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King Cove Fish and Game Advisory Committee Meeting
Friday, March 2, 2012-10:00 AM
King Cove Harbor House

1.Call to Order

Chairman Grant Newton called meeting to order at 10:00 AM

2.Roll Call

Members Present: Grant Newton
Kenneth Mack
Edwin Bendixen
Bill Sager
Corey Wilson
Joe Hogan
Gary Mack
Alvin Newman

Members Absent: Warren Wilson

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**BOARDS
ANCHORAGE**

Harbor Master and other interested members of the community were present.
Mark Stichert, ADFG Kodiak, Chignik, Alaska Peninsula
Groundfish/Shellfish Management, teleconferenced. Members of False Pass
AC Committee also teleconferenced.

3.Old Business

The committee reviewed information from various sources regarding catch data for prior WGOA p-cod federal seasons and Area M state seasons. There was also more discussion on the new 2012 sector splits.

The committee reviewed the proposal forms that Grant Newton had drawn up after the February meeting when they were adopted. While reviewing the proposal, asking that 50% of the Federal WGOA TAC be put into the Area M state fishery, Alvin Newman wished to go on record as opposing this proposal as a committee member. He sited the fact that it would reduce sector split quotas for all gear types of which he participates in the trawl sector as well as the pot sector. Mark Stichert indicated that a 100% increased allocation for the state fishery would be very reactive to other WGOA participants

4.New Business

Mark Stichert had sent an agenda change request form for review regarding the opening date of the Area M tanner crab season. The new 2012

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sector splits for pots was 38% as compared to most recent years of over 50% taken by the pots during the WGOA federal/parallel p-cod season. The tanner state season opens on January 15 with regulations of no pot fishing 14 days prior to the opening. The importance of tanner fishing history in the likely case of limited entry forces the vessels to participate and forgo p-cod harvest until after tanner. 2012 saw the tanner season closing the last week of January and the WGOA p-cod pot season ending the first week of February. There was very little opportunity for pot vessels to participate in the reduced pot sector split of the federal p-cod season as they had in recent years. If the tanner season opened on January 1 as does the WGOA p-cod pot season, it would allow the pot vessels to fish the tanner crab season without the 2 week delay and allow more opportunity to participate in the reduced WGOA p-cod season. The processor representation (PPSF) on the AC said that they would be willing to be ready for a January 1 opening. The department indicated that the quality of the tanner crab would not be lessened, although there might be more \$\$ necessary to staff the plant observers for the earlier opening. Kenneth Mack moved to submit an ACR asking for a January 1 opening date for the Area M tanner fishery. He cited the guideline of the request being "to correct an effect on a fishery that was unforeseen when a regulation was adopted". Alvin Newman seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

The committee discussed the effects of the federal NPMC's trend toward privatizing the fisheries in the state with cod sector splits. The state pot and jig p-cod fishery was developed at a time and with the intent of benefiting small local boats of coastal communities. The Area M state fishery is an open access fishery that is seeing the effects of large 58' vessels that were built to fish the large federal BSAI quotas and now sector splits. In the 2012 WGOA sector split season there was 32.8% of the pot quota harvested west of Unimak Isl. Prior to 2011 there was less than 5% taken. We see a large BSAI TAC and feel a need for a state p-cod fishery to be developed in Area O that has similar regulations and quotas as the Area M state season. This would give some relief to the pressure on Area M and other p-cod state fisheries. Kenneth Mack made a motion to propose that the state create an Area O state fishery that mirrors the regulations and quotas of the Area M p-cod state fishery. Gary Mack seconded the motion. Motion passed (6-yes, 1-abstain).

5.Adjournment 11:00 AM