of young fishermen come over to witness our meeting are difficult to arrange in advance, although it ended up working out very well this year. Our schedule moves at a somewhat unpredictable pace, so it is hard to know exactly what portion of the Advisory Panel or Council meetings the young fishermen might be listening in on. It may help in future to consider whether a different time of day might work out better. The advantage of late in the day is that we were able to follow on with the debriefing session, but an alternative could be to have the group come over immediately after lunch, when there might be an opportunity for our staff to provide some additional orientation beforehand as to what the participants would witness, and some general background, for example on the responsibilities of a Council member or Advisory Panel member.

This year, we tried a new project, namely having three young fishermen shadow three Council members during the Friday morning Council session. All three young fishermen met with their assigned Council members for breakfast before the meeting, at which they were introduced to the general outline of the morning meeting – in this case, presentations and testimony on Bering Sea groundfish harvest specifications. The reactions from the Council members have been very favorable; they were impressed with the seriousness and engagement of the young fishermen, and their presence at the table was not disruptive to the business at hand. It was noted that if we were to repeat the shadowing opportunity, it will continue to be important to be selective about which agenda items are under deliberation, but groundfish specifications worked well in that regard. The Council suggested a couple of different directions for future implementation of a shadowing project. One would be to arrange a shadowing opportunity at the Advisory Panel, which would be a likely arena in which young fishermen could look to participate. The Council also expressed interest in extending this type of opportunity to other stakeholders, not just commercial fishermen (for example, subsistence fishermen, charter boat fishermen, or recreational fishermen).

We recognize that the Council process can seem intimidating to those who are not familiar with it, and we welcome opportunities to engage with the new generation of stakeholders and to help them understand how they are affected by, and can affect, our Council process. We will continue to support Sea Grant's Young Fishermen's Summit, and appreciate you and your staff for the hard work that you undertake in order to prepare for a successful event. We especially commend the efforts of Sunny Rice and Torie Baker, for their exemplary coordination with us on the Council portion of the summit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dan Hull". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dan Hull
Chairman

cc: Sunny Rice
Torie Baker