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Brief Statement of Proposal:

I propose allowing IFQ Committee members to appoint a proxy on their behalf in the event an IFQ Committee meeting is held during an IFQ fishing season.

Objectives of proposal (What is the problem):

Since I have been serving on the IFQ Committee, the Council has held meetings outside of or near the end of the halibut and sablefish IFQ fisheries up until 2019. I realize we cannot please everyone, however when the majority of the IFQ Committee is executing their halibut and sablefish IFQs as owner operators, I feel it is a gross oversight on the Council's behalf to hold a meeting during an IFQ season, especially without the ability for a Proxy.

Second, as an IFQ Committee member, I serve as a volunteer where I am not reimbursed for any of my travel expenses by the Council whatsoever. Asking me to forgo part of my fishing season in order to attend a meeting places an unnecessary financial strain on my business as an owner operator and my crew.

Third, even under the current Adobe meeting platform, an attendee must be near reliable internet or phone service, difficult to attain in many parts of Alaska. A committee member is then forced to travel by land air or sea to a location which meets the Adobe requirements all the while further costing a Committee member money out of their own pocket or worse yet, exposing said member(s) to the current COVID pandemic.

Fourth, the Federal seat on the Council has had various Proxy options (Balsiger, Merrill, Oliver) for a number of reasons throughout the past which have been exercised. I believe the State of Alaska Council seat has been afforded the same.

Need and Justification for IFQ Committee/Council Action (Why can't the problem be resolved through other channels?):

IFQ proposals are typically introduced through the IFQ committee before being taken up by the NPFMC and subsequently being adopted by NMFS.

Foreseeable Impacts of Proposal (Who wins, who loses?):

When the predecessor to the IFQ Committee was formed, the IFQ Implementation Committee, the prerequisite to membership was that you were an IFQ stakeholder. Stakeholder membership is absolutely necessary to carry out the will and wishes of the industry. However, this same prerequisite can place a burden on members when a meeting is held during a fishing season. A proxy is a temporary solution to this problem which still carries out the wishes of the member(s) who is absent from the meeting. Bottom line, Committee members should be afforded the same proxy opportunity held for the federal seat on the Council, especially considering that we as IFQ Committee members are volunteers, unlike the paid members of the Council Federal Seat.


Are there alternative solutions? If so, what are they and why do you consider your proposal the best way of solving the problem?

Beyond current status quo which places undo burden on IFQ Committee members, I am not aware of any alternatives. My proposal creates fairness and is only exercised when a IFQ Committee meeting is held during an IFQ fishing season.

Supporting Data & Other Information. What data are available and where can they be found?

Supporting data can be found by archiving Council minutes showing proxy voting.

Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "J. M. M." with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.