

KODIAK ARCHIPELAGO RURAL REGIONAL LEADERSHIP FORUM
A REGIONAL CONSORTIUM OF COMMUNITY, TRIBAL, MUNICIPAL, ALASKA NATIVE CORPORATION AND
COMMUNITY LEADERS SUPPORTED BY THE KODIAK ARCHIPELAGO LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

RESOLUTION 03-2021

**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 leadership of Kodiak's 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 that halibut bycatch should be reduced by 35%, the maximum amount under consideration, for the long term benefits to the halibut resource and communities dependent on the health of the halibut resource that migrates into the Gulf of Alaska; and

Kodiak Archipelago Rural Regional Leadership Forum

Resolution 03-2021

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

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


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that gear conversion options is a critical component of this action to provide voluntary opportunity to harvest Pacific cod with pots that minimize 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 22nd day of September by the 33 community, municipal, Alaska Native Corporation and tribal leaders participating at the Kodiak Archipelago Rural Regional Leadership Forum.

IN WITNESS THEREOF:



Roberta Townsend Vennel, Forum Facilitator