

**KODIAK ARCHIPELAGO RURAL REGIONAL LEADERSHIP FORUM  
RESOLUTION 02-2020**

**RESOLUTION TO THE NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL IN  
REGARD TO HALIBUT BYCATCH IN BSAI PACIFIC COD TRAWL CATCHER VESSEL  
COOPERATIVE PROGRAM**

**WHEREAS**, the Kodiak Archipelago Rural Leadership Forum is a consortium of tribal, municipal, Alaska Native Corporation and other leaders from the coastal communities of Akhiok, Kodiak, Larsen Bay, Old Harbor, Ouzinkie and Port Lions; and

**WHEREAS**, fish and access to marine resources have always been a foundational resource for these island communities which rely on strong fisheries and fishermen to thrive; and

**WHEREAS**, sustainable fisheries and maritime skills form the economic basis and cultural foundation of fishery dependent coastal communities in the Gulf of Alaska (GOA); and

**WHEREAS**, Kodiak's current fishing economy is directly influenced by this maritime history and the traditions that grew in close connections with the marine resource; and

**WHEREAS**, Bering Sea halibut bycatch indirectly affects all Pacific halibut fishermen, because maturing Bering Sea halibut not taken as bycatch migrate to the Gulf of Alaska; and

**WHEREAS**, coastal communities are dependent on the halibut resource and it is the responsibility of the State of Alaska and the Council to conserve the halibut resource and its cultural, recreational and commercial value to Alaska halibut fishermen, processors, visitors, and consumers; and

**WHEREAS**, National Standard 9 of the Magnuson-Stevens Act states that a Council shall take into account conservation and management measures that shall, to the extent practicable minimize bycatch; and

**WHEREAS**, National Standard 8 of the Magnuson-Stevens Act states that the Council shall take into account the importance of fishery resources to fishing communities.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the rural communities request the North Pacific Fishery Management Council include meaningful halibut bycatch reductions in the developing cod trawl cooperative program; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** the range of reductions of halibut bycatch under consideration should be increased from 10% -25% to 10% -40%

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that 100% observer coverage, cooperative style fishing and individual vessel accountability provide the cod trawl fleet with significant tools to reduce bycatch; and

*Kodiak Archipelago Rural Regional Leadership Forum*

*Resolution 02-2020*

*Resolution to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council in regard to halibut bycatch*

---


**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that gear conversion options in the action provide additional means to harvest Pacific cod with minimal halibut bycatch; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that conservation of the halibut resource through reduction of halibut mortality is the responsibility of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that rural communities have high expectations for meaningful halibut bycatch reductions when considering new fisheries management programs.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 18<sup>th</sup>** day of November, 2020 by the 33 community, Alaska native corporation and tribal leaders participating at the Kodiak Archipelago Leadership Forum.

IN WITNESS THEREOF:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Roberta Townsend Vennel, Forum Facilitator