

February 21, 2018 Pacific Northwest Crab Industry Advisory Committee (PNCIAC) Annual Meeting - Teleconference

In attendance:

Committee members: Lance Farr (President), Steve Minor (Vice President), Tyson Fick, Secretary (non-voting), Jake Jacobsen Sr, Kevin Kaldestad (Tom Suryan-proxy), Brett Reaser and Dale Schwarzmiller.

Others: Jenni Klein (ABSC-staff), Arni Thomson (ABSC-staff), Mark Stichert (ADFG), Ben Daly (ADFG) and Sarah Marrinan (NOAA-staff).

10:09 am Meeting called to order by Lance Farr.

The minutes were accepted from the last Annual meeting since no objections were made. Steve Minor made a correction to Brett Reaser's misspelled name.

Officers will remain the same for another year.

- **Harvest Strategies for BSS for harvesting dark shell crab**

Ben Daly and Mark Stichert explained how ADF&G determine the percentage of dark shell crab. Data from the preseason NOAA survey and the previous year's dark shell crab landings composition are combined to come up with an average dark shell number as it pertains to the entire biomass number. This year it was 25% and is commonly known as the discount rate. The TAC number is based on how much dark shell crab the harvesters are going to keep and process. The TAC could change/increase if harvesters and processors agreed to keep and process dark shell. To make a change to the current strategy (very little dark shell is currently processed) harvesters and processors need to make a request to ADFG at a PNCIAC meeting.

Conclusions from the discussion: There's no need to go to the Board of Fish with a harvest strategy request. The harvest strategy for dark shell crab is more of an industry problem than a regulatory one. Processors need to decide if they will take dark shell crab based on market demand. The market demand question is more complicated with regard to consumer awareness and which nomenclature is used to describe dark shell crab. Dark, old or ugly. ASMI would like to start using the term "ugly" in their promotional efforts. Most of the committee agreed that typical dark shell crab has very high meat fill. It was suggested by Mark that the committee meet in mid August when the preseason survey results are available. Mark also offered to run historic biomass numbers to assess the worth of increasing retention of dark shell crab on final TAC numbers. A harvest strategy request from harvesters and processors could be made at this time.

- **Tanner Crab Harvest Strategy**

Ben D assured the committee that nothing has changed from a planning perspective with regard to developing a new Tanner crab harvest strategy. Everything is on track for the 2020 cycle. Mark S was pleased with the outcomes from the Bairdi working group that Scott Goodman put together. He thinks the new strategy will look a lot like the Red King crab harvest strategy. The Bairdi harvest strategy for this coming year will be the same as last year.

- **Cost Recovery of the Observer Program Test receipts**

Tyson explained that the project to retrofit the vessel Resolution is 1 million dollars in arrears. The state would like to use funds collected from the previous years crab cost recovery test fish receipts to help cover the costs of completing the retrofit. Policy documents state that funds from test programs are to be used in the same fishery. Mark S is also concerned. The state hasn't used any funds yet. He also thinks it's a good idea for PNCIAC to write a letter to the State of AK requesting that they not use test receipts to finish repairs on the Resolution.

Lance agreed to write a letter to the State of Alaska.

- **Proposal to allow partial deliveries of CR program**

Jake would like to see a provision made to create an opportunity for boats to drop off a partial load of crabs and go back out to the fishing grounds. This opportunity would increase delivery options and make industry more operationally efficient. Lance supports this proposal. Sarah M advised that this proposal would need to go through the council process, starting with staff tasking. Staff will probably send a letter to council proposing an exemption. This process will probably take a couple of years. Mark S is positive about the idea and suggested that the provision includes a willingness to start using electronic log books since industry is going this way.

Jake motioned that PNCIAC recommend to NPFMC to consider an FMC amendment that would allow partial deliveries and start using electronic log books. Kevin second. No opposition.

11:02am Jake motioned to adjourn. Kevin second.