

King Cove Fish and Game Advisory Committee Meeting

Thursday, September 12 2013 @ 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

Corey Wilson

Herman Samuelson

Gary Mack

Members Absent: Alvin Newman

Warren Wilson

Bill Sager

Harbor Master and other interested members of the community were present.

3.New Business

A. P-Cod proposals for Board of Fish October 18-22, 2013 meeting:

16&17-support-Modify boundary description of South Alaska Peninsula groundfish area-The committee supports the intent of this proposal as it relates to the increase in harvest since 2007 of state season p-cod west of Scotch Cap. Prior to 2007 most of the p-cod harvest came from east of Scotch Cap. The large BSAI TAC has created an opportunity for highly productive 58' vessels fishing the BSAI to easily move to the south side of Dutch Harbor area to fish in the South Alaska Peninsula state groundfish season. We do not support taking the South Alaska Peninsula quota and dividing it up east and west of Scotch Cap. The coastal communities east of Scotch Cap do not want quota to be lost, but keep the revenues and harvest benefiting them.

18,19,20,21-support-Increase state waters GHL to 50% of the federal WGOA TAC. The pot only vessels of South Alaska Peninsula are the big supporters of this for 2 reasons. The feds have created sector splits in the federal WGOA. The fed pot sector split is 38% when pots in years prior to splits have taken over 50% of the WGOA TAC. The sector splits have taken all opportunity away for the pot only vessels to compete for the entire WGOA TAC as they did before. Secondly the feds may rationalize the WGOA fishery. This would make it even

harder to compete for cod quota. The state p-cod fishery is pot and jig only with a 58' vessel limit.

The trend since federal sector splits is, for the boats that participate in both the pot and trawl sector splits, to fish the pot sector first. These vessels then switch to harvest the trawl sector of the WGOA while the pot only vessels sit and watch. There are members on the committee who trawl that would rather the 25% stayed the same.

22-support-Change South Alaska Peninsula state waters P-cod from exclusive to superexclusive. We support this proposal in the event that either the vessels registered in the nonexclusive Aleutian Island District trend movement into the South Alaska Peninsula area, or a new state fishery Area O is opened as a nonexclusive area.

23-oppose-Open South Alaska Peninsula(SAP) 7 days following closure of Federal pot sector. For economic and safety reasons the committee feels the March 7 state waters opening date allows for better fishing and better weather.

24-oppose-Open SAP March 12 rather than March 7. The committee thinks the March 7 date is optimum.

25-support-Housekeeping

26,27-support-Allow open and unbaited pots in more than 25 fathoms 7 days prior to opening of SAP state waters P-cod. There is a 58' vessel limit and a 60 pot max limit for SAP state fishery. Not all vessels can haul all pots in one trip. This proposal not only allows for smaller vessels to get all pots fishing sooner, but really adds to the safety aspect of the entire fleet by not possibly having to haul gear in rough weather.

28-support-Ban nonpelagic trawling in state waters near Sanak and Caton Isl. The trawl vessels on the committee feel the proposed area can be used for safety on certain days, but would agree to close it for tanner crab stocks. It would be nice if there was a simple weather clause for the proposed area??

35,36-support-Establish a state waters P-cod fishery in the Bering Sea portion of Area O. The committee's intent of making this proposal is

to offer a fishery to the newer fleet of large 58' vessels that have chosen to fish the large Federal TAC in the BSAI east of 170 W Long and then move into the state waters South Alaska Peninsula fishery in March during that fishery. Since 2007 the catching ability of these newer high capacity 58' vessels has shortened the BSAI season and allowed them to move into the South Alaska Peninsula March 7 state season. Between the Federal sector splits of WGOA and increase in effort west of Scotch Cap during the state season the local South Alaska Peninsula have seen less opportunity for the pot only vessels. This has dramatically effected the overall economic viability of our community and the majority of our fishermen.

B. Advisory committee members who will attend October 18-22 Board Of Fish P-cod meeting:

Ken Mack said he would attend the meeting but did not plan on using state help with transportation, Chairman Grant Newton will not attend the meeting and indicated that Alvin Newman had planned on attending, but was not using state money for transportation.

4.Adjournment: 11:00 AM