



Alaska State Legislature

North Pacific Fishery Management Council
1007 West Third, Suite 400
Anchorage, AK 99501-2252

RE: Agenda Item – C2 BSAI Halibut abundance-based management (ABM)

November 30th, 2021

Dear Chairman Kinneen and Members of the Council,

Never before have Alaskans from all regions come together to support council action to protect our fisheries and communities in this way. Alaska is famous for its bountiful resources and sustainable stewardship of abundant fisheries. We represent Alaskans across regions and communities of the state who have compelled us to strongly support Alternative 4 in the North Pacific Fishery Management Council's Abundance-Based Management (ABM) of Halibut Bycatch action.

One of the most iconic and valuable of our resources – Pacific halibut – is facing a crisis that threatens the way of life for commercial, subsistence and sport halibut fishermen, and the economic driver for communities of coastal Alaska. Alternative 4 is the only choice that would provide meaningful benefit to the State's halibut fisheries and halibut-dependent communities.

Meaningful abundance-based management creates badly needed conservation incentives. These incentives are lost entirely under the current non-constraining prohibited species catch (PSC) limits because the Amendment 80 fleet feels no effects at times of low abundance—and has no incentive to reduce halibut mortality or take steps to conserve halibut—because the impacts of low abundance are felt entirely on halibut commercial, subsistence and sport fishermen. Equitable management of halibut bycatch ultimately fulfills social and ecosystem priorities that impact our fishery for generations.

As a bipartisan group of state legislators, we ask the Council to uphold the principles of wise resource management and to protect the fisheries that benefit the people of Alaska. It is imperative the Council take steps to restore equity for Alaskans and Alaskan businesses in the harvest of these critical resources by implementing Alternative 4.

Respectfully,

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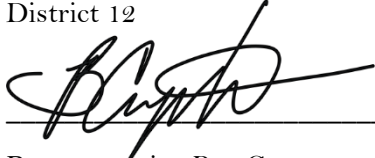
Representative Sarah Vance
District 31

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins".

Representative Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins
District 35



Representative Cathy Tilton
District 12



Representative Ben Carpenter
District 29



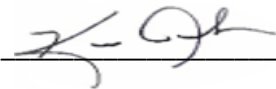
Representative David Eastman
District 10



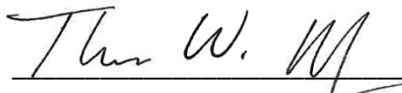
Representative Steve Thompson
District 2



Representative Christopher Kurka
District 7



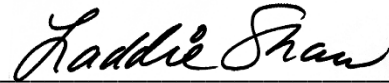
Representative Kevin McCabe
District 8



Representative Tom McHay
District 24



Representative Mike Prax
District 3



Representative Laddie Shaw
District 26



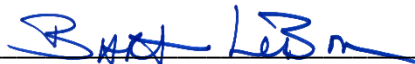
Representative Mike Cronk
District 6



Representative Ron Gillham
District 30



Representative James Kaufman
District 28



Representative Bart Lebon
District 1



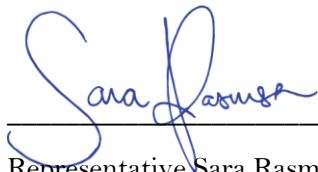
Representative Ken McCarty
District 13



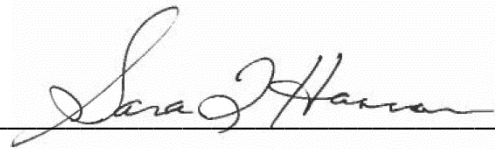
Representative David Nelson
District 15



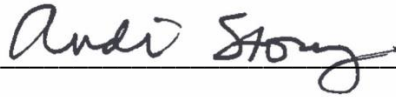
Representative George Rauscher
District 9



Representative Sara Rasmussen
District 22



Representative Sara Hannan
District 33



Representative Andi Story
District 34



Representative Dan Ortiz
District 36



Senator Mike Shower
District E



Senator David Wilson
District D



Senator Scott Kawasaki
District A