

Public Comments

Joint Protocol Committee Meeting | Anchorage, October 13, 2022

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Joint Protocol Committee Meeting Comments

Submitted Time: September 23, 2022 3:16 PM

First Name

Deyaun

Last Name

Boudreaux

Community of Residence

Texas

Write your comment here:

Just learned that neither Whataburger nor BurgerKing in Texas will carry fish sandwiches...Two years ago, as a the former Environmental Director for Texas Shrimp Association, I researched the origin of fish for all the short-order restaurants in Texas, and happily learned that the fish offered were from Alaska. As a deep supporter of US fisheries, I was very favorably impressed by Alaskan fisheries. Today I was crushed to learn we will no longer have Alaskan fishery product in our food supply. Why not? Please answer.

Deyaun Boudreaux

Former Environmental Director

Texas Shrimp association

Joint Protocol Committee Meeting Comments

Submitted Time: September 16, 2022 10:49 PM

First Name

Donald

Last Name

Johnson

Community of Residence

Soldotna Alaska

Write your comment here:

There is an abundance difference between king and sockeye salmon. Since these salmon migrate together different factors are impacting them at sea. Both begin feeding on crab larvae. Juvenal kings feed on older crab larvae that are greater than 17 mm and sockeye feed on younger crab larvae that are less than 5 mm. Kings then make a dietary leap from older crab larvae to even larger prey while sockeye's continue feeding on young and small crab larvae their entire life.

Hatchery salmon feed on young crab larvae while wild juvenile king salmon feed on older crab larvae. Feeding Conflict. Hatchery salmon sweep the ocean of young crab larvae which eliminates the older crab larvae. 50 billion North Pacific hatchery salmon consume most of the young crab larvae which greatly reduces older crab larvae juvenile kings need. Juvenile kings are starving to death before adulthood. It's not a lack of abundance, it's a lack of correctly size crab larvae for kings and fewer adult crabs.



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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
Mayor@kingcoveak.org

October 3, 2022

Mr. Simon Kinneen, Chairman
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
1007 West Third Avenue, Suite 400
Anchorage, AK 99501

RE: BSAI Crab Fisheries

Dear Chairman Kinneen:

I am writing you today in support of the September 27, 2022 letter you received from the Alaska Bering Sea Crabbers (ABSC). Our hope here in King Cove is that some relatively modest amount of snow crab quota can be approved by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) for harvest this coming winter.

We are aware of the ocean changes occurring in the Bering Sea impacting both king and snow crab populations, and possibly other species that we depend upon for our financial livelihood. This is a major concern for us since a significant portion of our community history and culture are directly tied to the Bering Sea fisheries.

As you may know, King Cove was founded as a fishing community in 1911. We have always understood that a balance must be maintained and respected between the natural and socioeconomic environments of our location for our community sustainability. I also want to share my observation that the rationalization of the BSAI Crab Program back in the early 2000's brought a mix of good and not-so-good financial concerns on my community.

I also want to emphasize and endorse the statements in ABSC's letter to the Council:

- 1) *Create some immediate flexibility in the system to adjust to the unique situations at hand using the best available science and moving crab stocks towards more sustainability, while also balancing the needs of the fishing communities consistent with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.*
- 2) *For Bering Sea snow crab, we ask that there be some flexibility to set at least some level of harvest for the upcoming season.*

As you know, last year's snow crab quota was about a 90% reduction from the prior year. However, for King Cove that still provided almost 500,000 lbs. of snow crab processed at the Peter Pan Seafoods cannery. The local raw fish tax value, combined with the corresponding 25% share of the State raw fish tax, was approximately \$60,000 in city revenue.

Please know that \$60,000 in city revenue is important to King Cove. This amount will fund either one of police officers for a year, or keep the doors open to our teen center and recreation program for a year. Both of these community services are vital in helping to maintain our community's vitality and social responsibilities to our residents.

As a fisherman I also understand what is required to maintain a vessel, crew, and a market in both good times and bad times. And now that our king and snow crab fisheries have fallen into precarious times, I'm asking you and the other NPFMC decisionmakers, with the discretions that you have, allow for at least another minimal snow crab season this winter.

Thank you for your consideration of this very important and timely topic.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Warren Wilson', written in a cursive style.

Warren Wilson
Mayor

CC: Commissioner Doug Vincent-Lang, ADF&G
Drs. Sherri Dressel & Franz Mueter, NPFMC, Scientific and Statistical Committees
Jamie Goen, Executive Director, Alaska Bering Sea Crabbers
King Cove City Council Members