



May 30, 2025

Ms. Angel Drobica, Chair
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
1007 West Third, Suite 400
Anchorage, AK 99501

RE: Comment on C4 – Crab Arbitration

Dear Chair Drobica and Council Members:

The Alaska Bering Sea Crabbers (ABSC) is a trade association representing the majority of independent crab harvesters who commercially fish for king, snow (opilio), and Tanner (bairdi) crab with pot gear in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI) Crab Rationalization Program. We appreciate the opportunity to comment on C4 – Crab Arbitration and we align our comments with those submitted by the Inter Cooperative Exchange (ICE).

The Arbitration System has worked effectively for many years, with minimal arbitrations, and has created a known playing field for all involved parties. As is recognized in the Crab Arbitration Initial Review, only minor tweaks, if any, are likely to be beneficial. We urge the Council to avoid making substantive changes that cause the CR Program to deviate from its founding intent of ensuring the maintenance of the historical division of revenues between harvesters and processors.

Please refer to the comment letter submitted by ICE for further details and considerations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gabriel Prout". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

Gabriel Prout
President
Alaska Bering Sea Crabbers