Comments on Amendment 5 to the Golden Crab Management Plan

(submitted by Bill Whipple)

I am in favor of Alternative 2 regarding Action 1.

Given the large upheaval of interest in the golden crab fishery as the last great hope for fishermen running out of alternatives, a catch share program appears to be essential for prevention of a derby situation, exploitation and other abuses. Those of us who have spent years trying to develop and protect the fishery are deeply concerned. We do not want to see this resource go through the cycle of boom, bust, destruction and painful rebuilding which has been the fate of so many valuable fisheries. In addition, we feel it is proper for those who have been good stewards in the development years to have the opportunity to be protected from this risk.

The golden crab advisory panel has participated with Council and staff in the development of the remaining options. We feel it is far too early to select any of them at this point. We recommend that we continue this joint effort, analyzing, adding, pruning and refining as the effort to create a model program comes to fruition.