



October 20, 2023

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Attn: Darion Jones
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, Alaska 99811-5526

Re: Spend Plan Recommendation for RESEARCH for the 2021/22 and 2022/23 Bristol Bay Red King Crab and Bering Sea Snow Crab Fishery Disaster Declaration

Dear Ms. Jones:

The below signed parties of affected fishery participants representing various crab harvesters, processors, CDQ entities, and communities **recommend 10% be allocated to research** for the 2021/22 and 2022/23 Bristol Bay red king crab (BBR) and Bering Sea snow crab fishery disaster declaration.

We recognize our recommendation of 10% (~\$18M) is lower than the 18% (\$34M) recommended for research in the state’s draft spend plan and note that previous public comments to develop the spend plan ranged from 2-10%.

We think 10% is much more appropriate as the amount allocated to research given 1) considerable research funding already awarded and available from other sources, and 2) the overarching intent of the federal fishery disaster program to provide funding to those stakeholders harmed by the disaster.

There are several other sources of additional crab research funding recently granted (e.g., North Pacific Research Board (~\$750k), Congressionally directed spending (CDS) on all BS crab (\$2.75M)) and in the works (e.g., another pending CDS on BBR (~\$4M), a new 2023/24 snow crab fishery disaster request (~\$2-10M)). This is all in addition to ongoing crab research. Ten percent, or \$18 million allocated to research is many times higher than historically spent on crab research and it should be adequate to support numerous priority research projects that will help to prevent future disasters in these fisheries.

Thank you for considering our comments.

Sincerely,

Ragnar Alstrom, Executive Director, Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Association

Eric Deakin, Chief Executive Officer, Coastal Villages Region Fund

Jamie Goen, Executive Director, Alaska Bering Sea Crabbers

Phillip Lestenkof, President, Central Bering Sea Fishermen's Association

Steve Minor, Manager of Business Development, Peter Pan Seafood

Kurt Pedersen, President & COO, Keyport

Robin Samuelsen, Chairman, Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation

Vincent M. Tutiakoff, Mayor, City of Unalaska

Warren Wilson, Mayor, City of King Cove

Phillip Zavadil, City Manager, City of St. Paul