



NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

605 W. 4th Ave. Suite 306
Anchorage, AK 99501
(907) 271-2809
Fax (907) 271-2817

Action Memo

File Number:Crab 14-003

Agenda Date4/7/2014

Agenda Number:C4

Eric Olson, Chairman
Chris Oliver, Executive Director

SUBJECT:
BSAI Crab Cooperative reports; Discuss Template

ESTIMATED TIME:
2 hours

ACTION REQUIRED:
Approve template for the annual, voluntary crab cooperative reports. Determine expectations for future content.

BACKGROUND:
At the December 2013 meeting, the Council received the first submission of voluntary BSAI crab cooperative reports. Seven of the ten cooperatives submitted a written report to the Council before this meeting (these reports are attached) and representative from three of the cooperative provided oral testimony to support their submission. Reports were intended to address concern raised in the 5-year review of the crab rationalization program; specifically the transfer of quota shares to active participants in the fishery, high lease rates for quota share, and equitable crew compensation.

The Council additionally received a staff presentation with updated 2012 crab Economic Data Report (EDR) information, which highlighted data availability and timing of the crab EDR for review. With input from stakeholders and understanding the utility of fully audited crab EDR for reference, the Council moved to change the timing of the reports. Beginning 2015, the reports will be requested March 1 of each year with an opportunity for representatives to present at the April Council meeting.

The seven submitted reports were formatted using one of two styles. The majority of the reports used a seven question-and-answer format directly adapted from the Council's letter that was originally sent to the cooperatives (this letter is attached). One cooperative, representing a diverse group of perspectives allowed their members to individually submit letters addressing how the Council's concerns manifested in their business practices. The Council requested that staff follow up with the non-responding cooperatives.

Contact was made with the three cooperatives that had not submitted a report by the December Council meeting, in order to notify them of the continued interest in their perspective on the Council's issues of concern. Since then, we have received one additional cooperative report from Trident Affiliated Harvesting Corporation (attached with others). Based on initial communication, we expect at least one of the remaining two cooperatives will still take advantage of the opportunity to produce a voluntary report for the 2013 cycle of reports.

In December, Council members began a discussion on their satisfaction with the content provided in the first round of crab cooperative reports. For instance, some members said they would have liked to see more

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information on the effectiveness of the measures taken within the cooperatives to address concerns with active participation, lease rates and crew compensation. This discussion was scheduled to continue at this, April 2014 meeting, in order to allow the Council an opportunity to provide further specificity regarding their expectations for these annual reports. This will aid cooperative representatives in their ability to successfully provide input on the Council's concerns, as well as allowing agency staff the opportunity to make the necessary PRA submissions based on Council action at this meeting.