

Snow Crab Rebuilding Testimony February 2023

Good Morning members of the Council.

My name is Mateo Paz-Soldan. I am testifying on behalf of CBSFA and the City of Saint Paul Island, Alaska. CBSFA's written comments on this matter are posted in the E-Agenda.

First of all, I wanted to thank Jon McKraken and Sara Rheinsmith for pulling this Snow Crab Rebuilding Analysis and for their outreach.

CBSFA also appreciated the improvements and additions made to the Social and Economic Impacts section which starts on Section 3.6.3, page 81, including the additional information regarding individual and overall CDQ ownership of snow crab CV, CP, and processor shares. This information provides useful data responsive to community dependence considerations, which is an important element in Rebuilding Plans under Section 304 to guide the AP's and the Council's decision-making, as well as under NS8.

This said, CBSFA and the City of Saint Paul, support Alternative 2, Option 2. The analysis indicates that neither Alternative will make a big difference in rebuilding time of the snow crab stock. However, clearly, adoption of Alt 2, Option 2, could make a big difference for crab dependent communities such as St Paul and other stakeholders.

As some of the tables in the Analysis show, small TAC snow crab fisheries can produce significant revenues and associated taxes, perhaps even sufficient to keep crab dependent communities afloat.

Like Mr Kelty said before me, St Paul is also hoping for a miracle to bring back snow crab, but also looks forward to meaningful actions on other fronts to restore this key fishery.

Testimony re Area 4 Halibut IFQ Vessel Caps

The City wants to echo the comments made earlier by Ms. Behnken and Ms. McCarty concerning a timely development of the analysis for the long-term fix to the area 4 Vessel Caps.

As I stated on the agenda item on this matter, the activities surrounding the local small boat fishery on St Paul, are key to the community's sense of self and being. A timely implementation of the longer-term fix will help preserve this.

Initial Review June or October 2023. Final Action early 2024. Full Regulatory Implementation by 2025 or 2026, and this assumes a best-case scenario.

Additional issues may be flagged by the Council or Stakeholders during Initial Review, that would require additional time and analysis taking close to 2027 and the end of the interim action.

This might be useful to have handy for testimony on Staff Tasking.

June 2022 Long Term Motion:

<https://meetings.npfmc.org/CommentReview/DownloadFile?p=2b8ebb4c-cea6-48a0-aed0-0c8ec2ff1354.pdf&fileName=D2%20Council%20Motion%20-%20Area%204%20vessel%20cap.pdf>

February 2023 Interim Motion

<https://meetings.npfmc.org/CommentReview/DownloadFile?p=e1a69a45-1e5f-46b7-a260-d5d0e98e1ed3.pdf&fileName=MOTION%20C3.pdf>