

FINAL

Crab Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes October 2, 2007 Anchorage Hilton

Committee Members – Jake Jacobsen, John Iani, Lenny Herzog, Rick Shelford, Clyde Sterling, Rob Rogers, Dave Hambleton, Phil Hanson, Louie Lowenberg

Staff – Mark Fina (NPFMC), Herman Savikko (ADFG), Jim Balsiger (NMFS)

Public –Terry Leitzell, Linda Kozak, Steve Minor, Brent Paine, Joe Sullivan, Dave Fraser, Margaret Hall, Pat Hardina, Heather McCarty, Florence Colburn, Mike Shelford, Jeff Kauffman, John Jorgensen, Jonathan Thorpe, Keith Colburn, Dick Powell, Tom Enlow, Kristy Despars, Steve Manley, Frank Kelty, Lynn Walton, John Moller, Kevin Kaldestad, Marcus Hartley

Minutes

The committee approved the minutes from the previous meeting without change.

Review committee report

The committee accepted the current draft of report to the Council with one change. The committee agreed that the amendment for addressing staleness of the market report should require that the arbitration organizations reach agreement defining the provision of the market report 50 days prior to a season opening (rather than May 1). This option will allow the organizations greater flexibility for making the reports timely and useful to fishery participants.

The committee briefly discussed the accuracy and adequacy of COAR data for arbitration. Some members believe COAR data are inadequate and incomplete for use in arbitration; others maintain that COAR data is the best available data and do not question its adequacy for use in arbitration. Some committee members requested that the Council be made aware of the issues with COAR data. The committee agreed that no regulatory change or specific proposal should be advanced to the Council at this time.

The committee also discussed the use of B shares and whether processor capacity could constrain deliveries this year in the North region in the *opilio* fishery. Processors believe that with both the St. Paul shore plant and the Arctic Star operating this year, capacity should not constrain deliveries.

Harvesters also expressed concern that with all processing capacity in St. Paul harbor, icing could constrain their ability to deliver. This concern heightened harvester concern for the potential need to discuss emergency relief of regionalization. Processors expressed their concern that regional relief could also be hardship to the plant, as well as to the community. Processors also believe that the need for regional relief can be minimized by processor support of vessel access to the plants.

Other issues

The committee also discussed a recently prepared report concerning the 90/10 A share/B share split and arbitration.