

Ray Caudill
Box 172
Unalakleet, AK 99684
May 20, 2014

North Pacific Fishery Management Council
605 West 4th Avenue
Anchorage, AK 99501

Dear Council:

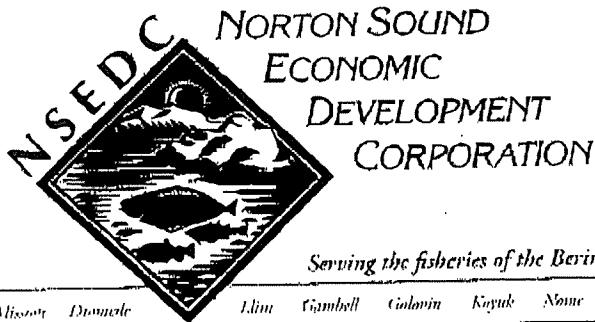
I have been a local fisherman in Unalakleet for many years and have been slowly investing in pursuing the Norton Sound Red King Crab Fishery under the 32 foot exemption. Currently, I have a large investment at stake with considerable debt. If this exemption is eliminated, I would be completely shut out of this fishery with a crushing debt.

I am strongly against any changes to this exemption. I highly urge this body to vote NO!

Sincerely,

Ray Caudill

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ray Caudill", written in a cursive style.



Serving the fisheries of the Bering Strait Region

Bering Alisoor Dismale

Elin

Gambell

Colovin

Kayuk

Nome

Sami Michael

Savoonga

Stuktoalik

Stebbins

Teller

Unalakleet

Wales

White Mountain

NPFMC to examine participation in Norton Sound red king crab fishery

The upcoming North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) meetings will be held from June 2-10 in Nome. While many residents are aware that the NPFMC will again discuss salmon bycatch at this meeting, Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation's (NSEDC) Board of Directors would like to make sure residents are also aware of another agenda item that could eventually impact the region's fisheries.

On the agenda is a discussion paper on participation in the Norton Sound red king crab commercial fishery. The discussion paper comes in response to a commercial fishery participant citing concerns over whether the fishery was becoming over-capitalized (too many fishermen for the size of the fishery). When a fishery is over-capitalized, participants, on average, may have difficulties paying off their investment to participate in the fishery and earning income. The fisherman's testimony asked the NPFMC to consider eliminating the exemption that allows boats 32 feet and under in length to participate without a license, commonly known as an 'LLP' (one issued under the federal 'License Limitation Program'); and to consider reducing the number of current LLP licenses by requiring them to have been fished in recent years to be kept.

At this point, the NPFMC will not be making any decisions at this meeting on the LLPs or the 32-foot exemption. The NPFMC, however, could start a decision-making process by asking for an analysis which could potentially examine somehow reducing the number of LLPs or limiting (or eliminating) the 32-foot exemption. Any final decision to change the management approach, if one were to be made, would take several meetings to reach and would span a timeline of at least a half a year, at the shortest. Residents should be aware they have an opportunity to comment now.

NSEDC's Board of Directors has not taken any stance on potential changes to the fishery. However, it is recognized that fishermen in the region will have differing opinions on whether changes should be made to the regulations detailing who can participate in this fishery. NSEDC's Board wants to be sure residents are notified that they have an opportunity to give input. In the NPFMC discussion paper, it says that public input will be valuable in guiding the Council's course of action on the issue of over-capitalization.

The Norton Sound Red King Crab LLP discussion paper and the North Pacific Fishery Management Council meeting agenda can be found on the NPFMC (www.npfmc.org) and NSEDC (www.nsedc.com) websites.

Testimony can be given either in person during the June NPFMC meetings in Nome or in writing. Public comment is limited to three minutes to individuals and six minutes for group representatives. Written comments and materials must be received at the Council office by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, May 17. Comments can be sent by mail, fax or email.

Email: npfmc.comments@noaa.gov

Fax: 907-271-2817

Mail: North Pacific Fishery Management Council
605 West 4th Avenue
Anchorage, AK 99501

"NSEDC will participate in the Bering Sea fisheries to provide economic development through education, employment, training and financial assistance to our member communities."

Merle Towarak
Box 273
Unalakleet, AK 99684
(907) 625-1218
Merle_530@yahoo.com
May 27, 2014

North Pacific Fishery Management Council
605 West 4th Avenue
Anchorage, AK 99501

Dear North Pacific Fishery Management Council:

I am writing this letter in regards to the Norton Sound Red King Crab Fishery requirements to the LLP. I feel this would be unfair to A lot of fisherman like myself. So I am oppose to this idea, because I just go into the fishery. Therefor I'd like a few years before this takes into effect.

Sincerely,



Merle Towarak

Ray Caudill
Box 172
Unalakleet, AK 99684
May 20, 2014

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Anchorage, AK 99501

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