



BERING SEA FISHERIES RESEARCH FOUNDATION
23929 22ND DR SE BOTHELL, WA. 98021
FORGING COOPERATIVE RESEARCH PARTNERSHIPS IN THE BERING SEA

October 5, 2017

Hello crab industry and BSFRF contributors,

We are writing to BSFRF supporters on the brink of the new season. While the crab outlook in general is not a rosy picture, it's critical for industry to continue supporting cooperative research.

We are conducting ongoing important crab projects to assist with improving science for crab management. Many of you are aware of our crab specific surveys which were focused on Tanner crab earlier this summer. In addition, we have some critical crab model and assessment steps that we're working on with both NMFS and ADF&G. A potentially groundbreaking tagging project is also in the works – with a small scale pilot study set to occur off the coast of Washington later this Fall (purposely waiting for bad weather) to test the feasibility of bringing this project north to the Bering Sea. While the current status of many crab stocks is low, the three primary Bering Sea stocks are supporting open seasons at low harvest levels.

BSFRF cooperative partners are a critical part of our crab research and we continue to develop working relationships with a broadening group of researchers on a wide variety of crab projects. We are grateful to the crab industry – both the harvesters and processors – and our other contributing partners for their financial support. It's clearly a very dynamic time for the ocean environment, and the challenges to crab stocks. Maintaining our capacity to conduct cooperative crab research is imperative.

We are providing a **Research Update** that covers a brief overview of the tagging project and some modeling progress in the attached newsletter. Please feel free to reach out with questions, concerns or research ideas any time.

Sincerely,

BSFRF Executive Director,
Scott Goodman

BSFRF Board President
Doug Wells