

Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation

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November 29, 2021

Mr. Dave Witherell, Executive Director
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
1007 West Third, Suite 400
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2252

Via NPFMC website: <https://meetings.npfmc.org/Meeting/Details/2653>

RE: NPFMC Advisory Panel nominations

Dear Mr. Witherell,

I am writing on behalf of the **Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation (BBEDC)** to express our strongest support for Tamara Briggie to be appointed to the NPFMC Advisory Panel (AP). We believe Ms. Briggie's qualifications make her an outstanding candidate to serve on the AP. Her background will also help to fill an important role in maintaining a diversity of Washington State-based commercial fishing representation on the AP with the terming out of Joel Peterson.

Support for Ms. Briggie Appointment to AP

The AP is tasked with providing guidance from fishing industry participants to the NPFMC on proposed Council actions and their impacts on fishing operations, communities, and the utilization of the resource. The AP plays a fundamental role in the shaping of Council actions that have a direct and lasting impact on the health of the North Pacific fisheries.

Ms. Briggie's work with the freezer longline sector and her many years of involvement in the fisheries management process make her an outstanding candidate to succeed Mr. Peterson as a Washington State-based representative on the AP. As importantly, from our experience with Ms. Briggie we believe her participation on the AP will help to foster constructive debate by the panel and contribute toward practicable solutions on complex fisheries issues before the AP.

Qualifications to serve on the AP

The following are some specific comments addressing Ms. Briggie's qualifications to be selected to serve on the AP. We believe these comments are demonstrative of the strong rationale for the Council to select Ms. Briggie for this role.

Diversity of Experience on the AP

Mr. Peterson's participation on the AP has served an important role in facilitating a better understanding by AP members of freezer longline operations and in voicing specific concerns and perspectives of the freezer longline sector, helping the AP to work toward solutions that benefit all industry sectors. Ms. Briggie's appointment to fill the seat now held by Mr. Peterson will ensure the AP continues to include a member who can bring this specific perspective to the table. As the Quota Manager for the FLC, she is regularly engaged with our company and other FLC members about our operations at sea and the challenges facing our vessels to harvest and process our catch, allowing her to

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bring an informed voice on the impacts of proposed actions to the freezer longline fleet. This is consistent with the Council's longstanding interest to ensure that a diversity of industry perspectives are represented at the AP.

Practical Expertise

Ms. Briggie has nearly 15 years of experience in the fisheries that will inform her participation on the AP. As FLCs Quota Manager, she is responsible for helping ensure the orderly harvest of Pacific cod and other species by our fleet, working regularly with operators and vessel captains to ensure they do not exceed allocations for our sector. She has a clear understanding of the complexities of the Pacific cod allocations to sectors and the in-season management of the stock by the National Marine Fisheries Service, as well as work within our sector to cooperatively manage our harvest. Prior to joining the FLC, her work in the fisheries included engagement on watershed restoration efforts impacting salmon fisheries and with the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC). This experience affords her specific knowledge related to salmon and halibut fisheries that will serve her and the AP well in upcoming deliberations.

Stakeholder Outreach and Information Sharing

Ms. Briggie has expressed a strong interest to engage as an industry representative in the North Pacific fisheries management process, including to contribute toward the safe and sustainable harvest of our fisheries and the well-being of the multitude of stakeholders and communities dependent on the resource. Should she be appointed, she will be well-positioned to engage with vessel operators and crew about the AP process and its outcome. As a member of the AP we believe she will both provide specific freezer longline sector perspectives to discussions and work with others at the table to forge solutions to complex fisheries questions before the AP.

Upcoming Issues Before the AP

The Pacific cod fisheries are amongst the most important resource to fishery stakeholders in the North Pacific. Its relative abundance and the number of users who rely on the stock to support their operations and livelihood make it a stock of particular interest in the Council process. It is also a stock that has experienced rapid changes in recent years that Council and stakeholders continue to work to understand and adapt to. Ms. Briggie will be well positioned to offer valuable industry insights on the Pacific cod fisheries as Council continues to take up actions impacting the future of the resource and its users.

BBEDC strongly supports Ms. Briggie's appointment to the AP. We would be happy to talk further with you should you have any questions. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Helen Smeaton, Acting CEO

Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation