

CITY OF UNALASKA

P.O. BOX 610
UNALASKA, ALASKA 99685-0610
(907) 581-1251 FAX (907) 581-1417



Chairman Hull and Council Members
NPFMC
605 W. 4th Ave, Suite 306
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

April 27, 2015

RE: C-2 BSAI PSC Halibut bycatch reductions for the Amendment 80 Fleet, Freezer Longline Fleet, and the Limited Access Trawl Fleet

Chairman Hull,

This June at the NPFMC meeting in Sitka, Alaska, a decision will be made on the amount of the reduction of halibut bycatch allocated across the board to the above fishing interests. If the level is set over a 10% reduction, we are very concerned about the impact to the many support sector business here in Unalaska as well as a significant drop in our fish tax and sales tax revenues mainly from marine fuel sales, so critical to our continued economic stability in the Aleutian Islands.

The City of Unalaska is committed to sustainable, accountable fisheries management as a rule and has observed real progress in terms of avoided bycatch in our Bering Sea Fisheries over the past eight years by multiple participants. When the NPFMC rationalized the multispecies fisheries in the Bering Sea under Amendment 80 in 2008, it allocated shares of target and bycatch species to each vessel resulting in positive changes to the fishery:

- 1) Full time Observer coverage for the Amendment 80 fleet, Freezer Longline fleet and the Limited access trawl vessels.
- 2) Sharing hotspot information regarding high halibut areas to be avoided between vessels in real time.
- 3) Designing, testing and using halibut excluders as well as slowing the trawl speed to allow halibut to escape.
- 4) Working to implement a deck sorting program that removes the halibut on the deck instead of putting everything in the holding tanks (as now required) which results in a high mortality rate.

The majority of our BSAI Pacific cod catcher vessels, AFA CP's, Amendment 80CP's, and Pacific Cod Freezer Longline CP partners are diligently working to reduce halibut bycatch and stay in business at the same time. A substantial reduction in the allowable halibut bycatch numbers for these vessels could be extremely negative to coastal communities that depend on a stable, year round fishing effort. The negative result of putting at significant risk our current level of local businesses, jobs, and revenue is of great concern to us. Please take into consideration the adverse effects of cutting the existing halibut bycatch cap by anything over the 10% level on our business community and City. Instead, please strongly encourage the Fleet to continue working on a deck sorting program designed to bring down halibut mortality numbers and to continue to improve the efficiency and use of halibut excluders before making such a major policy change.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shirley Marquardt", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Mayor Shirley Marquardt
City of Unalaska
Box 610
Unalaska, Alaska 99685
907-581-1251

MUNDT MACGREGOR L.L.P.
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

271 Wyatt Way NE, Suite 106
Bainbridge Island, Washington 98110-2873

Telephone (206) 624-5950
Facsimile (206) 624-5469
www.mundtmac.com

Matthew L. Fick
mfick@mundtmac.com
Direct: (206) 319-1103

May 7, 2015

Mr. Dan Hull
Chairman
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
605 West 4th Street, Suite 306
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2252

Re: BSAI Halibut Bycatch Reduction

Dear Chairman Hull:

Our law firm represents numerous companies and individuals who are involved in the fishing industry in the North Pacific. Our clients include the owners of several vessels operating in the Amendment 80 sector, as well as several companies that provide goods and services to those vessel owners.

We understand that, at the June Council meeting, the Council will consider the adoption of very significant reductions in the halibut prohibited species cap for the Amendment 80 fleet and a corresponding reallocation of halibut quota to other vessels.

Most of the participants in the Amendment 80 fleet have been operating their vessels in Alaska and the Bering Sea for over 20 years. Over the years they have spent millions of dollars, both in Washington and Alaska, in safety improvements and vessel maintenance. The owners collectively employ some 2,000 people who work on the vessels or in the companies' home offices. Finally, numerous support businesses, including ours, depend on their continued successful operations.

I am writing to respectfully request that Council take into account the serious economic hardships that the proposed reductions in the Amendment 80

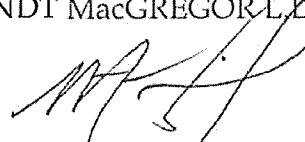
Mr. Dan Hull
May 7, 2015
Page 2

prohibited species cap could cause, and to urge the Council to consider other means to address concerns regarding halibut biomass.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely yours,

MUNDT MacGREGOR LLP.



Matthew L. Fick

cc: Senator Patty Murray
Senator Maria Cantwell
Congressman Rick Larsen
Congresswoman Jamie Herrera Beutler
Congresswoman Suzan DelBene

Subject: C2 Bering Sea Halibut PSC
From: Tom Ohaus <tom@anglingunlimited.com>
Date: 5/7/2015 3:30 PM
To: npfmc.comments@noaa.gov

I'm writing to encourage the NPFMC to take meaningful action to decrease halibut bycatch in the trawl fisheries. As you are well aware, the directed fisheries have taken on a heavy burden of conservation during this time of declining halibut abundance. In Area 2C where we operate, the longline harvesters have seen their catch limits slashed by more than 50% and charter anglers are down to a bag limit of one halibut of a restricted size. In the Bering Sea, bycatch exceeds directed harvest by more than double in pounds and nearly by five times in the number of individual halibut killed.

Of the roughly one million halibut killed as bycatch in the Bering Sea annually, 70-80%, would migrate to the south and east to populate grounds throughout Alaska, British Columbia and the lower 48. In all these areas, sport and directed commercial fisheries have accepted the the responsibility of conservation by way of slashed catch limits and ever tightening regulations, yet trawl bycatch remains relatively unchanged.

Charter operators have the opportunity to interface with the portion of the public who harvest halibut aboard our vessels. While most guided anglers don't relish increased restriction on their take, they are willing to accept cuts for conservation and rebuilding of the resource. They often ask me if the sacrifice is fairly shared by the commercial fleet. How do I explain to them that they are now limited to one fish of a restricted size while bycatch continues at unchanged levels in trawl fisheries? How can we convey a sense of fairness in conservation when more halibut are dumped overboard and wasted than are landed in the entire sport harvest?

I urge you to set trawl bycatch limits to a level representative of the burden placed on other harvesters. It's time to spread the conservation burden of halibut equally and fairly across all user groups.

*Tom Ohaus
Owner/Operator Angling Unlimited
Sitka, AK*



Mr. Dan Hull
Chairman, North Pacific Fishery Management Council
605 West 4th, Suite 306
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2252

Subject: BSAI Halibut PSC Limit Reductions

Dear Chairman Hull,

My name is Cliff Melton and I represent Fusion Marine Technology, LLC. We provide electric and electronic services to vessels in the North Pacific and around the country. A large portion of our business is in support of the Amendment 80 Fishing Fleet in Alaska. We value all of our customers and try very hard to help them succeed.

I understand that in June the North Pacific Fishery Management Council is considering cutting the halibut prohibited species cap for the Amendment 80 sector and would reallocate that halibut to another fleet of vessels. I encourage you to consider the value of the Amendment 80 fleet to my business and others when making this decision.

The Amendment 80 fleet is in the process of being rebuilt with new hulls designed for better efficiency and management of the quotas. A considerable amount of resources is necessary to accomplish this. On our end, my company has been hiring and training additional electricians and technicians. We are a veteran owned company and the core of our workforce is mostly ex-military. Any significant PSC reallocation will hamper or eliminate the rebuild efforts and cause us to lay off our new hires. It is our belief that other trades (welding, refrigeration, hydraulics, carpentry, etc.) that support the fleet will be affected by this as well.

Amendment 80 fishermen are an integral part of the Alaska maritime community. Please balance the needs of all of our fishermen and strive to develop solutions that can be achieved by the Amendment 80 vessels without significantly curtailing their operations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cliff Melton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

President
Fusion Marine Technology, LLC

Cc: Senator Lisa Murkowski
Senator Dan Sullivan
Congressman Don Young



Mr. Dan Hull
Chairman, North Pacific Fishery Management Council
605 West 4th, Suite 306
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2252

Subject: BSAI Halibut PSC Limit Reductions

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Amendment 80 fishermen are an integral part of the Puget Sound maritime community. Please balance the needs of all of our fishermen and strive to develop solutions that can be achieved by the Amendment 80 vessels without significantly curtailing their operations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cliff Melton".

President
Fusion Marine Technology, LLC

Cc: Senator Patty Murray
Senator Maria Cantwell
Congressman Rick Larsen
Congresswoman Jamie Herrera Beutler
Congresswoman Suzan DelBene

Subject: BSAI Halibut PSC Limit Reductions
From: Shantel Jones <shantel@tacomapropeller.com>
Date: 4/28/2015 1:27 PM
To: npfmc.comments@noaa.gov
CC: shawn_bills@murray.senate.gov, anna_sperling@murray.senate.gov,
nicole_teutschel@cantwell.senate.gov, Matt.Bormet@mail.house.gov, Jordan.Evich@mail.house.gov,
ben.barasky@mail.house.gov, Douglas Kruger <dougbkruger@yahoo.com>, Jake Richards
<jake@krugerpropeller.com>

Mr. Dan Hull, Chairman

*North Pacific Fishery Management Council
605 West 4th, Suite 306
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2252*

npfmc.comments@noaa.gov

Subject: BSAI Halibut PSC Limit Reductions

Dear Chairman Hull,

My name is Shantel Jones and I represent Kruger Industries, dba: Kruger & Sons Marine Propeller & Tacoma Propeller. We provide Sales & Repairs of Marine Propellers to fishing vessels in the North Pacific and around the world. We value all of our customers and try very hard to help them succeed as we rely on them for our continued business into the future.

I understand that in June the North Pacific Fishery Management Council is considering cutting the halibut prohibited species cap for the Amendment 80 sector and would reallocate that halibut to another fleet of vessels. I encourage you to consider the value of the Amendment 80 fleet to my business and others when making this decision.

Amendment 80 fishermen are an integral part of the Alaska & Washington maritime community. Please balance the needs all of our fishermen and strive to develop solutions that can be achieved by the Amendment 80 vessel without significantly curtailing their operations.

Sincerely,

*cc: Senator Patty Murray - shawn_bills@murray.senate.gov
Senator Patty Murray - anna_sperling@murray.senate.gov
Senator Maria Cantwell - nicole_teutschel@cantwell.senate.gov*

Congressman Rick Larsen - Matt.Bornet@mail.house.gov

Congresswoman Jamie Herrera Beutler - Jordan.Evich@mail.house.gov

Congresswoman Suzan DelBene - ben.barasky@mail.house.gov

Shantel Jones

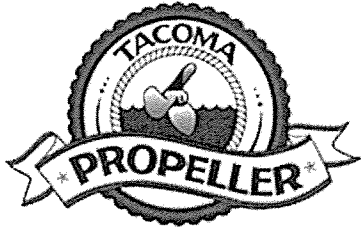
CFO-Controller

Kruger Industries Inc.

Dbas: Tacoma Propeller

Phone: 253-301-4319

Fax: 253-779-8771



March 20, 2015

Andy Ness
F/V Sunward
3430 26th Ave W, Apt. 222
Seattle, WA 98199

Mr. Dan Hull
Chairman
North Pacific Fisheries Management Council
605 West 4th Street, Suite 306
Anchorage, AK 99501-2252

RE: Bering Sea Halibut PSC

Dear Chairman Hull,

My name is Andy Ness and I have been a commercial fisherman for 15 years. For the past five years, I have witnessed my income decrease by nearly 50% due to declines in the halibut stock. I am all for conservation, but only if applied to all user groups. I am tired of the deep pockets and lobbyists of the trawl industry stepping on the family run businesses of the halibut industry. Why should my family and I have to suffer while big business is allowed to conduct business as usual? Because halibut trawl bycatch has been allowed to exceed that of the directed halibut fishery, I support a 50% halibut PSC reduction be adopted during final action in June. In order to do some house cleaning of our own, I support lowering the minimum retainable size of halibut from 32 to 30 inches. I also ask the Council to adopt the following:

- Closing the "tender loophole" within the observer program.
- Increased observer coverage and/or electronic monitoring on all vessels regardless of size or fishery.
- EFP to allow deck sorting of trawl caught halibut as long as there are scales and observer monitoring on deck.

Regards,



Andy Ness

March 20, 2015

Mike Black
F/V Sunward
15907 70th Ave. W
Edmonds, WA 98026

Mr. Dan Hull
Chairman
North Pacific Fisheries Management Council
605 West 4th Street, Suite 306
Anchorage, AK 99501-2252

RE: Bering Sea Halibut PSC

Dear Chairman Hull,

My name is Mike Black and I have been a commercial fisherman for 30 years. For the past five years, I have witnessed my income decrease by nearly 50% due to declines in the halibut stock. I am all for conservation, but only if applied to all user groups. I am tired of the deep pockets and lobbyists of the trawl industry stepping on the family run businesses of the halibut industry. Why should my family and I have to suffer while big business is allowed to conduct business as usual? Because halibut trawl bycatch has been allowed to exceed that of the directed halibut fishery, I support a 50% halibut PSC reduction be adopted during final action in June. In order to do some house cleaning of our own, I support lowering the minimum retainable size of halibut from 32 to 30 inches. I also ask the Council to adopt the following:

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- Increased observer coverage and/or electronic monitoring on all vessels regardless of size or fishery.
- EFP to allow deck sorting of trawl caught halibut as long as there are scales and observer monitoring on deck.

Regards,



Mike Black

Tim Henkel
PO Box 88
Indianola, Wa.
98342

Chairman Dan Hull
North Pacific Fisheries Management Council
605 West Fourth St., Suite 306
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2252

RE: Bering Sea Halibut P.S.C.

Dear Chairman Hull

My name is Tim Henkel
I've been a longline crewman
and a member of the Deep Sea
Fishermans Union for 29 yrs.
For the last 14 yrs. I've fished aboard
the F/V Seymour. Being a crewman
I received no initial allocation when
the Halibut Sablefish IFQ program
was implemented in 1995. With the
help of the Federal Loan Program
I have been able to make several
small purchases of Halibut IFQ
over the yrs. Over this same
period of time I've seen a nearly
60% decline in Halibut T.A.C.
due to conservation concerns.
I over

Being a professional fisherman, I understand and accept the situation. What I have difficulty accepting is the Bering Sea trawl prohibited species cap remaining proportionately so large. The P.S.C. should float with abundance and should follow the same historical reductions over the past 6 yrs. as the directed Halibut fishery. Therefore, I support a 50% Bering Sea Halibut P.S.C. reduction be adopted during final action in June.

Respectfully
Tim A Henkel

March 20, 2015

Garet Gunderson
F/V Sunward
217 N 122nd St.
Seattle, WA 98133

Mr. Dan Hull
Chairman
North Pacific Fisheries Management Council
605 West 4th Street, Suite 306
Anchorage, AK 99501-2252


RE: Bering Sea Halibut PSC

Dear Chairman Hull,

My name is Garet Gunderson and I have been a commercial fisherman for 10 years. For the past five years, I have witnessed my income decrease by nearly 50% due to declines in the halibut stock. I am all for conservation, but only if applied to all user groups. I am tired of the deep pockets and lobbyists of the trawl industry stepping on the family run businesses of the halibut industry. Why should my family and I have to suffer while big business is allowed to conduct business as usual? Because halibut trawl bycatch has been allowed to exceed that of the directed halibut fishery, I support a 50% halibut PSC reduction be adopted during final action in June. In order to do some house cleaning of our own, I support lowering the minimum retainable size of halibut from 32 to 30 inches. I also ask the Council to adopt the following:

- Closing the "tender loophole" within the observer program.
- Increased observer coverage and/or electronic monitoring on all vessels regardless of size or fishery.
- EFP to allow deck sorting of trawl caught halibut as long as there are scales and observer monitoring on deck.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Garet Gunderson', with a long, sweeping horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Garet Gunderson

Re: Bering sea Halibut PSC

Brian Harber
4024 NE 20th St
Lake Forest Park, WA
April 13, 2015 98155

Dear Chairman AUM,

My name is Brian Harber, I have been longlining since 1985, and I support a 50% reduction in Halibut PSC limits. When the PSC cap was first implemented in the late 1980's it was a number thought high enough that it would never be hit. I have watched the PSC amount rise from 6 or 7 percent of the quota when quotas were high, to more than 20% of the directed fishery quota today. I have seen my income reduced 50% in the last four years due to quota cuts, while the trawl bycatch limit has remained the same. All user groups should share in Halibut stock conservation, the trawl industry needs to share in cuts to harvest levels, including prohibited bycatch levels. Longline harvest limits are set using a "fast down, slow up" model, but the trawl industry has used its influence on the NPFMC to keep its bycatch limit at nearly 95% of historical levels. This is not right. I also support closing the trawl "tender loophole" in the observer program. This allows them to "game" the system.

Thank You,
Group 2
Brian Harber

Jack McHenry
16712 NE 151st PL
Woodinville, WA 98072

RE: BERING SEA HALIBUT PSC

Dear Chairman Hall,

My name is Jack McHenry and I am a commercial halibut fisherman aboard the F/V Seyman. I have been fishing for 6 years, but as a second generation halibut fisherman, I have ultimately been connected to this industry my entire life. In that 25 year period, longlines have taken many measures to ensure the health of the halibut resource for generations to come. Despite these conservation-minded efforts, the directed halibut fishery has been reduced by 60% since 2002. Other fisheries should be expected to take up the mantle of conservation now as we have for years. Therefore, I support the 50% reduction in the Bering Sea Halibut PSC so that this precious halibut resource may continue to be harvested for generations to come.

Regards,



March 20, 2015

James Clint Mecham
F/V Sunward
495 Greens Way
Mesquite, NV 89027

Mr. Dan Hull
Chairman
North Pacific Fisheries Management Council
605 West 4th Street, Suite 306
Anchorage, AK 99501-2252

RE: Bering Sea Halibut PSC

Dear Chairman Hull,

My name is Clint Mecham and I have been a commercial fisherman for 28 years. For the past five years, I have witnessed my income decrease by nearly 50% due to declines in the halibut stock. I am all for conservation, but only if applied to all user groups. I am tired of the deep pockets and lobbyists of the trawl industry stepping on the family run businesses of the halibut industry. Why should my family and I have to suffer while big business is allowed to conduct business as usual? Because halibut trawl bycatch has been allowed to exceed that of the directed halibut fishery, I support a 50% halibut PSC reduction be adopted during final action in June. In order to do some house cleaning of our own, I support lowering the minimum retainable size of halibut from 32 to 30 inches. I also ask the Council to adopt the following:

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- EFP to allow deck sorting of trawl caught halibut as long as there are scales and observer monitoring on deck.

Regards,



Clint Mecham

April 9th 2015

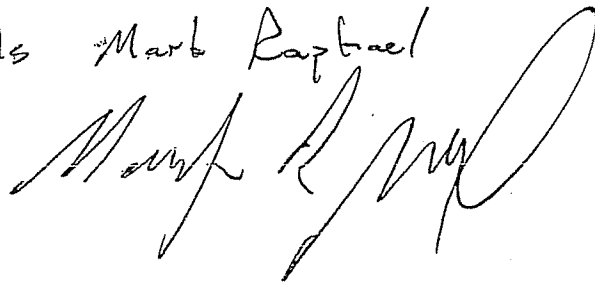
Mark Raphael
3852 Biz Pt Rd
Anacortes wa 98221

RE: BERING SEA HALIBUT PSC

Dear Chairman Hull

I have been a commercial halibut fisherman for 25 years. During the past 10 years I have seen the halibut stocks decrease and have become more & more concerned with the health of the halibut stocks. Specifically in regards to the Bering sea Halibut PSC I support a reduction of 50% to be adopted this June. Bycatch quotas need to be linked to abundance and increase/decrease in proportion to the halibut quotas.

Regards Mark Raphael



March 20, 2015

David Rodriguez
F/V Sunward
17605 17th Dr. SE
Bothell, WA 98012

Mr. Dan Hull
Chairman
North Pacific Fisheries Management Council
605 West 4th Street, Suite 306
Anchorage, AK 99501-2252

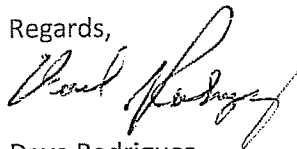
RE: Bering Sea Halibut PSC

Dear Chairman Hull,

My name is Dave Rodriguez and I have been a commercial fisherman for 12 years. For the past five years, I have witnessed my income decrease by nearly 50% due to declines in the halibut stock. I am all for conservation, but only if applied to all user groups. I am tired of the deep pockets and lobbyists of the trawl industry stepping on the family run businesses of the halibut industry. Why should my family and I have to suffer while big business is allowed to conduct business as usual? Because halibut trawl bycatch has been allowed to exceed that of the directed halibut fishery, I support a 50% halibut PSC reduction be adopted during final action in June. In order to do some house cleaning of our own, I support lowering the minimum retainable size of halibut from 32 to 30 inches. I also ask the Council to adopt the following:

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- EFP to allow deck sorting of trawl caught halibut as long as there are scales and observer monitoring on deck.

Regards,



Dave Rodriguez

April 9th 2015

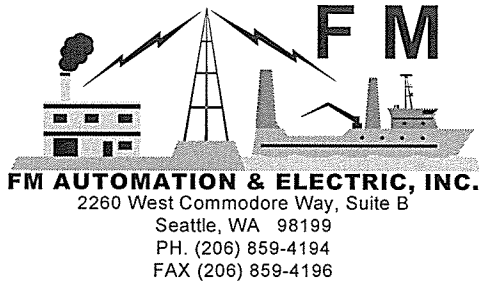
Virgil A. Michaels
P.O. BOX 96
Port Townsend WA. 98368

RE: Bering Sea Halibut PSC

Dear Chairman Hull,

My name is Virgil Michaels and I have been a commercial Halibut fisherman for the last 21 years. I've worked aboard the Seattle based, F/V ALL-STAR and SEYMOUR. I support the 50% reduction in the Bering Sea Halibut PSC. I feel that there is a direct link in the reduction of bycatch quotas and the upward health of the directed Halibut fishery. If we don't address this now, then when? There will always be a rebuttal to the 50% reduction, but I know fishermen and how resourceful a breed we are! They will find a way to work through the reduction of the Bering Sea Halibut PSC just as we have worked through the 60% reduction of the directed Halibut quota over the last few years. This can be done, and we are proof of this as Halibut longliners.

20
Respectfully,
Virgil Michaels



April 27, 2015

Mr. Dan Hull
Chairman, North Pacific Fishery Management Council
605 West 4th, Suite 306
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2252
npfmc.comments@noaa.gov
Subject: BSAI Halibut PSC Limit Reductions

Dear Chairman Hull,

My name is Frank Mortimer and I represent FM Automation and Electric, Inc. We provide electrical services to fishing vessels in the North Pacific and around the world. We value all of our customers and try very hard to help them succeed.

I understand that in June the North Pacific Fishery Management Council is considering cutting the halibut prohibited species cap for the Amendment 80 sector and would reallocate that halibut to another fleet of vessels. I encourage you to consider the value of the Amendment 80 fleet to my business and others when making this decision.

Point 1: Without the continued business from the Amendment 80 fleet, my business will be severely impacted.

Point 2: Employment opportunities with my company would be reduced significantly.

Point 3: The state of Washington tax revenue from my company would also be reduced.

Amendment 80 fishermen are an integral part of the Puget Sound maritime community. Please balance the needs all of our fishermen and strive to develop solutions that can be achieved by the Amendment 80 vessel without significantly curtailing their operations.

Sincerely,

Frank Mortimer
President
FM Automation and Electric, Inc.

George Broom's Sons, Inc.

2440 W Commodore Way #100
Seattle, WA 98199

April 24, 2015

Mr. Dan Hull
Chairman, North Pacific Fishery Management Council
605 West 4th, Suite 306
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2252

Subject: BSAI Halibut PSC Limit Reductions

Dear Chairman Hull:

My name is George Broom and I represent George Broom's Sons, Inc. The reason I am writing is that I understand that in June the North Pacific Fishery Management Council is considering cutting the halibut prohibited species cap for the Amendment 80 sector and would reallocate that halibut to another fleet of vessels. I encourage you to consider the value of the Amendment 80 fleet to my business and others when making this decision.

We are a small business and have been fortunate to be in business for 105 years, this year. We value all of our customers and try very hard to help them succeed and, in turn, their success is what has kept us in business for many years. They are a major part of our success. Our company has manufactured cargo slings as well as other items for them which is a major part of our business and keeps our employees employed. We need their business.

It is difficult, at best, to be a small business and a decision to cut the halibut prohibited species cap would have a negative impact on our business as well as the Amendment 80 fishermen. Please balance the needs of all our fishermen and strive to develop solutions that can be achieved without significantly curtailing their operations.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

George S. Broom

George S. Broom
President

cc: Senator Patty Murray
Senator Maria Cantwell
Congressman Rick Larsen
Congresswoman Jamie Herrera Beutler
Congresswoman Suzan DelBene

Subject: C2 Bering Sea Halibut PSC
From: Lynn Miller <lmiller0@gmail.com>
Date: 5/1/2015 11:03 AM
To: npfmc.comments@noaa.gov

Reduction of the halibut by-catch in the Bering Sea is essential for the overall health of northern halibut populations. Continued heavy losses in the juvenile population of this popular sport and commercial fish will have a negative impact, if not a collapse, in this fishery through out the state.

Please take steps to ensure the marked reduction of halibut by-catch.

Sincerely,

Lynn M Miller

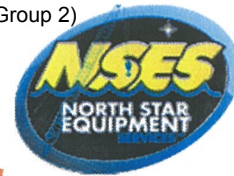


OWNERS AND OPERATORS
OF ANDERSON TERMINAL

NORTH STAR TERMINAL & STEVEDORE CO., LLC NORTH STAR EQUIPMENT SERVICES

*Contracting Stevedores Terminal Operators Materials Handling
Operated Crane Services Drilling/Driving VSM's & Pile Bare Equipment Leasing*

C2 Public Comment (Group 2)
June 2015



790 Ocean Dock Road · Anchorage, AK · 99501 · TEL (907) 272-7537 · FAX (907) 272-8927 · www.northstarak.com

May 6, 2015

Mr. Dan Hull
Chairman, North Pacific Fishery Management Council
605 West 4th St., Suite 306
Anchorage, AK 99501

RECEIVED
MAY 11 2015

Re: BSAI Halibut Bycatch Reductions

Dear Chairman Hull:

I am writing to you about the proposed Bering Sea Aleutian Islands (BSAI) Halibut reductions (Agenda item C-2 223rd Plenary Session of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council – Sitka June 2015).

North Star Terminal & Stevedore Co., LLC (North Star) is opposed to reductions in the Halibut PSC for the Amendment 80 sector as this would have a direct impact upon our stevedore operations in Dutch Harbor and negatively impact our Company and stature in the other Alaska communities we serve (Anchorage, Homer, Valdez, and Seward).

Do not allow the anomaly in the halibut fishery biomass to negatively impact the Amendment 80 sector's operations. We further question the International Pacific Halibut Commission's (IPHC) management, lack of transparency/notification of issues, unobserved catch, and arbitrary size limit that has driven the issue at hand before the NPFMC. We note that the Amendment 80 fleet operates under the NPFMC and has full transparency, 200% Federal Observer Coverage, and has reduced bycatch while maximizing directed fishery retention.

The Amendment 80 fleet is important to our livelihood and our Union Stevedores and support staff rely on the year around employment afforded by this fleet. It is imperative that you balance the economic value of this fishery (direct and to coastal communities) to the State and Country – if you do, I trust that you will come to the same conclusion we have that any reduction in PSC to this sector, predicated upon the questionable IPHC standards, would not be in Our best interest nor meet the standards of the Magnuson Stevens Act.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jeff Bentz
President
North Star Terminal & Stevedore Co., LLC

Mr. Dan Hull
Chairman, North Pacific Fishery Management Council
605 West 4th, Suite 306
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2252
npfmc.comments@noaa.gov

RECEIVED
MAY 11 2015

Subject: BSAI Halibut PSC Limit Reductions

Dear Chairman Hull,

My name is KEVIN GASPARICH and I represent (company). We provide MAINTENANCE REPAIR operations Equipment to fishing vessels in the North Pacific and around the world. We value all of our customers and try very hard to help them succeed.

I understand that in June the North Pacific Fishery Management Council is considering cutting the halibut prohibited species cap for the Amendment 80 sector and would reallocate that halibut to another fleet of vessels. I encourage you to consider the value of the Amendment 80 fleet to my business and others when making this decision.

Point 1

Point 2

Point 3

Amendment 80 fishermen are an integral part of the Puget Sound maritime community. Please balance the needs all of our fishermen and strive to develop solutions that can be achieved by the Amendment 80 vessel without significantly curtailing their operations.

Sincerely,



cc: Senator Patty Murray - shawn_bills@murray.senate.gov and anna_sperling@murray.senate.gov
Senator Maria Cantwell - nicole_teutschel@cantwell.senate.gov
Congressman Rick Larsen - Matt.Bormet@mail.house.gov
Congresswoman Jamie Herrera Beutler - Jordan.Evich@mail.house.gov
Congresswoman Suzan DelBene - ben.barasky@mail.house.gov

STEVE D. MACK
DBA S.D. MACK ENTERPRISES LLC
3430 FENDER DR.
LYNNWOOD, WA 98087

(425) 745-6178
CELL (425) 879-7267
sdmackm@AOL.COM

C2 Public Comment (Group 2)
June 2015

RECEIVED
MAY 11 2015

FAX (425) 741-3512

MR. Dan Hall; Chairman
North Pacific Fishery
Management Council;

Subject - BSAI Halibut PSC Limit Reductions -

Dear Chairman Hall,

My name is Steve Mack, and my company S.D. Mack Enterprises, has been providing freezer pans, freezer trays and anti-abrasion wear products to North Pacific Fishermen for over 30 years. I feel fortunate to have been able to work with such a group of dedicated people as the Amendment 80 group of fishing companies. As a group they are already responsible for some very effective methods of reducing bycatch, helping all fishermen.

I understand that in June the North Pacific Fishery Management Council is considering cutting the halibut prohibited species cap for the Amendment 80 sector and would reallocate that halibut to another fleet of vessels. I ask you to please consider the value of the Amendment 80 fleet to my business and others when making your decision.

Amendment 80 fishermen are an integral part of the Alaska & Washington maritime community. Please balance the needs of all our fishermen and try to develop solutions that can be achieved by the Amendment 80 vessels with significantly curtailing their operations.

Sincerely - Steve Mack

Subject: Halibut waste in the bearing sea
From: Mark Cooley <mcooley@pillarmachine.com>
Date: 5/1/2015 6:04 PM
To: "npfmc.comments@noaa.gov" <npfmc.comments@noaa.gov>

Just wanted to say as a sport fish angler
What's happening in the bearing sea is
Unacceptable. Halibut by catch is out of
Control in the trawler fishery!
I have been restricted on my halibut fishing
While the trawler fleet has not
Please do something to address this
Matter

Sent from my iPhone

Subject: C2 Bearing Sea Halibut PSC
From: Alaska Coastal Marine <acms@ak.net>
Date: 5/2/2015 1:15 PM
To: npfmc.comments@noaa.gov

Honorable Council Members,

Please take every possible step to reduce the bycatch in the Bearing Sea by more than 50%. It is far past time to stop this most destructive and wasteful fishing practice. The millions of pounds of halibut that are killed annually by trawlers has had devastating effects the businesses and individuals that rely on them far from the Bearing Sea.

I have owned and operated a halibut charter company in Homer Alaska since 1987. We have 20 employees and a provide a great service to our community. We are facing severe cuts to our industry and serious financial harm in large part to the incredible wastage of halibut in the Bearing Sea by the trawlers.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Timothy J. Cashman Jr.
Alaska Coastal Marine
P.O. Box 3143
Soldotna, AK 99669
907-262-4359

Subject: C2 Bering Sea Halibut PSC
From: "alida@alaska.net" <alida@alaska.net>
Date: 5/2/2015 1:55 PM
To: npfmc.comments@noaa.gov

It's unacceptable that allowable halibut bycatch exceeds the useable harvest. Wastage of this type is not sustainable. Practices like this should be considered relics from an era of ignorance. Adapting to changes in practices and technology are part of life and doing business. It would be irresponsible to continue harmful practices in order to protect the status quo. Bottom line: We can't afford not to drastically change halibut bycatch rules.

Thank you.

Alida Dunning
907-399-5010
54865 East End Road
Homer, AK 99603
alida@alaska.net

Deep Sea Fishermen's Union of the Pacific

5215 Ballard Avenue N.W.
Seattle, WA 98107
Phone: (206) 783-2922
Fax: (206) 783-5811
www.dsfu.org



Established 1912

Mr. Dan Hull
Chairman
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
605 West 4th Street, Suite 306
Anchorage, AK. 99501-2252

RE: Bering Sea Halibut PSC

Dear Chairman Hull:

On behalf of the Deep Sea Fishermen's Union (DSFU), I am writing to you today with profound concerns regarding the Bering Sea halibut PSC limits. Past inaction by the Council to seriously address this issue has led to a previous Emergency Action proposal in area 4CDE and ultimately left the Secretary of Commerce threatening intervention.

According to the BSAI Net Weight Mortality Table, there was a halibut target IFQ reduction of 26% from 2013 to 2014, meanwhile the trawl PSC of nearly 6 million pounds is left unchanged. Furthermore, trawl total mortality exceeded the directed halibut fishery by 12% in 2013 and just over 60% in 2014. Despite voluntary efforts by the trawl industry to reduce halibut bycatch and the subsequent mortality, the opposite appears to be occurring. For this reason, we urge the Council to move forward with the 50% halibut PSC reduction which was initiated at the February meeting.

Rendering to one Amendment 80 company, Fishermen's Finest, Inc., they point out a recent contract to build a new factory trawler and the impacts of lower halibut PSCs and their ability to pay off associated loans. A fisherman's Finest employee also mentions their "rust buckets" have not seen a replacement in their fleet since 1988. Meanwhile, many of our members are working on boats nearly 100 years old. Sure we would like to work on newer boats too, but the fear of instability in fisheries politics that the trawl industry is just beginning to feel, is something we have feared for nearly two decades. Thus, virtually no one in the halibut industry is building a new boat. The trawl sector mentions the thousands of jobs and millions of dollars at risk with lowering halibut PSC limits. As far as jobs, what isn't widely published by the trawl industry is that fish such as Rock and Yellow fin sole are caught in Alaska and shipped to China for processing. So, are any of these same crewmembers able to invest in their industry? I seriously doubt it. Many of our members, all of whom are United States citizens have invested in halibut IFQs. These same members are finding it increasingly difficult to make IFQ mortgage payments and continue to invest in the halibut fishery, especially given the inaction by the Council thus far to seriously address halibut PSC. As a result, the DSFU supports the following:

Mr. Dan Hull

Page 2

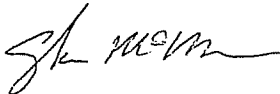
- Increased observer coverage and/or development of electronic monitoring on **all** vessels regardless of size or fishery, especially in the GOA where there is less observer data as compared to the Bering Sea.
- Closing the “tender loophole” within the observer program.
- EFP to allow deck sorting of trawl caught halibut as long as there are scales and observer monitoring on deck.
- Encourage the IPHC to lower the minimum retainable size of halibut from 32 inches to 30 inches within the directed halibut fishery.

A few from the trawl industry have offered to discredit IPHC science, saying that the halibut stock is not in the decline that IPHC scientists suggest. However, with the exception of 2C fishermen who have no trawl fisheries and 2B which has 100% bycatch accountability, I don't know of any halibut fishermen who feel the IPHC is crying wolf. As fishermen, we have personally experienced declines in halibut CPUEs and the necessity of decreased TACs.

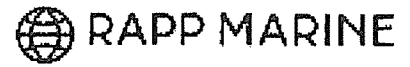
This issue has gone on far too long. It is not our intention to suggest putting anyone in the trawl industry out of business. We simply ask that the United States trawl industry develop ways to fish cleaner, thus lowering their bycatch before they ultimately put halibut fishermen out of business. The Canadian trawl industry has found ways to operate cleaner while still making a living and supporting a rebounding directed halibut fishery.

We strongly urge the Council to adopt a 50% halibut PSC reduction during final action in June. If the Council chooses to ignore or adopt less than a 50% reduction in halibut PSC, I urge you all to read the book “The Last Fish Tale” by Mark Kurlansky which points out the demise of the Gloucester, Massachusetts cod fishery by trawlers and how Gloucester went from a thriving fishing community to a community dependent on tourism. The writing is on the wall gentlemen.

Sincerely,



Shawn McManus
President
Deep Sea Fishermen's Union



May 4, 2015

Rapp Marine U.S. Inc.
4433 27th Ave W
Seattle, WA 98199-1259
Ph: (206)286-8162
Fax: (206)286-3084
Email: info@rappmarine.com

Mr. Dan Hull, Chairman
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
605 West 4th, Suite 306
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2252
npfmc.comments@noaa.gov

Subject: BSAI Halibut PSC Limit Reductions

Dear Chairman Hull,

My name is Jamie Greaves and I represent Rapp Marine AK LLC in Dutch Harbor and Kodiak, AK as well as our supporting operations in Seattle. We provide deck equipment and services to fishing vessels in the North Pacific and around the world. We value all of our customers and try very hard to help them succeed.

I understand that in June the North Pacific Fishery Management Council is considering cutting the halibut prohibited species cap for the Amendment 80 sector and would reallocate that halibut to another fleet of vessels. I encourage you to consider the value of the Amendment 80 fleet to my business and others when making this decision.

Amendment 80 fishermen are an integral part of the Alaska & Washington maritime community. Please balance the needs all of our fishermen and strive to develop solutions that can be achieved by the Amendment 80 vessel without significantly curtailing their operations.

Sincerely,

Rapp Marine AK LLC


for
Jamie Greaves
General Manager

cc:

Senator Patty Murray - shawn_bills@murray.senate.gov
Senator Patty Murray - anna_sperling@murray.senate.gov
Senator Maria Cantwell - nicole_teutschel@cantwell.senate.gov
Congressman Rick Larsen - Matt.Bornet@mail.house.gov
Congresswoman Jamie Herrera Beutler - Jordan.Evich@mail.house.gov
Congresswoman Suzan DelBene - ben.barasky@mail.house.gov



May 4, 2015

Rapp Marine U.S. Inc.
4433 27th Ave W
Seattle, WA 98199-1259
Ph: (206)286-8162
Fax: (206)286-3084
Email: info.us@rappmarine.com

Mr. Dan Hull, Chairman
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
605 West 4th, Suite 306
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2252
npfmc.comments@noaa.gov

Subject: BSAI Halibut PSC Limit Reductions

Dear Chairman Hull,

My name is Johann Sigurjonsson and I represent Rapp Marine US Inc. in Seattle, WA, as well as our supporting operations in Alaska. We provide deck equipment and services to fishing vessels in the North Pacific and around the world. We value all of our customers and try very hard to help them succeed.

I understand that in June the North Pacific Fishery Management Council is considering cutting the halibut prohibited species cap for the Amendment 80 sector and would reallocate that halibut to another fleet of vessels. I encourage you to consider the value of the Amendment 80 fleet to my business and others when making this decision.

Amendment 80 fishermen are an integral part of the Alaska & Washington maritime community. Please balance the needs all of our fishermen and strive to develop solutions that can be achieved by the Amendment 80 vessel without significantly curtailing their operations.

Sincerely,

Rapp Marine US Inc.

Johann Sigurjonsson
President

cc:

Senator Patty Murray - shawn_bills@murray.senate.gov
Senator Patty Murray - anna_sperling@murray.senate.gov
Senator Maria Cantwell - nicole_teutschel@cantwell.senate.gov
Congressman Rick Larsen - Matt.Bornet@mail.house.gov
Congresswoman Jamie Herrera Beutler - Jordan.Evich@mail.house.gov
Congresswoman Suzan DelBene - ben.barasky@mail.house.gov

Subject: concern about C2 Bering Sea Halibut PSC
From: Kodiak Adventures Lodge <kodiakadventureslodge@gmail.com>
Date: 5/4/2015 5:47 PM
To: npfmc.comments@noaa.gov

Hello Council,

I am writing this email to urge you to do the right thing and take action against the wasteful practice we all call "bycatch".

A better word for it is sloppy fishing practices. The bering sea is so important to not just us here in Alaska but the whole world as a resource rich area. The loss of halibut stocks by wasteful fishing practices is not a responsible way to do business. With years of this kind of fishing, it has become normal to allow this to happen under the thought that this is just what happens when you allow commercial fishing.

I would like to think that all of us can do better for the world and our resources then to be so wasteful in the "name" of harvesting seafood just because that is always the way it has been done.

Allowing any industry (commercial trawlers in the Bering sea) to be so wasteful by killing a million juvenile halibut a year and then they call it "inconsequential" is negligence at best. Looking the other way while halibut stocks are declining has to stop now.

Bycatch needs to be eliminated completely someday and the first step is to reduce it substantially to show everyone watching that your council is serious about protecting our fisheries.

Large corporations have for too long had too much influence on the world resources in the name of providing for the world. But in the end they are wasting the very resource they are using. While bycatch is not isolated to the Bering sea, this area is just as important as all the other places that this has become accepted practice. Please stop this and help restore common sense to fishing practices.

While I may be a small family business I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to be heard.

Larry Carroll

Kodiak Adventures Lodge

Subject: C2 Bering Sea Halibut bycatch PSC
From: "Gary Salter" <magnumcharters@gci.net>
Date: 5/4/2015 7:18 PM
To: <npfmc.comments@noaa.gov>, "'Kaco Admin'" <kodiak.kaco@gmail.com>

To whom it may concern,

The time for changes in the Bering Sea halibut by catch numbers is long overdue. The Bering Sea trawl fleet has not and will not act in a responsible manner without new and protective management numbers that in the least will allow a larger portion of these young halibut to survive for everyone's future. As a charter operator and commercial fisherman for the last 27 years, I have seen a steady decline in the halibut resource. Our halibut stocks are in trouble! Allowing the same small group of resource users (trawlers) to constantly kill the same amount of halibut every year as the halibut stocks declines for everyone else is not only unfair, it is insane.

It is only right that management measures be applied so it is fair for all user groups.

Respectfully,

Gary Salter
Magnum Charters, Kodiak AK

Subject: Halibut Bycatch
From: Tom Greer <fishaknow@yahoo.com>
Date: 5/5/2015 7:09 AM
To: "npfmc.comments@noaa.gov" <npfmc.comments@noaa.gov>

I have been fishing halibut since 1975 and have watched the increases and decreases over the years of allowable harvest as the different user groups have wanted a slice of the pie.

All of the user groups have given up some poundage except the "by catch " users.

I strongly urge the decrease in the allowable by catch in the Bearing Sea " nursery grounds" where the poundage is made up of juvenile halibut.

I know of the strong lobbying against this but I urge the biological management of this fishery rather than the political management. I would hate to see what happened to the east coast fisheries happen here to the halibut.

Thomas Greer
PO Box 1366
Petersburg, AK 99833
[Fishaknow@yahoo.com](mailto:fishaknow@yahoo.com)

Sent from my iPad

Subject: C2 Bering Sea Halibut PSC
From: "Russell Thomas" <russellt@aseresorts.com>
Date: 5/5/2015 9:09 AM
To: <npfmc.comments@noaa.gov>

As you prepare to consider halibut bycatch restrictions in the Bering Sea, I am writing to encourage you to find a solution that is equitable and fair to all user groups. Over the last 10 years, the change in the coast wide management system and declining stocks have drastically reduced the number of pounds of halibut in area 2C that are available for harvest. Commercial IFQ holders have seen their quotas reduced by more than half, and anglers using the services of a guide have seen their limit go from two fish of any size down to one fish of substantially reduced size (current regulations have a slot limit allowing anglers one small fish or one trophy fish). Although less restrictive, area 3A users are experiencing similar circumstances.

Many conservation-minded users of the resource recognize that when stocks are depleted a reduction in harvest may be necessary. They can stomach the tight regulations until they realize that not all user groups who harvest halibut stocks are held to same conservation-based restrictions. The coast wide management regime in place recognizes the migration of halibut from one stat area to the other. Tagging studies have shown that 70-90% of the juvenile halibut in the Bering Sea will migrate to other areas as adults. Knowing this, and seeing the stock decline in other areas, should necessitate bycatch reductions, allowing more of the small fish in the Bering Sea to recruit as adults into the directed fishery in the Bering Sea and other areas. Failing to address this issue, leaving Bering Sea bycatch limits at the same level as they were ten years ago, leaves the conservation burden on only part of the user groups who depend on the resource.

I urge you to make changes to the bycatch limits, restricting trawl bycatch to a level representative of the burden placed on other harvesters, and spreading the conservation burden of halibut across all user groups. Halibut is a valuable and prized species in Alaska. It will take the efforts and sacrifice of all user groups to ensure the perpetuity of the stock and the economic stability of all harvesters.

Russell Thomas
Alaska Sportfishing Expeditions
Ketchikan, AK



Mr. Dan Hull, Chairman

North Pacific Fishery Management Council
605 West 4th, Suite 306
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2252

npfmc.comments@noaa.gov

Subject: BSAI Halibut PSC Limit Reductions

Dear Chairman Hull,

My Name is Ryan Jacobson and I am the Manager of the Marine and Offshore group for Sysco Foods of Seattle. The Seattle operating company provides groceries, chemicals, and supplies and equipment to the fishing fleet of the North Pacific. We partner with our customers and strive to improve efficiencies in the distribution and procurement of all grocery related projects.

I understand that you have a large decision on the table at the upcoming North Pacific Fishery Management Council meeting. The decision to cut the halibut cap for the Amendment 80 fleet will have a direct impact on our team. With that fleet fishing, it provides revenue for my employees and business partners alike.

I ask you to take into consideration the possible negative impact your decision will have on the many people and companies that support the Amendment 80 fleet. They are an integral part of the maritime community and their absence would affect many people.

Sincerely,

Ryan Jacobson

District Manager

Marine & Offshore/Southeast Alaska/Seattle



LAKE UNION DRYDOCK COMPANY

Craftsmanship Since 1919

1515 Fairview Avenue East
Seattle, Washington 98102
(206) 323-6400

Mr. Dan Hull
Chairman, North Pacific Fishery Management Council
605 West 4th, Suite 306
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2252
npfmc.comments@noaa.gov

Subject: BSAI Halibut PSC Limit Reductions

Dear Chairman Hull,

The purpose of this letter is to express the confidence we have in the ability of the North Pacific Management Council and the managers of the North Pacific fishing fleet to work together to maintain practical and effective by-catch caps for halibut and other protected species.

We applaud the very competitive Amendment 80 fleet for their efforts to responsibly harvest and handle a precious, high quality protein source. While other countries maintain lax regulation of their fisheries, our domestic fleet works closely with regional and federal regulators to harvest their catch in a safe, clean and sustainable manner.

Learning of the possibility that in June the North Pacific Fishery Management Council is considering cutting the halibut prohibited species cap for the Amendment 80 sector, we are concerned that the action may impact the viability of the fleet. Like numerous businesses in Alaska and along the Pacific Coast, our success and survival is directly linked to the fortunes of the Amendment 80 fleet.


- A substantial portion of our 150 craftsman work force are employed in the maintenance of these vessels.
- A substantial portion of up to 70 subcontractor craftsmen work in our shipyard to service these vessels.
- If you add the contributions of the other regional service providers the Amendment 80 fleet may contribute to the livelihoods of more than 1,000 families.

Please remember that these the Amendment 80 fishermen are invested in the stewardship of healthy, sustainable fishery, and that the affected fishing companies have proven themselves responsible and assertive in their efforts to preserve the health of the North Pacific Fishery. We ask that you afford them the opportunity to be a partner in the quest of finding a viable solution which will not significantly limit their operations.

We have confidence that working together, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council and Amendment 80 fleet can craft policy that is mutually beneficial.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of our request.

Very truly yours,



Hobie Stebbins
Vice President and General Manager
Lake Union Drydock Company

BOWMAN REFRIGERATION

May 5, 2015

Mr. Dan Hull
Chairman, North Pacific Fishery Management Council
605 West 4th, Suite 306
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2252
npfmc.comments@noaa.gov

Subject: BSAI Halibut PSC Limit Reductions

Dear Chairman Hull,

My company has been building and servicing refrigeration systems primarily for the Alaska fishing industry since the mid eighties. We employ 15 to 20 people, and fishing industry work represents roughly 80 percent of our income, so our success is dependent upon the success of the industry. The Amendment 80 vessels comprise a significant portion of our customer base.

It is my understanding that the North Pacific Fishery Management Council is considering cutting the halibut prohibited species cap for the Amendment 80 sector and would reallocate that halibut to another fleet of vessels. I encourage you to consider the value of the Amendment 80 fleet to my business and others when making this decision.

If taken, this action, which is not an act of conservation, but rather a reallocation of the resource to a different industry sector, will almost certainly result in curtailment of fishing operations of the Amendment 80 fleet, upon which a significant portion of the Seattle maritime industry depends. If trawler seasons are shortened and catches reduced, companies like mine will suffer, as will our employees and businesses we buy products and services from.

I urge you to incorporate balance in your decision making process and find a way to achieve the intended goal(s) without placing an undue burden on the Amendment 80 fleet and those of that depend on their continued success.

Sincerely,



Dave Bowman
President

cc: Senator Patty Murray - shawn_bills@murray.senate.gov and anna_sperling@murray.senate.gov
Senator Maria Cantwell - nicole_teutschel@cantwell.senate.gov
Congressman Rick Larsen - Matt.Bormet@mail.house.gov
Congresswoman Jamie Herrera Beutler - Jordan.Evich@mail.house.gov
Congresswoman Suzan DelBene - ben.barasky@mail.house.gov

Bowman Refrigeration, Inc. • 4451 14th Avenue NW • Seattle, WA 98107
TEL: (206) 706-3033 • FAX: (206) 706-3034 • www.bowmanrefrigeration.com

Subject: C2 Bering Sea Halibut PSC Reduction
From: Chris Hashiguchi <guch_fish@hotmail.com>
Date: 5/5/2015 4:28 PM
To: "npfmc.comments@noaa.gov" <npfmc.comments@noaa.gov>

5/5/14

I am writing with concern over the amount of halibut by catch that is happening in the Bering Sea. I would like to see a minimum of a 50% reduction. This fishery is killing too many of our juvenile halibut. As a Charter Halibut Permit holder I have a stake in this fishery and I ask you to please vote to reduce the allowed level of halibut by catch.

Thanks,

Christopher W. Hashiguchi
Owner Legasea Fishing Charters LLC
PO Box 2626
Sikta Ak 99835

Sent from Windows Mail

Subject: C2 Bering Sea Halibut PSC
From: Randy wells <fishsewardalaska@gmail.com>
Date: 5/5/2015 5:59 PM
To: "npfmc.comments@noaa.gov" <npfmc.comments@noaa.gov>

I am a charter halibut guide in area 3A fishing out of Seward, AK. My family started guiding halibut in this area in 1976; now our business supports six Alaskan family's. The halibut bycatch from the trawl fleet is unexceptionable and needs to be cut by no less than 50%. How can the trawl fleet be aloud to kill and waist while the rest of us are held to such a strict enforcement.

Cut the trawl fleet halibut bycatch by no less than 50% today!!!

Randy Wells

Fish Seward Alaska Inc.
www.fishsewardalaska.com
Oregon Fishing Adventure
www.oregonfishingadventure.com
Alaska Shuttle Service
www.alaskashuttleservice.com

Subject: C2 Bering Sea Halibut PSC
From: Brad Kirr <akkenaifishingforfun@gmail.com>
Date: 5/5/2015 7:32 PM
To: "npfmc.comments@noaa.gov" <npfmc.comments@noaa.gov>

To whom it may concern,

Please reduce the halibut by catch to no less than 50%! It is absolutely disgusting to me that this resource is being raped and unused. As you know, the ocean is not an endless supply. If we don't manage the fish properly, we jeopardize the loss of an economic staple to Alaska. Please reduce the halibut by catch.

Brad Kirr
Owner/Guide
Alaska Kenai fishing for fun

Sent from my iPhone

Subject: C2 Bering Sea Halibut PSC
From: "Brad Steuart" <brad@boardwalklodge.com>
Date: 5/6/2015 10:53 AM
To: <n timer@noaa.gov>
CC: "Jay Mar" <jay@boardwalklodge.com>, "Bear \ (Robert Baker\)" <bear6393@hotmail.com>, <blakemcdonald88@aol.com>, "Rich and Barbara Butts" <richbarb55@gmail.com>, "Jim and Deborah Blair" <bfccjd@gmail.com>, "Nathan Wagner" <nathanwagner1994@gmail.com>

I was shocked and appalled when I just learned that the trawler industry in the Bearing Sea has a very high by-catch allowance on juvenile halibut and that over 1Million of these halibut are simply caught, killed, and thrown overboard = bycatch.

As bad as Halibut fishing has become and for the board to continue to allow such abuse, it non-sense. Will you please enact measures to substantially decrease this by-catch to levels that will give the halibut fishery and the communities that depend on it the relief we need, as well as restore balance to the conservation efforts in the BSAI fisheries?

Thank You,

Brad Steuart
Alaska's Boardwalk Lodge
800-764-3918
801-725-9866
brad@boardwalklodge.com
rFishing Lodge of the Year

Subject: C2 Bering Sea Halibut PSC
From: charly <charly.hillery@gmail.com>
Date: 5/6/2015 11:06 AM
To: npfmc.comments@noaa.gov

Dear Folks,

I support the reduction of the Halibut bycatch in the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands by at least 50%.

This is essential to provide sustainability of the Halibut fishery.

It will also help conserve other fisheries, and encourage the support of local/charter Halibut fishing people in the program.

Thank You
Charles Mabbott
355 Whispering Meadows Ave
Homer, Ak 99603

Subject: Amended 80 fleet bycatch cuts
From: Tor Benson <tormo36@hotmail.com>
Date: 5/6/2015 11:25 AM
To: "npfmc.comments@noaa.gov" <npfmc.comments@noaa.gov>

Dear board,

My name is Tor Benson. I am a second generation fisherman from Petersburg Alaska. I have have a bachelors degree in biology from Oregon State and eight years of experience longlining for halibut in southeast (2C).

I understand this is a complicated issue but I encourage the board to implement a 33% cut in the bycatch for halibut for the amended 80 fleet. I read all 50 comments that are currently post about this issue.

The reason I support such a cut is the long term growth potential of all those wasted halibut. The Bering sea is a nursery ground for halibut and salmon. The 7 million pounds of bycatch of juvenile fish is a substantial portion of the recruitment for the adult biomass.

I have read the comments of the businesses that support the amended 80 fleet in the Bering sea. The amended 80 fleet is much better at coordinated efforts and lobbying as apposed to 3000 individual commercial halibut fisherman. But the local economic impact for the longline fleet should be taken into account as well. Of the 3579 longline job in 2014, 2462 were held by Alaskan residents.

The amended 80 fleet is an unofficial user ground of the halibut fishery because of the halibut bycatch and as such must make cuts during low recruitments times. 3A and 2C saw their quotas cut by 70% over the last seven years because of a reduced harvestable biomass. I'm not asking for such a drastic cut for the amended 80 fleet but we need more juvenile halibut to reach adult size and reducing bycatch is a viable option. If the juveniles continue to be caught before they reach adult size we will continue to delay the recovery of the halibut stock.

I think there is no greater motivator for innovation than lost revenue. If as the amended 80 fleet claims a 33% bycatch reduction will cause a 33% loss in revenue then I believe it will give everyone incentive to find better ways to leave those juvenile halibut alive and in the water.

Thank you for your consideration,
Tor Benson

Subject: BSAI Halibut PSC Limit Reductions
From: Laurie Smith <laurie.smith@unisea.com>
Date: 5/6/2015 12:54 PM
To: "npfmc.comments@noaa.gov" <npfmc.comments@noaa.gov>
CC: "ephraim_froehlich@murkowshi.senate.gov" <ephraim_froehlich@murkowshi.senate.gov>, "erik_elam@sullivan.senate.gov" <erik_elam@sullivan.senate.gov>, "bonnie.bruce@mail.house.bov" <bonnie.bruce@mail.house.bov>

May 6, 2015

Mr. Dan Hull
Chairman, North Pacific Fishery Management Council
605 West 4th, Suite 306
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2252
npfmc.comments@noaa.gov

Subject: BSAI Halibut PSC Limit Reductions

Dear Chairman Hull,

My name is Laurie Smith and I am the General Manager of UniSea Hospitality located in Unalaska/Port of Dutch Harbor. We provide lodging and meals to the traveling public, primarily fishing vessel crews and those in support of the fishing industry. We value all of our customers and try very hard to help them succeed in their respective endeavors as our success greatly depends on theirs.

I understand that in June the North Pacific Fishery Management Council is considering cutting the halibut prohibited species cap for the Amendment 80 sector and would reallocate that halibut to another fleet of vessels. I encourage you to consider the value of the Amendment 80 Fleet to our business and others in our area when making this critical decision.

A reduction in efforts by the Amendment 80 Fleet would represent a reduction in revenue to us and to many others businesses who are dependent on their presence to sustain our economy.

Amendment 80 fishermen are an integral part of the Alaska maritime community. Please balance the needs of all of our fishermen and strive to develop solutions that can be achieved by the Amendment 80 Fleet without significantly curtailing their operations.

Sincerely,

Laurie Smith
General Manager, UniSea Hospitality
PO Box 921169
Dutch Harbor, Alaska 99692
907-581-7104
laurie.smith@unisea.com
cc: Senator Lisa Murkowski
Senator Dan Sullivan
Congressman Don Young

Subject: Aleutian/Bering Sea Halibut By-Catch limits
From: "Eye of the Storm" <eots@gci.net>
Date: 5/6/2015 3:58 PM
To: <npfmc.comments@noaa.gov>

Dear Councilors,

At long last, there appears to be momentum toward reducing halibut by-catch in the vast ocean waters of the Bering Sea and waters around the Aleutian Islands. In many respects, these areas of Alaska help create a halibut nursery that allows halibut stocks to increase elsewhere in the State. Unfortunately, there has been no real meaningful effort to stop wastage of halibut through by-catch from the trawl fleet in this area. The only way to really impact the loss of halibut is to lower the cap on allowable halibut by-catch across the Bering Sea and adjacent Aleutian Island waters...preferably by no less than 50%.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment,

Dave Goldstein
Prince William Sound Eco-Charters, LLC
www.pwseco.com
(907) 244-0234

Mr. Dan Hull
Chairman, North Pacific Fishery Management Council
605 West 4th, Suite 306
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2252
npfmc.comments@noaa.gov

Subject: BSAI Halibut PSC Limit Reductions

Dear Chairman Hull,

My name is Brian Mooney and I represent Sound Ocean Metal fabricators. We provide processing equipment to fishing vessels in the North Pacific and around the world. We value all of our customers and try very hard to help them succeed.

I understand that in June the North Pacific Fishery Management Council is considering cutting the halibut prohibited species cap for the Amendment 80 sector and would reallocate that halibut to another fleet of vessels. I encourage you to consider the value of the Amendment 80 fleet to my business and others when making this decision.

Point 1: Employment. We employ up to 50 people to help support the fishing fleet. The decrease would cause 15-25% of our employees to be laid off. This is a hard ship for all including their families

Point 2: Our industry is very unique. When you lose skilled, trained employees the impact is large. It takes years to train people and once they are gone you have to start all over. This is a financial impact on SOMF as well as our customers.

Point 3: The loss in revenue would be in the 100's of thousands each year and not only impacts SOMF but the vendors that also support this industry.

Amendment 80 fishermen are an integral part of the Puget Sound maritime community. Please balance the needs all of our fishermen and strive to develop solutions that can be achieved by the Amendment 80 vessel without significantly curtailing their operations.

Sincerely,

Brian Mooney

Sales Manager

Sound Ocean Metal Fabricators

cc: Senator Patty Murray - shawn_bills@murray.senate.gov and anna_sperling@murray.senate.gov

Senator Maria Cantwell - nicole_teutschel@cantwell.senate.gov

Congressman Rick Larsen - Matt.Bornet@mail.house.gov

Congresswoman Jamie Herrera Beutler - Jordan.Evich@mail.house.gov

Congresswoman Suzan DelBene - ben.barasky@mail.house.gov

Subject: C2 Bering Sea Halibut PSC
From: Paul Miller <ptmiller1734@gmail.com>
Date: 5/6/2015 8:34 PM
To: npfmc.comments@noaa.gov

To North Pacific Fishery Management Council

As a normal visitor to Alaska for the purpose of sport fishing, we are concerned with the state of the halibut fishing and the apparent lack of regulation for limiting by-catch of halibut which seems to be a waste for all the people that depend on a healthy halibut population. We encourage you to pass meaningful regulations that will have a positive impact and allow for the halibut population to recover. Hopefully it is not as bad as some of the web sites that I have read concerning this issue.

Regards

Paul

--

Paul Miller
5685 SW 90th Ave
Portland, OR 97225
Tel. 971-279-5803
Cell:503-913-3139

Subject: C2 Bering Sea Halibut PSC
From: Rich/Barb Butts <richbarb55@gmail.com>
Date: 5/6/2015 9:03 PM
To: "npfmc.comments@noaa.gov" <npfmc.comments@noaa.gov>

Dear Committee,

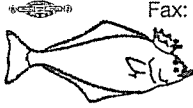
Wow, I'm blown away upon hearing of the utter, deliberate waste of a valuable, federally controlled fishery. I sincerely support a reduction in the halibut bycatch. This path is unsustainable when you kill seven fish to keep one. A more sensible approach would be a sixty to seventy percent reduction in bycatch to maintain future harvests for commercial and recreational fishing throughout all of Alaska. Let's do what is right and fair for all instead of catering to a few.

Respectfully Yours,
Rich Butts
Merchant Marine Officer
Thorne Bay, Ak.

Sent from my iPhone

Deep Sea Fishermen's Union of the Pacific

5215 Ballard Avenue N.W.
Seattle, WA 98107
Phone: (206) 783-2922
Fax: (206) 783-5811
www.dsfu.org



Established 1912

Mr. Dan Hull
Chairman
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
605 West 4th Street, Suite 306
Anchorage, AK. 99501-2252

RE: Bering Sea Halibut PSC

Dear Chairman Hull:

On behalf of the Deep Sea Fishermen's Union (DSFU), I am writing to you today with profound concerns regarding the Bering Sea halibut PSC limits. Past inaction by the Council to seriously address this issue has led to a previous Emergency Action proposal in area 4CDE and ultimately left the Secretary of Commerce threatening intervention.

According to the BSAI Net Weight Mortality Table, there was a halibut target IFQ reduction of 26% from 2013 to 2014, meanwhile the trawl PSC of nearly 6 million pounds is left unchanged. Furthermore, trawl total mortality exceeded the directed halibut fishery by 12% in 2013 and just over 60% in 2014. Despite voluntary efforts by the trawl industry to reduce halibut bycatch and the subsequent mortality, the opposite appears to be occurring. For this reason, we urge the Council to move forward with the 50% halibut PSC reduction which was initiated at the February meeting.

Rendering to one Amendment 80 company, Fishermen's Finest, Inc., they point out a recent contract to build a new factory trawler and the impacts of lower halibut PSCs and their ability to pay off associated loans. A fisherman's Finest employee also mentions their "rust buckets" have not seen a replacement in their fleet since 1988. Meanwhile, many of our members are working on boats nearly 100 years old. Sure we would like to work on newer boats too, but the fear of instability in fisheries politics that the trawl industry is just beginning to feel, is something we have feared for nearly two decades. Thus, virtually no one in the halibut industry is building a new boat. The trawl sector mentions the thousands of jobs and millions of dollars at risk with lowering halibut PSC limits. As far as jobs, what isn't widely published by the trawl industry is that fish such as Rock and Yellow fin sole are caught in Alaska and shipped to China for processing. So, are any of these same crewmembers able to invest in their industry? I seriously doubt it. Many of our members, all of whom are United States citizens have invested in halibut IFQs. These same members are finding it increasingly difficult to make IFQ mortgage payments and continue to invest in the halibut fishery, especially given the inaction by the Council thus far to seriously address halibut PSC. As a result, the DSFU supports the following:

Mr. Dan Hull

Page 2

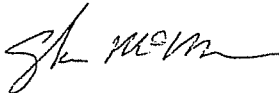
- Increased observer coverage and/or development of electronic monitoring on all vessels regardless of size or fishery, especially in the GOA where there is less observer data as compared to the Bering Sea.
- Closing the “tender loophole” within the observer program.
- EFP to allow deck sorting of trawl caught halibut as long as there are scales and observer monitoring on deck.
- Encourage the IPHC to lower the minimum retainable size of halibut from 32 inches to 30 inches within the directed halibut fishery.

A few from the trawl industry have offered to discredit IPHC science, saying that the halibut stock is not in the decline that IPHC scientists suggest. However, with the exception of 2C fishermen who have no trawl fisheries and 2B which has 100% bycatch accountability, I don't know of any halibut fishermen who feel the IPHC is crying wolf. As fishermen, we have personally experienced declines in halibut CPUEs and the necessity of decreased TACs.

This issue has gone on far too long. It is not our intention to suggest putting anyone in the trawl industry out of business. We simply ask that the United States trawl industry develop ways to fish cleaner, thus lowering their bycatch before they ultimately put halibut fishermen out of business. The Canadian trawl industry has found ways to operate cleaner while still making a living and supporting a rebounding directed halibut fishery.

We strongly urge the Council to adopt a 50% halibut PSC reduction during final action in June. If the Council chooses to ignore or adopt less than a 50% reduction in halibut PSC, I urge you all to read the book “The Last Fish Tale” by Mark Kurlansky which points out the demise of the Gloucester, Massachusetts cod fishery by trawlers and how Gloucester went from a thriving fishing community to a community dependent on tourism. The writing is on the wall gentlemen.

Sincerely,



Shawn McManus
President
Deep Sea Fishermen's Union

Subject: C2 Bering Sea Halibut PSC
From: Jeffrey Wedekind <chinookshores@gmail.com>
Date: 5/7/2015 6:57 AM
To: npfmc.comments@noaa.gov

I am a 30 year resident of Alaska and in those 30 years I have relied on Halibut fishing as a source of income both commercially and as a charter fishermen. I also put a lot of it on our table to feed our family.

It pains me to see our halibut stocks dwindle and watch our commercial and charter fishermen take huge cuts and more recently threaten the entire commercial halibut fishery in the Bering Sea, while Trawlers continue to decimate and waste millions of halibut so they can produce cheaper fish products from other species.

For far too long a few business men in Seattle have controlled our Alaskan fisheries to the point of jeopardizing one of the most prized fisheries in the world (Pacific Halibut) just so they can improve their bottom line.

It is way past time for the Trawl fishery to seriously reduce their by-catch of halibut. Not by a token amount but at least by 50% in the Bering Sea/Aleutian Island fisheries. Anything less is simply not enough. Every other commercial and charter halibut fishermen has taken huge cuts.

Why are the fisheries that kill the most halibut and throw them back dead allowed to continue their wasteful ways?

Sincerely,

Jeff Wedekind
Nadra Angerman
Mckinley Angerman
Hayden Wester
Shea Wedekind

[Chinook Shores Lodge](#)
119 Potter Rd. Ketchikan, Alaska 99901
(907) 225-6700 phone
www.chinookshores.com

Subject: C2 - Final Action, public comment
From: Jeff Seward <jockomontana@yahoo.com>
Date: 5/7/2015 10:26 AM
To: npfmc.comments@noaa.gov

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Attention: Dan Hull, Chairman

RE: C2 – Bering Sea Halibut PSC Final action

My name is Jeffrey David Seward and I live in Seward, Alaska. I have spent the past ten years working for a reputable charter fishing company here in Seward and have also had the opportunity to engage in the Commercial Fishing sector on a few Longline and Hook and Line trips. Furthermore, I also participate in recreational sport fishing on days off with friends aboard private boats whenever the chance allows.

Please vote to reduce Trawler By Catch by at least 45% at your June meeting. It is imperative that we take dramatic action now to ensure some healthy fish stocks for posterity. It is unacceptable to me to think that small boat commercial fisherman from rural Alaskan villages in the Bering Sea could possibly be prohibited from engaging in a local fishery because of the interests of large scale, high waste, Trawl Boats.

We know that the Bering Sea has a huge population of juvenile halibut and that those halibut migrate from the Bering Sea to other areas throughout the range of the Pacific Halibut. Right now, the Trawl by catch is preventing millions of halibut from leaving the Bering Sea and repopulating other areas.

This practice must be curtailed immediately or rural communities will suffer and the future of halibut fishing all over the Pacific will continue to be threatened. These are unacceptable risks to most of the users of this iconic resource to the benefit of a small number of trawl vessel owners and crews. It is one thing to ask all users to conserve a resource, but it is quite another all together to ask most users to sacrifice and conserve the resource to benefit of a specific group of large factory trawlers. That is what is happening and it is not fair or equitable. By Catch not only needs to be reduced but also linked to abundance, so all users can share in the sacrifice and in the benefits of a healthy resource.

Please show Alaskans you care about the communities and the resource and take significant action to reduce Bering Sea By Catch of halibut to a sustainable level that provides opportunity for the rest of us and protects millions juvenile halibut for being caught and discarded.

Sincerely,
Jeffrey David Seward

Subject: "C2 Bering Sea Halibut PSC"
From: "G.Steele Davis" <steele@spiritofalaska.com>
Date: 5/7/2015 12:19 PM
To: npfmc.comments@noaa.gov

To whom it may concern,

I hope this finds you well.

My name is Steele Davis, I came to Alaska in the military back in 1981, and still call Alaska my home today. I have been guiding anglers around Alaska for over 27 years. Tired of working for someone else, I started my first charter business out of Ninilchick back in the late 80's. I moved to Amook Island in Uyak bay, on the West side of Kodiak Island in 1994 and started Spirit of Alaska Wilderness Adventures. This salt water fishing and hunting lodge has witnessed and felt the dramatic drop in halibut stocks over the past 15+ years. At first the commercial sector putting the blame on the charter fleet. Commercial sector dodging the blame bullet, but getting there allocation cut by more than 50%. While the hole time it's been the trawl industry raping, pillaging and throwing \$ in all directions to keep the focus off them. It's time to make them accountable for there actions.. I have been extremely fortunate because of where I live, we have hung on by the skin on our teeth by diversify, moving away from salt water fishing, and focus our attention more and more, on photography, wildlife viewing and more eco orientated activities to stay in business. Watching the increase in pressure on halibut over the years, plus the blind eye of poor management on this once incredible resources has allowed the trawl fleet too decimate the halibut stocks in the Bering Sea and right here in our front yard, Shelikof straight. This is no matter how you cut it WRONG! If something isn't done now there will be no tomorrow. Yes this resource has bounced back before, but how many time can it do it? I recommend a 75% reduction in the trawl fleet halibut by catch straight across the board. Emergency order. If the trawl fleet wont stand up and clame responsibility and start fishing clean. Than it's time to shut down the trawl fleet once and for all, and put the fishing industry back in balance.

Here is one of my proposal:

Mandate that all halibut by-catch be brought to the processing plant to be processed. ALL. This alone will decrease halibut by-catch by at least 50% (these fish may not be top quality, but they are dead any ways with a 60 - 90% mortality rate. This by-catch can feed our Troops, Homeless, Prisons, etc.. It won't go to waist) Trawler doesn't get paid for halibut by-catch, they only get expenses paid for that trip. Catcher processors same thing. They have to process but don't get paid for the for the fish. (this way they will slow down and fish cleaner) Filling there hole, freezers, etc. With fish they are not getting paid for will make them think twice. The plant has to buy the by-catch fish from the boat. This \$ goes towards the observer program and rebuilding the halibut stocks. I know there are a trillion, billion excuses to why this won't work but. IT WILL WORK if you put it in place.. As you well know, it all comes down to the \$\$\$\$. It's time to stop thinking about the \$ and start thinking about the resource. With more people than ever on this planet that need to eat. It's time to start thinking about the resource not the \$, and stop the want & waist.

If you don't like that proposal, try this one: (it's a bit more fluffy and not so harsh)

Tax the trawlers a dollar amount per ton for halibut by-catch and use this \$ to pay for the observer program, it's not fair to the little guy that has no room on there family run boat to have to bear this burden.. If the boat is paying for the observer, the boat owns the observer. (look the other way) Plane and simple.. (NO loop holes..) This isn't write because we all know that with out 100% observer coverage, nothing will ever

work.

I'm not done yet..

One last thing.. Allowing halibut by-catch to be pitched is "want and waist." You had better fix the problem before the public brings this to the table, you are liable. Because you mandate this. Want and waist is want and waist no matter how you cut it. If I have to abide by the law's you do also.

Do to all this BS, my business no longer promotes fishing in Alaska. Yes we offer it, but we do not promote it.

It's a sad day that waste comes before usage.

Thank you for your time.

Take Good Care

Standing by

~G. Steele Davis~

Owner/Operator

Spirit of Alaska Wilderness Adventures

www.spiritofalaska.com

steele@spiritofalaska.com

Subject: BSAI Halibut PSC Limit Reductions

From: "Mensing, Kurt W" <Kurt.Mensing@ppg.com>

Date: 5/7/2015 12:47 PM

To: "npfmc.comments@noaa.gov" <npfmc.comments@noaa.gov>

CC: "'Kristian Uri (kseuri@gmail.com)'" <kseuri@gmail.com>, "shawn_bills@murray.senate.gov" <shawn_bills@murray.senate.gov>, "nicole_teutschel@cantwell.senate.gov" <nicole_teutschel@cantwell.senate.gov>, "Matt.Bormaet@mail.house.gov" <Matt.Bormaet@mail.house.gov>, "Jordon.Evich@mail.house.gov" <Jordon.Evich@mail.house.gov>, "ben.barasky@mail.house.gov" <ben.barasky@mail.house.gov>, "anna_sperling@murray.senate.gov" <anna_sperling@murray.senate.gov>

Website : www.ppgpmc.com/northamerica



PPG Protective & Marine Coatings
Bringing innovation to the surface.™

Mr. Dan Hull, Chairman

*North Pacific Fishery Management Council
605 West 4th, Suite 306
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2252*

npfmc.comments@noaa.gov

Subject: BSAI Halibut PSC Limit Reductions

Dear Chairman Hull,

My name is Kurt Mensing and I represent PPG Protective and Marine Coatings. We provide Coatings to fishing vessels in the North Pacific and around the world. We value all of our customers and try very hard to help them succeed.

I understand that in June the North Pacific Fishery Management Council is considering cutting the halibut prohibited species cap for the Amendment 80 sector and would reallocate that halibut to another fleet of vessels. I encourage you to consider the value of the Amendment 80 fleet to my business and others when making this decision.

Amendment 80 fishermen are an integral part of the Alaska & Washington maritime community. Please balance the needs all of our fishermen and strive to develop solutions that can be achieved by the Amendment 80 vessel without significantly curtailing their operations.

Sincerely,

Kurt Mensing – PPG PMC Seattle

Kurt Mensing

Technical Sales Representative

NACE Certified Coatings Inspector – Level 3

Certification # 38923

Cell #206-595-6095

Website : www.ppgpmc.com/northamerica



PPG Protective & Marine Coatings
Bringing innovation to the surface.™

cc: *Senator Patty Murray - shawn_bills@murray.senate.gov*
Senator Patty Murray - anna_sperling@murray.senate.gov
Senator Maria Cantwell - nicole_teutschel@cantwell.senate.gov
Congressman Rick Larsen - Matt.Bornet@mail.house.gov

Congresswoman Jamie Herrera Beutler - Jordan.Evich@mail.house.gov

Congresswoman Suzan DelBene - ben_barasky@mail.house.gov



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North Pacific Fishery Management Council
605 West 4th, Suite 306
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2252
npfmc.comments@noaa.gov

Subject: BSAI Halibut PSC Limit Reductions

Dear Chairman Hull,

My name is Tanya Agha, and I represent Western Fire & Safety Co., Inc. of Seattle, Washington. We are a small local business in Seattle and provide fire fighting, safety equipment and services to a large majority of the fishing vessels in Washington, Oregon and Alaska, as well as around the world. As Seattle is a major hub for the NW fishing fleet, the relationships we have made with our customers is very personal, and as we value all of them, we are also vested in their future success. We put forth our best effort to ensure that their safety is a priority through our work, and take our hats off to the sacrifices they make. The work we derive from the fishing fleet make up a total of 90% percent of our combined business income, and is how we all stay employed.

I understand that in June the North Pacific Fishery Management Council is considering cutting the halibut prohibited species cap for the Amendment 80 sector and would reallocate that halibut to another fleet of vessels. I would like to ask you to consider the value of the Amendment 80 fleet to my business and other small businesses when making this decision.

Amendment 80 fishermen are an integral part of the Alaska & Washington maritime community, as well as the supporting factor for hundreds of small businesses in Washington and Alaska, whose survival is dependent on the future operations of the fleet. Please consider these weighing factors as well as the needs of all our fisherman and strive to develop solutions that can be achieved by the Amendment 80 vessels without significantly impeding their operations.

Thank you very much for your kind consideration.

Cc: Senator Patty Murray - shawn_bills@murray.senate.gov
Senator Patty Murray - anna_sperling@murray.senate.gov
Senator Maria Cantwell - nicole_teutschel@cantwell.senate.gov
Congressman Rick Larsen - Matt.Bornet@mail.house.gov
Congresswoman Jamie Herrera Beutler - Jordan.Evich@mail.house.gov
Congresswoman Suzan DelBene - ben.barasky@mail.house.gov

Best regards,

Tanya Agha
Vice President
Western Fire & Safety Co., Inc.



PH: (206) 782-7825
TOLL FREE: (877) 344-4186
FAX: (206) 783-5748

2446 NW MARKET STREET
SEATTLE, WA 98107

HOURS OF OPERATION
MONDAY - FRIDAY • 8 - 4:30 PM

www.westernfireandsafety.com | sales@westernfireandsafety.com

Mr. Dan Hull
Chairman, North Pacific Fishery Management Council
605 West 4th, Suite 306
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2252
npfmc.comments@noaa.gov

Subject: BSAI Halibut PSC Limit Reductions

Dear Chairman Hull,

My name is Thomas Varne and I represent Ship Electronics Inc. We provide Electronic Fish finding equipment to fishing vessels in the North Pacific and around the world. We value all of our customers and try very hard to help them succeed.

I understand that in June the North Pacific Fishery Management Council is considering cutting the halibut prohibited species cap for the Amendment 80 sector and would reallocate that halibut to another fleet of vessels. I encourage you to consider the value of the Amendment 80 fleet to my business and others when making this decision.

I am depending on the Amendment 80 Fleet to making a living and providing for my family

With moving the Halibut fish from the Amendment 80 Fleet to the LL Halibut fishermen, we in the service industry will all loose. The LL Halibut fishermen don't need the level of support we provide.

The Amendment 80 Fisheries are a sustainable seafood industry that has earned its right to fish in the Bearing Sea without any further cut in the by catch quota.

Amendment 80 fishermen are an integral part of the Puget Sound maritime community. Please balance the needs all of our fishermen and strive to develop solutions that can be achieved by the Amendment 80 vessel without significantly curtailing their operations.

Sincerely,



Thomas Varne

President

Ship Electronics Inc

Subject: C2 Bering Sea Halibut PSC
From: Eric Leusch <ericleusch@gmail.com>
Date: 5/8/2015 9:24 PM
To: npfmc.comments@noaa.gov

The halibut and all by catch needs to be lowered. We need these fish to live and grow. name any other fishery that has as high as a by catch. A more resonable goal should be around 100000 fish.

Subject: Halibut Mortality Rate
From: shawn calkins <thefishingchef@gmail.com>
Date: 5/9/2015 8:44 AM
To: npfmc.comments@noaa.gov

Tom Nelson (sponsored by ESPN) is using your name on social media. He is saying 13 out of every 14 halibut die when caught by trawlers and that's a complete lie. I'm a retired commercial fisherman and a huge sport fisherman and worked in the trawler industry for over 10 years and that's just not true.

Subject: BSAI Halibut PSC Limit Reductions
From: Patrick Belen <pbelen@marport.com>
Date: 5/9/2015 9:32 AM
To: npfmc.comments@noaa.gov
CC: shawn_bills@murray.senate.gov, anna_sperling@murray.senate.gov,
nicole_teutschel@cantwell.senate.gov, Matt.Bormet@mail.house.gov, Jordan.Evich@mail.house.gov,
ben.barasky@mail.house.gov

Mr. Dan Hull
Chairman, North Pacific Fishery Management Council
605 West 4th, Suite 306
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2252
npfmc.comments@noaa.gov

Subject: BSAI Halibut PSC Limit Reductions

Dear Mr Chairman Hull,

My name is Patrick Belen and I represent Marport Stout Inc (MARPORT) . We provide acoustic trawl and catch control sensors and other underwater electronics to fishing vessels in the North Pacific and around the world. We value all of our customers and try very hard to help them succeed.

I understand that in June the North Pacific Fishery Management Council is considering cutting the halibut prohibited species cap for the Amendment 80 sector and would reallocate that halibut to another fleet of vessels. I encourage you to consider the value of the Amendment 80 fleet to my business and others when making this decision.


There is a substantial risk that reallocation of halibut will result in our customer vessels to curtail their fishing operations , hence have a negative effect in our business , with reduction of our customer base , future vessel construction projects and also, to our ability to continue re investment in development new technologies and efficiencies for our market segment .

This month , Marport have been part of the Puget Sound fishing community for 20 yearsand the Ground fish forum and the Alaska Seafood Coop . fleet has been an important part of our past and we have great hope for the future with the Amendment 80 fleet ...

Amendment 80 fishermen are an integral part of the Puget Sound maritime community. Please balance the needs all of our fishermen and strive to develop solutions that can be achieved by the Amendment 80 vessel without significantly curtailing their operations.

Sincerely,

Patrick V Belen

Patrick Belen
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cc: Senator Patty Murray - shawn_bills@murray.senate.gov and anna_sperling@murray.senate.gov
Senator Maria Cantwell - nicole_teutschel@cantwell.senate.gov
Congressman Rick Larsen - Matt.Bornet@mail.house.gov
Congresswoman Jamie Herrera Beutler - Jordan.Evich@mail.house.gov
Congresswoman Suzan DelBene - ben.barasky@mail.house.gov

Subject: Halibut By-Catch

From: "Kent Danjanovich" <kdanjanovich@sportsmansnews.com>

Date: 5/9/2015 2:27 PM

To: <npfmc.comments@noaa.gov>

CC: "Aaron Mahoney" <fishaaronak@gmail.com>

I have watched halibut numbers and size spiral for the last eleven years and I feel that this is the #1 problem that the industry faces. If there is not something done soon with the by-catch by the trawlers, the numbers will be un-restorable for future generations to enjoy as we have.

Thanks,

Kent Danjanovich

Sportsman's News

801-231-9838

kdanjanovich@sportsmansnews.com

www.sportsmansnews.com

Subject: Halibut waste

From: Anne Van Duzor <annevanduzor777@icloud.com>

Date: 5/9/2015 3:55 PM

To: "npfmc.comments@noaa.gov" <npfmc.comments@noaa.gov>

I horrified to read the article on the waste going on at Alaska with juvenile halibut! can this possibly be true?

Anne Van Duzor RN CCRN CVNS

Sent from my new faster iPhone

Subject: C2 Bering Sea Halibut PSC
From: "Krosch, Gary - SAINT LOUI MO" <gary.krosch@ustrust.com>
Date: 5/11/2015 6:05 AM
To: "npfmc.comments@noaa.gov" <npfmc.comments@noaa.gov>

Council Members – I have traveled to Homer, AK for halibut fishing every summer for the past 30+ years. The diminished numbers of fish in recent years is very alarming and the catch size restrictions that came into effect last year make me question my ongoing financial commitment to Alaska tourism. My understanding is that the Trawler bicatch is a major source of the problem and I encourage you to reduce their caps accordingly. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely, Gary Krosch

Gary E. Krosch
Senior Vice-President, Private Client Advisor
U.S. TRUST
Bank of America Private Wealth Management
800 Market Street, 13th floor
St. Louis, MO 63101
Phone: 314-466-4078
gary.krosch@ustrust.com

NMLS #559171

Office of Supervisory Jurisdiction:
Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Inc.
Bank of America Plaza
414 Union Street, TN1-100-03-27
Nashville, TN 37219
Phone: 615-749-3933

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Subject: c2 Bering Sea Halibut PSC
From: "Judy Starkey-Saylor" <jcss@mtaonline.net>
Date: 5/11/2015 7:19 AM
To: <npfmc.comments@noaa.gov>

In regard to Halibut or any other fisheries quota's and management of total catch, Alaska should do away with the idea and term of, 'By Catch'! Everything caught by any fishing vessel, should be required to be brought to market. The so called, 'By Catch', should be weighed, paid based on the target species price and the total weight of the catch computed against the quota as set by the state fisheries.

There should be no such thing as waste of any resource, regardless of the consequence. Perhaps this practice will improve fishing techniques and concern for total management of our resources from the sea. I know of no other way to stop the greed involved as well as the discriminatory practices of commercial fisheries vs the personal use fisherman of Alaska.

Sincerely yours,
Charles L. Saylor
HC1, box 3780
Healy, AK 99743
jcss@mtaonline.net

Subject: C2 Bering Sea Halibut PSC
From: "Afognak Wilderness Lodge" <shannon@awl-3.com>
Date: 5/11/2015 8:32 AM
To: <npfmc.comments@noaa.gov>

Hello North Pacific Council,

Our family has lived in Alaska for 54 years, where we've built & operated our lodge for 42 years. During this time, we've seen the abundance within our northern waters dramatically decline, most especially the Halibut.

Once we learned about the crucifiers and overall by-catch practices, we were appalled and thought that, surely, between the experienced long-time fishermen, biologists and other PhD professionals, there'd be enough "smarts" & people who truly cared to come up with an intelligent solution to this insanely wasteful practice.

Now, we understand there's a new focus on **reducing the by-catch by 50% in area 2C**, The Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands, for commercial fisheries. This approach appears to be one positive step in the right direction, so we endorse it.

We'll be interested to see what intelligent, **truly inspired** method is agreed upon and actually put into practice. May you humbly ask God for guidance in this crucial matter which affects so many Alaskans . . . and beyond.

Kind regards,
Shannon, Josh & Luke Randall,
Afognak Wilderness Lodge,
P. O. Box SYB, Seal Bay,
Kodiak, Alaska, 99697
www.afognaklodge.com
360-799-3250

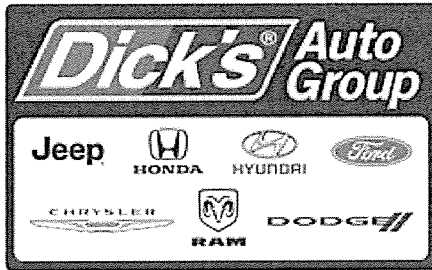
Subject: C2 Bering Sea Halibut PSC

From: Ryan Lawson <rlawson@dicksautogroup.com>

Date: 4/30/2015 9:30 AM

To: "'npfmc.comments@noaa.gov'" <npfmc.comments@noaa.gov>

It is in all of our best interests to address and reduce the Bering sea halibut bycatch numbers by no less than 50%. My grandfather was a 20yr guide at Yes Bay lodge and operated a boat out of Warrenton Oregon and he has watched the steady decline in numbers. Now that I follow in his foot steps and watch Oregon try to sustain our Sturgeon numbers. It's a must that Alaska acts quickly to sustain its Halibut numbers. Thank you.



Ryan Lawson

General Sales Manager
Dick's Hillsboro Honda - 750 SW Oak Street
Hillsboro, OR 97123
rlawson@dicksautogroup.com
(Phone) 503-735-7300
(Fax) 503-648-4914



Subject: "C2 Bering Sea Halibut PSC"

From: Chris Jenkins <cjenkins@dicksautogroup.com>

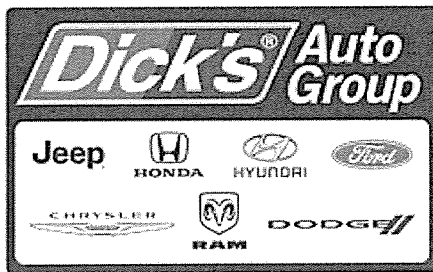
Date: 4/30/2015 10:45 AM

To: "NPFMC.COMMENTS@NOAA.GOV" <NPFMC.COMMENTS@NOAA.GOV>

To whom it may concern,

I am asking the council to RUDUCE HALIBIT BYCATCH CAPS. In the Bering sea/Aleutian Islands by no less than 50%.

"Only a meaningful reduction will give the halibut fishery and the communities that depend on it the relief they need, as well as restore balance to the conservation efforts in the BSAI fisheries"



Chris Jenkins

Sales Manager

Dick's Hillsboro Honda - 750 SW Oak Street
Hillsboro, OR 97123

Cjenkins@dicksautogroup.com

(Phone) 503-735-7300 Ext: 3131

(Fax) 503-468-4914



Subject: recreational halibut fishing
From: "Tim Larsen" <tim@corningmu.com>
Date: 4/30/2015 8:58 AM
To: <npfmc.comments@noaa.gov>

I understand that the public's access to halibut fishing is on the chopping block of closure or severe reduction. I have also read where trawl fleet is killing the majority of juveniles. Why in the world would you not start with protecting parts of nursery grounds? Why not limit the big business since they are doing the damage? Our natural resources are owned and managed for the people of this country. That needs to be kept in mind.

Tim Larsen, GM
Corning Municipal Utilities
501 Benton Avenue, Corning, IA 50841
641.322.3920
tim@corningmu.com

Subject: THE WASTEFUL PRACTICE OF KILLING AND DISCARDING MILLIONS OF JUVENILE PACIFIC HALIBUT IN THE BERING SEA BY THE A80 TRAWL FLEET

From: Richard Parkhurst <rparkhurst@coastalbank.com>

Date: 4/28/2015 2:18 PM

To: "npfmc.comments@noaa.gov" <npfmc.comments@noaa.gov>

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Attention: Dan Hull, Chairman

RE: C2 – Bering Sea Halibut PSC Final action

My name is Richard Parkhurst, I live in Washington State and I fish (recreationally) in Alaska for halibut.

As a recreational fisherman I am very concerned about the high level of bycatch of Halibut in the Bering Sea as described in your Final action item C2 - Bering Sea Halibut PSC. We know that the Bering Sea has a huge population of juvenile halibut and those halibut migrate from the Bering Sea to other areas throughout the range of the Pacific halibut. Right now the trawl bycatch is preventing millions of halibut from leaving the Bering Sea and repopulating other areas.

This practice must be curtailed *immediately* or rural communities will suffer and the future of halibut fishing all over the Pacific will continue to be threatened. These are unacceptable risks to most of the users of this iconic resource in order to benefit a small number of trawl vessel owners and crews. It is one thing to ask all users to conserve a resource, but it is quite another to ask most users to sacrifice and conserve the resource to benefit a specific group of large factory trawlers. That is what is happening and it is not fair or equitable. Bycatch not only needs to be reduced and also linked to abundance, so all users can share in the sacrifice and in the benefits of a healthy resource.

Please show you care about the communities and the halibut resource and take significant action to reduce Bering Sea bycatch of halibut to a level that provides opportunity for the rest of us and protects the millions of juvenile halibut from being caught and discarded.

Sincerely,

Richard Parkhurst

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Subject: North Pacific Fishery Management Council
From: Miles H <milesforyou23@gmail.com>
Date: 4/28/2015 3:03 PM
To: npfmc.comments@noaa.gov

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Attention: Dan Hull, Chairman

RE: C2 – Bering Sea Halibut PSC Final action

My name is Miles Harris, I live Washington and I recreationally fish in Washington and Alaska for halibut.

I as a recreational fisherman and I am very concerned about the high level of by catch of Halibut in the Bering Sea as described in your Final action item C2 - Bering Sea Halibut PSC.

We know that the Bering Sea has a huge population of juvenile halibut and that those halibut migrate from the Bering Sea to other areas throughout the range of the pacific halibut. Right now the trawl bycatch is preventing millions of halibut from leaving the Bering Sea and repopulating other areas.

This practice must be curtailed immediately or rural communities will suffer and the future of halibut fishing all over the Pacific will continue to be threatened. These are unacceptable risks to most of the users of this iconic resource in order to the benefit of a small number of trawl vessel owners and crews. It is one thing to ask all users to conserve a resource, but it is quite another to ask most users to sacrifice and conserve the resource to benefit of a specific group of large factory trawlers. That is what is happening and it is not fair or equitable. Bycatch not only needs to be reduced and then linked to abundance, so all users can share in the sacrifice and in the benefits of a healthy resource.

Please show all recreational fisherman you care about the communities and the halibut resource and take significant action to reduce Bering Sea bycatch of halibut to a level that provides opportunity for the rest of us and protects the millions of juvenile halibut from being caught and discarded.

Sincerely,
Miles Harris

Subject: Halibut By Catch
From: lrboley@comcast.net
Date: 4/28/2015 3:33 PM
To: npfmc.comments@noaa.gov

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Attention: Dan Hull, Chairman

RE: C2 – Bering Sea Halibut PSC Final action

My name is Leonard Boley, I live Lynnwood WA and I fish (recreationally) in Washington and have also fished in Alaska for halibut. Now in Washington we are down to a 4-6 day fishery due to the depletion of Pacific Halibut.

I as a recreational fisherman, I am very concerned about the high level of by catch of Halibut in the Bering Sea as described in your Final action item C2 - Bering Sea Halibut PSC.

We know that the Bering Sea has a huge population of juvenile halibut and that those halibut migrate from the Bering Sea to other areas throughout the range of the Pacific halibut. Right now the trawl bycatch is preventing millions of halibut from leaving the Bering Sea and repopulating other areas. This practice must be curtailed immediately or rural communities will suffer and the future of halibut fishing all over the Pacific will continue to be threatened. These are unacceptable risks to most of the users of this iconic resource in order to the benefit of a small number of trawl vessel owners and crews. It is one thing to ask all users to conserve a resource, but it is quite another to ask most users to sacrifice and conserve the resource to benefit a specific group of large factory trawlers. That is what is happening and it is not fair or equitable. Bycatch not only needs to be reduced and then linked to abundance, so all users can share in the sacrifice and in the benefits of a healthy resource.

Please show Alaskans and Washington fishermen you care about the communities and the halibut resource and take significant action to reduce Bering Sea bycatch of halibut to a level that provides opportunity for the rest of us and protects the millions of juvenile halibut from being caught and discarded.

Sincerely,
Leonard Boley

Subject: C2 – Bering Sea Halibut PSC Final action
From: Kamen Penev <kamen@penev.net>
Date: 4/28/2015 4:56 PM
To: npfmc.comments@noaa.gov

Attn: Dan Hull, Chairman

Dear Mr. Chairman,

My name is Kamen Penev, I live in Sammamish, Washington and I fish (recreationally) in Washington waters for halibut. This year our ocean season consists of only two weekend days and two week days. There is a limit of one fish per angler per day.

I am very concerned about the high level of bycatch of Halibut in the Bering Sea as described in your Final action item C2 - Bering Sea Halibut PSC.

We know that the Bering Sea has a huge population of juvenile halibut and that those halibut migrate from the Bering Sea to other areas throughout the range of the pacific halibut. Right now the trawl bycatch is preventing millions of halibut from leaving the Bering Sea and repopulating other areas. This practice must be curtailed immediately or the future of halibut fishing all over the Pacific will continue to be threatened. These are unacceptable risks to most of the users of this iconic resource in order to benefit a small number of trawl vessel owners and crews. It is one thing to ask all users to conserve a resource, but it is quite another to ask most users to sacrifice and conserve the resource to benefit of a specific group of large factory trawlers. That is what is happening and it is not fair or equitable. Bycatch not only needs to be reduced and then linked to abundance, so all users can share in the sacrifice and in the benefits of a healthy resource.

Please show that you care about the halibut resource and take significant action to reduce Bering Sea bycatch of halibut to a level that provides opportunity for the rest of us and protects the millions of juvenile halibut from being caught and wantonly wasted.

Sincerely,

Kamen Penev
20920 SE 3rd Way
Sammamish, WA, 98074

Subject: Bering Sea halibut bycatch
From: "Joanne" <jofogg@cox.net>
Date: 4/28/2015 5:22 PM
To: <npfmc.comments@noaa.gov>

North Pacific Fishery Management Council
Att: Dan Hull
RE: C2-Bering Sea Halibut PSC final action

I am a recreational angler that enjoys fishing for halibut in the state of Alaska. I am very concerned about the decline in halibut stocks and do support conservation. The sportfishing community has absorbed huge reductions in their halibut allotment but for conservation to achieve its goal everyone must sacrifice. It is very discouraging that the council allows the Bering Sea trawlers to waste more halibut than recreational fisherman are allowed to catch, this is unfair and needs to be changed. Please significantly reduce the halibut bycatch by the Bering Sea trawlers so conservation is shared equally and allowed to work.

Randy Russ
San Diego CA, Soldotna AK

Subject: C2 – Bering Sea Halibut PSC Final action
From: Jason Rice <jmrice2@yahoo.com>
Date: 4/28/2015 8:45 PM
To: "npfmc.comments@noaa.gov" <npfmc.comments@noaa.gov>

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Attention: Dan Hull, Chairman

RE: C2 – Bering Sea Halibut PSC Final action

My name is Jason Rice, my family and I live in Port Orchard Washington and have fished in Washington state and British Columbia (recreationally) for halibut for years.

As a recreational fisherman, I am very concerned about the high level of by catch of Halibut in the Bering Sea as described in your Final action item C2 - Bering Sea Halibut PSC.

We know that the Bering Sea has a huge population of juvenile halibut and that those halibut migrate from the Bering Sea to other areas throughout the range of the pacific halibut. Right now the trawl bycatch is preventing millions of halibut from leaving the Bering Sea and repopulating other areas.

This practice must be curtailed immediately or rural communities will suffer and the future of halibut fishing all over the Pacific will continue to be threatened. These are unacceptable risks to most of the users of this iconic resource in order to the benefit of a small number of trawl vessel owners and crews. It is one thing to ask all users to conserve a resource, but it is quite another to ask most users to sacrifice and conserve the resource to benefit of a specific group of large factory trawlers. That is what is happening and it is not fair or equitable. Bycatch not only needs to be reduced and then linked to abundance, so all users can share in the sacrifice and in the benefits of a healthy resource.

Please show Alaskans you care about the communities and the halibut resource and take significant action to reduce Bering Sea bycatch of halibut to a level that provides opportunity for the rest of us and protects the millions of juvenile halibut from being caught and discarded.

Sincerely,

Jason Rice

Subject: Letter to the NPFMC
From: rathert@alaska.net
Date: 4/28/2015 8:48 PM
To: npfmc.comments@noaa.gov

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Attention: Dan Hull, Chairman

RE: C2 - Bering Sea Halibut PSC Final action

My name is _Jack Rathert, I live in Ninilchik, Alaska and I fish (recreationally) in Alaska for halibut.

I as a recreational fisherman and I am very concerned about the high level of by catch of Halibut in the Bering Sea as described in your Final action item C2 - Bering Sea Halibut PSC.

We know that the Bering Sea has a huge population of juvenile halibut and that those halibut migrate from the Bering Sea to other areas throughout the range of the Pacific halibut. Right now the trawl by catch is preventing millions of halibut from leaving the Bering Sea and repopulating other areas.

This practice must be curtailed immediately or rural communities will suffer and the future of halibut fishing all over the Pacific will continue to be threatened. These are unacceptable risks to most of the users of this iconic resource to the benefit of a small number of trawl vessel owners and crews. It is one thing to ask all users to conserve a resource, but it is quite another all together to ask most users to sacrifice and conserve the resource to benefit of a specific group of large factory trawlers. That is what is happening and it is not fair or equitable. By Catch not only needs to be reduced and then linked to abundance, so all users can share in the sacrifice and in the benefits of a healthy resource.

Please show Alaskans you care about the communities and the resource and take significant action to reduce Bering Sea By Catch of halibut to a level that provides opportunity for the rest of us and protects millions juvenile halibut for being caught and discarded.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Jack Rathert

Subject: C2-Bering Sea Halibut PSC Final Action
From: salomonjordan@comcast.net
Date: 4/28/2015 9:14 PM
To: npfmc.comments@noaa.gov

My name is Seth Young, I live in Washington State, and I fish (recreationally) in Washington for halibut.

I as a recreational fisherman, am very concerned about the high level of by catch of Halibut in the Bering Sea as described in your Final action item C2 - Bering Sea Halibut PSC.

We know that the Bering Sea has a huge population of juvenile halibut and that those halibut migrate from the Bering Sea to other areas throughout the range of the Pacific halibut. Right now the trawl bycatch is preventing millions of halibut from leaving the Bering Sea and repopulating other areas. This practice must be curtailed immediately or rural communities will suffer and the future of halibut fishing all over the Pacific will continue to be threatened. These are unacceptable risks to most of the users of this iconic resource in order to the benefit of a small number of trawl vessel owners and crews. It is one thing to ask all users to conserve a resource, but it is quite another to ask most users to sacrifice and conserve the resource to benefit of a specific group of large factory trawlers. That is what is happening and it is not fair or equitable. Bycatch needs to be reduced and then linked to abundance, so all users can share in the sacrifice and in the benefits of a healthy resource.

Please show Alaskans you care about the communities and the halibut resource and take significant action to reduce Bering Sea bycatch of halibut to a level that provides opportunity for the rest of us and protects the millions of juvenile halibut from being caught and discarded.

The current recreational season for Halibut in Washington State could very possibly be at stake. It would be a tragedy for my 8 year old son to not have the opportunity to participate in the satisfaction of harvest and consumption of fresh halibut in his local waters.

Sincerely, Seth Young

Subject: North Pacific Fishery Management Council
From: Justin Heikkinen <nitsuj@gmail.com>
Date: 4/28/2015 9:03 AM
To: npfmc.comments@noaa.gov

Attention: Dan Hull, Chairman

RE: C2 – Bering Sea Halibut PSC Final action

My name is Justin Heikkinen and I live in Portland, OR and I fish (recreationally) in Alaska for halibut, as well as in Washington and Oregon.

As a recreational fisherman and I am very concerned about the high level of by catch of Halibut in the Bering Sea as described in your Final action item C2 - Bering Sea Halibut PSC. The fact that more halibut will be killed as bycatch than as recreational/commercial harvest is appalling at best and bordering criminal mismanagement of our resources.

We know that the Bering Sea has a huge population of juvenile halibut and that those halibut migrate from the Bering Sea to other areas throughout the range of the Pacific halibut. Right now the trawl bycatch is preventing millions of halibut from leaving the Bering Sea and repopulating other areas. This practice must be curtailed immediately or rural communities will suffer and the future of halibut fishing all over the Pacific will continue to be threatened. These are unacceptable risks to most of the users of this iconic resource in order to the benefit of a small number of trawl vessel owners and crews. It is one thing to ask all users to conserve a resource, but it is quite another to ask most users to sacrifice and conserve the resource to benefit of a specific group of large factory trawlers. That is what is happening and it is not fair or equitable. Bycatch not only needs to be reduced and then linked to abundance, so all users can share in the sacrifice and in the benefits of a healthy resource.

Please show Alaskans you care about the communities and the halibut resource and take significant action to reduce Bering Sea bycatch of halibut to a level that provides opportunity for the rest of us and protects the millions of juvenile halibut from being caught and discarded.

Thanks,

Justin Heikkinen

Subject: C2 – Bering Sea Halibut PSC Final action
From: Steven Perkins <sstevep@gmail.com>
Date: 4/28/2015 9:13 AM
To: npfmc.comments@noaa.gov

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Attention: Dan Hull, Chairman

RE: C2 – Bering Sea Halibut PSC Final action

My name is Steve Perkins, I live in Washington State and I fish (recreational) in Washington and Alaska for halibut.

I as a recreational fisherman and I am very concerned about the high level of by catch of Halibut in the Bering Sea as described in your Final action item C2 - Bering Sea Halibut PSC.

We know that the Bering Sea has a huge population of juvenile halibut and that those halibut migrate from the Bering Sea to other areas throughout the range of the pacific halibut. Right now the trawl bycatch is preventing millions of halibut from leaving the Bering Sea and repopulating other areas. This practice must be curtailed immediately or rural communities will suffer and the future of halibut fishing all over the Pacific will continue to be threatened. These are unacceptable risks to most of the users of this iconic resource in order to the benefit of a small number of trawl vessel owners and crews. It is one thing to ask all users to conserve a resource, but it is quite another to ask most users to sacrifice and conserve the resource to benefit of a specific group of large factory trawlers. That is what is happening and it is not fair or equitable. Bycatch not only needs to be reduced and then linked to abundance, so all users can share in the sacrifice and in the benefits of a healthy resource.

Please show Alaskans you care about the communities and the halibut resource and take significant action to reduce Bering Sea bycatch of halibut to a level that provides opportunity for the rest of us and protects the millions of juvenile halibut from being caught and discarded.

Sincerely,

Steve Perkins

Subject: North Pacific Fishery Management Council
From: Mark Westphal <boxer_mark@hotmail.com>
Date: 4/28/2015 9:14 AM
To: <npfmc.comments@noaa.gov>

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Attention: Dan Hull, Chairman

RE: C2 – Bering Sea Halibut PSC Final action

My name is Mark Westphal, I live Washington State and I fish (recreationally) in Alaska for halibut.

I as a recreational fisherman and I am very concerned about the high level of by catch of Halibut in the Bering Sea as described in your Final action item C2 - Bering Sea Halibut PSC.

We know that the Bering Sea has a huge population of juvenile halibut and that those halibut migrate from the Bering Sea to other areas throughout the range of the pacific halibut. Right now the trawl bycatch is preventing millions of halibut from leaving the Bering Sea and repopulating other areas.

This practice must be curtailed immediately or rural communities will suffer and the future of halibut fishing all over the Pacific will continue to be threatened. These are unacceptable risks to most of the users of this iconic resource in order to the benefit of a small number of trawl vessel owners and crews. It is one thing to ask all users to conserve a resource, but it is quite another to ask most users to sacrifice and conserve the resource to benefit of a specific group of large factory trawlers. That is what is happening and it is not fair or equitable. Bycatch not only needs to be reduced and then linked to abundance, so all users can share in the sacrifice and in the benefits of a healthy resource.

Please show Alaskans you care about the communities and the halibut resource and take significant action to reduce Bering Sea bycatch of halibut to a level that provides opportunity for the rest of us and protects the millions of juvenile halibut from being caught and discarded.

Sincerely,
Mark Westphal

Subject: Bering Sea Halibut PSC Final action
From: "Matt Savidge" <mtsavidge01@comcast.net>
Date: 4/28/2015 9:18 AM
To: <npfmc.comments@noaa.gov>

My name is Matt Savidge, my wife and I live in Washington State and we fish (recreationally) in Alaska for halibut occasionally and regularly in Washington State.

We are recreational fisherman and we very concerned about the high level of by catch of Halibut in the Bering Sea as described in your Final action item C2 - Bering Sea Halibut PSC.

We know that the Bering Sea has a huge population of juvenile halibut and that those halibut migrate from the Bering Sea to other areas throughout the range of the pacific halibut. Right now the trawl bycatch is preventing millions of halibut from leaving the Bering Sea and repopulating other areas. This practice must be curtailed immediately or rural communities will suffer and the future of halibut fishing all over the Pacific will continue to be threatened. These are unacceptable risks to most of the users of this iconic resource in order to benefit a small number of trawl vessel owners and crews. It is one thing to ask all users to conserve a resource, but it is quite another to ask most users to sacrifice and conserve the resource to benefit of a specific group of large factory trawlers. That is what is happening and it is not fair or equitable. Bycatch not only needs to be reduced and then linked to abundance, so all users can share in the sacrifice and in the benefits of a healthy resource.

Please show Alaskans and the rest of the US West Coast you care about the communities and the halibut resource and take significant action to reduce Bering Sea bycatch of halibut to a level that provides opportunity for the rest of us and protects the millions of juvenile halibut from being caught and discarded dead.

Sincerely,
Matthew C. & Tammy R. Savidge
968 NE Marwood Dr
Bremerton WA 98311

Subject: C2 – Bering Sea Halibut PSC Final action
From: Brian Durkin <briandouglasdurkin@gmail.com>
Date: 4/28/2015 11:01 AM
To: npfmc.comments@noaa.gov

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Attention: Dan Hull, Chairman

RE: C2 – Bering Sea Halibut PSC Final action

My name is Brian Durkin, I live in Seattle and I fish (recreationally) every year as a visitor to Craig in Alaska for halibut and other species. I also fish recreationally and commercially in Washington State.

As a recreational fisherman and I am very concerned about the high level of by catch of Halibut in the Bering Sea as described in your Final action item C2 - Bering Sea Halibut PSC.

We know that the Bering Sea has a huge population of juvenile halibut and that those halibut migrate from the Bering Sea to other areas throughout the range of the pacific halibut. Right now the trawl bycatch is preventing millions of halibut from leaving the Bering Sea and repopulating other areas. This practice must be curtailed immediately or rural communities will suffer and the future of halibut fishing all over the Pacific will continue to be threatened. These are unacceptable risks to most of the users of this iconic resource in order to the benefit of a small number of trawl vessel owners and crews. It is one thing to ask all users to conserve a resource, but it is quite another to ask most users to sacrifice and conserve the resource to benefit of a specific group of large factory trawlers. That is what is happening and it is not fair or equitable. Bycatch not only needs to be reduced and then linked to abundance, so all users can share in the sacrifice and in the benefits of a healthy resource.

Please show Alaskans you care about the communities and the halibut resource and take significant action to reduce Bering Sea bycatch of halibut to a level that provides opportunity for the rest of us and protects the millions of juvenile halibut from being caught and discarded.

Sincerely,
Brian Durkin

Subject: Halibut trawl by-catch Comment
From: "John D. Rathert Jr." <Rathert@gci.net>
Date: 4/28/2015 11:23 AM
To: npfmc.comments@noaa.gov

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Attention: Dan Hull, Chairman

RE: C2 – Bering Sea Halibut PSC Final action

My name is John D. Rathert Jr, I live in Eagle River and I fish (recreationally) in Alaska for halibut.

As a recreational fisherman I am very concerned about the high level of by catch of Halibut in the Bering Sea as described in your Final action item C2 - Bering Sea Halibut PSC.

We know that the Bering Sea has a huge population of juvenile halibut and that those halibut migrate from the Bering Sea to other areas throughout the range of the Pacific halibut. Right now the trawl by catch is preventing millions of halibut from leaving the Bering Sea and repopulating other areas.

This practice must be curtailed immediately or rural communities will suffer and the future of halibut fishing all over the Pacific will continue to be threatened. These are unacceptable risks to most of the users of this iconic resource to the benefit of a small number of trawl vessel owners and crews. It is one thing to ask all users to conserve a resource, but it is quite another all together to ask most users to sacrifice and conserve the resource to benefit of a specific group of large factory trawlers. That is what is happening and it is not fair or equitable. By Catch not only needs to be reduced and then linked to abundance, so all users can share in the sacrifice and in the benefits of a healthy resource.

Please show Alaskans you care about the communities and the resource and take significant action to reduce Bering Sea By Catch of halibut to a level that provides opportunity for the rest of us and protects millions juvenile halibut for being caught and discarded.

Sincerely,
John D. Rathert Jr.

Subject:

From: Walter Nickels <hank.nickels@gmail.com>

Date: 4/29/2015 8:28 AM

To: npfmc.comments@noaa.gov

Attention: Dan Hull, Chairman

RE: C2 – Bering Sea Halibut PSC Final action

My name is Hank, I live in Washington and I fish (recreationally) in Alaska for halibut.

I as a recreational fisherman and I am very concerned about the high level of by catch of Halibut in the Bering Sea as described in your Final action item C2 - Bering Sea Halibut PSC.

We know that the Bering Sea has a huge population of juvenile halibut and that those halibut migrate from the Bering Sea to other areas throughout the range of the pacific halibut. Right now the trawl bycatch is preventing millions of halibut from leaving the Bering Sea and repopulating other areas.

This practice must be curtailed immediately or rural communities will suffer and the future of halibut fishing all over the Pacific will continue to be threatened. These are unacceptable risks to most of the users of this iconic resource in order to the benefit of a small number of trawl vessel owners and crews. It is one thing to ask all users to conserve a resource, but it is quite another to ask most users to sacrifice and conserve the resource to benefit of a specific group of large factory trawlers. That is what is happening and it is not fair or equitable. Bycatch not only needs to be reduced and then linked to abundance, so all users can share in the sacrifice and in the benefits of a healthy resource.

Please show Alaskans you care about the communities and the halibut resource and take significant action to reduce Bering Sea bycatch of halibut to a level that provides opportunity for the rest of us and protects the millions of juvenile halibut from being caught and discarded.

Sincerely,

Hank Nickels

Subject: Halibut Bycatch
From: Curt Rogers <fullsail36@gmail.com>
Date: 4/29/2015 8:42 AM
To: npfmc.comments@noaa.gov

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Attention: Dan Hull, Chairman

RE: C2 – Bering Sea Halibut PSC Final action

My name is Curt Rogers, I live Anacortes and I fish (recreationally) in Alaska for halibut.

I as a recreational fisherman and I am very concerned about the high level of by catch of Halibut in the Bering Sea as described in your Final action item C2 - Bering Sea Halibut PSC.

We know that the Bering Sea has a huge population of juvenile halibut and that those halibut migrate from the Bering Sea to other areas throughout the range of the pacific halibut. Right now the trawl bycatch is preventing millions of halibut from leaving the Bering Sea and repopulating other areas. This practice must be curtailed immediately or rural communities will suffer and the future of halibut fishing all over the Pacific will continue to be threatened. These are unacceptable risks to most of the users of this iconic resource in order to the benefit of a small number of trawl vessel owners and crews. It is one thing to ask all users to conserve a resource, but it is quite another to ask most users to sacrifice and conserve the resource to benefit of a specific group of large factory trawlers. That is what is happening and it is not fair or equitable. Bycatch not only needs to be reduced and then linked to abundance, so all users can share in the sacrifice and in the benefits of a healthy resource.

Please show Alaskans you care about the communities and the halibut resource and take significant action to reduce Bering Sea bycatch of halibut to a level that provides opportunity for the rest of us and protects the millions of juvenile halibut from being caught and discarded.

Sincerely, Curt Rogers

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Subject: Halibut Bycatch
From: C R <airnetpilot@hotmail.com>
Date: 4/29/2015 8:43 AM
To: "npfmc.comments@noaa.gov" <npfmc.comments@noaa.gov>

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Attention: Dan Hull, Chairman

RE: C2 – Bering Sea Halibut PSC Final action

My name is CR, I live Seattle and I fish (recreationally) in Alaska for halibut.

I as a recreational fisherman and I am very concerned about the high level of by catch of Halibut in the Bering Sea as described in your Final action item C2 - Bering Sea Halibut PSC.

We know that the Bering Sea has a huge population of juvenile halibut and that those halibut migrate from the Bering Sea to other areas throughout the range of the Pacific halibut. Right now the trawl bycatch is preventing millions of halibut from leaving the Bering Sea and repopulating other areas.

This practice must be curtailed immediately or rural communities will suffer and the future of halibut fishing all over the Pacific will continue to be threatened. These are unacceptable risks to most of the users of this iconic resource in order to the benefit of a small number of trawl vessel owners and crews. It is one thing to ask all users to conserve a resource, but it is quite another to ask most users to sacrifice and conserve the resource to benefit of a specific group of large factory trawlers. That is what is happening and it is not fair or equitable. Bycatch not only needs to be reduced and then linked to abundance, so all users can share in the sacrifice and in the benefits of a healthy resource.

Please show Alaskans you care about the communities and the halibut resource and take significant action to reduce Bering Sea bycatch of halibut to a level that provides opportunity for the rest of us and protects the millions of juvenile halibut from being caught and discarded.

Sincerely, CR

Subject: Halibut by catch
From: Aaron Thom <AThom@anicainc.com>
Date: 4/29/2015 9:09 AM
To: "'npfmc.comments@noaa.gov'" <npfmc.comments@noaa.gov>

I would like to express concern about the commercial halibut by catch. It seems to me that this is devastating the Halibut populations, and something needs to be done. Please consider measures to reduce the by-catch!

Much thanks

Sincerely,

A concerned sport fishing family

Aaron Thom
Store Advisor
ANICA, inc
206 767 0333 phone
206 767 2421 Fax
athom@anicainc.com

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Subject: Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska Trawl Fleet Bycatch
From: Michael Sowards <mksowards@gmail.com>
Date: 4/29/2015 1:30 PM
To: npfmc.comments@noaa.gov

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Attention: Dan Hull, Chairman

RE: C2 – Bering Sea Halibut PSC Final action

My name is Michael Sowards, I live and I fish (recreationally and intend to fish commercially) in Alaska for halibut and black cod.

I, as a fisherman, am very concerned about the high level of bycatch of Halibut in the Bering Sea as described in your Final action item C2 - Bering Sea Halibut PSC.

We know that the Bering Sea has a huge population of juvenile halibut and that those halibut migrate from the Bering Sea to other areas throughout the range of the Pacific halibut. Right now the trawl bycatch is preventing millions of halibut from leaving the Bering Sea and repopulating other areas.

This practice must be curtailed immediately or rural communities will suffer and the future of halibut fishing all over the Pacific will continue to be threatened. These are unacceptable risks to most of the users of this iconic resource to the benefit of a small number of trawl vessel owners and crews. It is one thing to ask all users to conserve a resource, but it is quite another all together to ask most users to sacrifice and conserve the resource to benefit an elite and enormously profitable group of large factory trawlers. That is what is happening and it is not fair or equitable. Bycatch not only needs to be reduced and then linked to abundance, so all users can share in the sacrifice and in the benefits of a healthy resource.

Please show Alaskans you care about the communities and the resource and take significant action to reduce Bering Sea By Catch of halibut to a level that provides opportunity for the rest of us and protects millions of juvenile halibut from being destroyed and wasted.

I'm sure you are aware of the difficult time the wild king salmon are having in South Central Alaska. I expect that the studies now underway will show that the number one problem keeping our king salmon from returning to the stream of their birth is bycatch by the trawl fleet in the Gulf of Alaska. The trawl fleet must be reigned in. If they can't reduce their bycatch by 50% then their catch quota needs to be cut by 50%.

Sincerely,

Michael Sowards

Subject: North Pacific Fishery Management Council
From: "Andrew Gough" <akagough@frontier.com>
Date: 5/10/2015 12:00 AM
To: <npfmc.comments@noaa.gov>

Attention: Dan Hull, Chairman

RE: C2 – Bering Sea Halibut PSC Final action

My name is Andrew Gough, I live Seattle Washington and I fish (recreationally) in Alaska for halibut.

I as a recreational fisherman and I am very concerned about the high level of by catch of Halibut in the Bering Sea as described in your Final action item C2 - Bering Sea Halibut PSC.

We know that the Bering Sea has a huge population of juvenile halibut and that those halibut migrate from the Bering Sea to other areas throughout the range of the pacific halibut. Right now the trawl by catch is preventing millions of halibut from leaving the Bering Sea and repopulating other areas.

This practice must be curtailed immediately or rural communities will suffer and the future of halibut fishing all over the Pacific will continue to be threatened. These are unacceptable risks to most of the users of this iconic resource to the benefit of a small number of trawl vessel owners and crews. It is one thing to ask all users to conserve a resource, but it is quite another all together to ask most users to sacrifice and conserve the resource to benefit of a specific group of large factory trawlers. That is what is happening and it is not fair or equitable. By Catch not only needs to be reduced and then linked to abundance, so all users can share in the sacrifice and in the benefits of a healthy resource.

Please show Alaskans you care about the communities and the resource and take significant action to reduce Bering Sea By Catch of halibut to a level that provides opportunity for the rest of us and protects millions juvenile halibut for being caught and discarded.

Sincerely,

Andrew Gough

Subject: Alaska Halibut Wastage
From: Scott D <scott2694@gmail.com>
Date: 5/10/2015 12:32 PM
To: npfmc.comments@noaa.gov

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Attention: Dan Hull, Chairman

RE: C2 – Bering Sea Halibut PSC Final action

My name is Scott Douglas, I live in Tacoma, Washington and I fish (recreationally) in Alaska for halibut.

I as a recreational fisherman and I am very concerned about the high level of by catch of Halibut in the Bering Sea as described in your Final action item C2 - Bering Sea Halibut PSC.

We know that the Bering Sea has a huge population of juvenile halibut and that those halibut migrate from the Bering Sea to other areas throughout the range of the Pacific halibut. Right now the trawl by catch is preventing millions of halibut from leaving the Bering Sea and repopulating other areas.

This practice must be curtailed immediately or rural communities will suffer and the future of halibut fishing all over the Pacific will continue to be threatened. These are unacceptable risks to most of the users of this iconic resource to the benefit of a small number of trawl vessel owners and crews. It is one thing to ask all users to conserve a resource, but it is quite another all together to ask most users to sacrifice and conserve the resource to benefit of a specific group of large factory trawlers. That is what is happening and it is not fair or equitable. By Catch not only needs to be reduced and then linked to abundance, so all users can share in the sacrifice and in the benefits of a healthy resource.

Please show Alaskans you care about the communities and the resource and take significant action to reduce Bering Sea By Catch of halibut to a level that provides opportunity for the rest of us and protects millions juvenile halibut for being caught and discarded.

Sincerely,
Scott Douglas

Subject: Bering Sea Halibut PSC Final action
From: Michael M <fishinfrenzy@gmail.com>
Date: 5/9/2015 12:19 AM
To: npfmc.comments@noaa.gov

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Attention: Dan Hull, Chairman

RE: C2 – Bering Sea Halibut PSC Final action

My name is Michael Minogue, I live in Sterling and I fish (recreationally) in Alaska for halibut.

I as a recreational fisherman and I am very concerned about the high level of by catch of Halibut in the Bering Sea as described in your Final action item C2 - Bering Sea Halibut PSC.

We know that the Bering Sea has a huge population of juvenile halibut and that those halibut migrate from the Bering Sea to other areas throughout the range of the Pacific halibut. Right now the trawl by catch is preventing millions of halibut from leaving the Bering Sea and repopulating other areas.

This practice must be curtailed immediately or rural communities will suffer and the future of halibut fishing all over the Pacific will continue to be threatened. These are unacceptable risks to most of the users of this iconic resource to the benefit of a small number of trawl vessel owners and crews. It is one thing to ask all users to conserve a resource, but it is quite another all together to ask most users to sacrifice and conserve the resource to benefit of a specific group of large factory trawlers. That is what is happening and it is not fair or equitable. By Catch not only needs to be reduced and then linked to abundance, so all users can share in the sacrifice and in the benefits of a healthy resource.

Please show Alaskans you care about the communities and the resource and take significant action to reduce Bering Sea By Catch of halibut to a level that provides opportunity for the rest of us and protects millions juvenile halibut for being caught and discarded.

Sincerely,

Michael Minogue

Subject: C2 – Bering Sea Halibut PSC Final action
From: Gabriel Layman <GLayman@cookinlethousing.org>
Date: 5/8/2015 12:16 PM
To: "'npfmc.comments@noaa.gov'" <npfmc.comments@noaa.gov>

North Pacific Fishery Management Council
Attention: Dan Hull, Chairman

My name is Gabriel Layman. I live in Anchorage, and I participate in recreational halibut fishing in Alaska.

I am extremely concerned about the high level of by catch of Halibut in the Bering Sea as described in your Final action item C2 - Bering Sea Halibut PSC.

We know that the Bering Sea has a huge population of juvenile halibut and that those halibut migrate from the Bering Sea to other areas throughout the range of the pacific halibut. Right now the trawl by catch is preventing millions of halibut from leaving the Bering Sea and repopulating other areas.

This practice must be curtailed immediately. If it is not, communities will suffer and the future of halibut fishing in broader stretches of the Pacific will continue to be threatened. These are unacceptable risks to most of the users of this incredible valuable resource to the benefit of a small number of trawl vessel owners and crews. It is one thing to ask all users to conserve a resource, but it is quite another to ask most users to sacrifice and conserve the resource to benefit of a specific group of large factory trawlers. That is what is happening and it is not fair or equitable. By catch needs to be reduced AND linked to abundance, so all users can share in the sacrifice and in the benefits of a healthy resource.

Please show Alaskans you care about our communities and this important resource. Take significant action to reduce Bering Sea By Catch of halibut to a level that preserves opportunities for others who use the resource and our children, and protects millions juvenile halibut from being caught and wastefully discarded.

Respectfully,

Gabriel D. Layman
907.841.3918
4440 Mars Drive
Anchorage, AK 99507

Subject: C2 – Bering Sea Halibut PSC Final action
From: Jeremiah Erickson <livelifefullyhome@gmail.com>
Date: 5/4/2015 6:46 PM
To: npfmc.comments@noaa.gov

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Attention: Dan Hull, Chairman

RE: C2 – Bering Sea Halibut PSC Final action

My name is Jeremiah Erickson , I live in Eagle River and I fish (recreationally) in Alaska for halibut.

I as a recreational fisherman and I am very concerned about the high level of by catch of Halibut in the Bering Sea as described in your Final action item C2 - Bering Sea Halibut PSC.

We know that the Bering Sea has a huge population of juvenile halibut and that those halibut migrate from the Bering Sea to other areas throughout the range of the pacific halibut. Right now the trawl by catch is preventing millions of halibut from leaving the Bering Sea and repopulating other areas. This practice must be curtailed immediately or rural communities will suffer and the future of halibut fishing all over the Pacific will continue to be threatened. These are unacceptable risks to most of the users of this iconic resource to the benefit of a small number of trawl vessel owners and crews. It is one thing to ask all users to conserve a resource, but it is quite another all together to ask most users to sacrifice and conserve the resource to benefit of a specific group of large factory trawlers. That is what is happening and it is not fair or equitable. By Catch not only needs to be reduced and then linked to abundance, so all users can share in the sacrifice and in the benefits of a healthy resource.

Please show Alaskans you care about the communities and the resource and take significant action to reduce Bering Sea By Catch of halibut to a level that provides opportunity for the rest of us and protects millions juvenile halibut for being caught and discarded.

Sincerely,
Jeremiah Erickson

Subject: Mismanagement
From: Pete <petep1@yahoo.com>
Date: 5/3/2015 6:39 AM
To: "npfmc.comments@noaa.gov" <npfmc.comments@noaa.gov>

Attention: **Dan Hull**, Chairman

RE: C2 – Bering Sea Halibut PSC Final action

My name is Pete Paker,

I am very concerned about the high level of by catch of Halibut in the Bering Sea as described in your Final action item C2 - Bering Sea Halibut PSC.

We know that the Bering Sea has a huge population of juvenile halibut and that those halibut migrate from the Bering Sea to other areas throughout the range of the pacific halibut. Right now the trawl bycatch is preventing millions of halibut from leaving the Bering Sea and repopulating other areas. This practice must be curtailed immediately or rural communities will suffer and the future of halibut fishing all over the Pacific will continue to be threatened. These are unacceptable risks to most of the users of this iconic resource in order to the benefit of a small number of trawl vessel owners and crews. It is one thing to ask all users to conserve a resource, but it is quite another to ask most users to sacrifice and conserve the resource to benefit of a specific group of large factory trawlers. That is what is happening and it is not fair or equitable. Bycatch not only needs to be reduced and then linked to abundance, so all users can share in the sacrifice and in the benefits of a healthy resource.

Please show Alaskans you care about the communities and the halibut resource and take significant action to reduce Bering Sea bycatch of halibut to a level that provides opportunity for the rest of us and protects the millions of juvenile halibut from being caught and discarded.

Sincerely,

Pete Parker

Sent from my iPad

Subject: Attention: Dan Hull, Chairman/RE: C2 - Bering Sea Halibut PSC Final action
From: "Norman Reinhardt" <1greatrhino@wavecable.com>
Date: 5/3/2015 5:00 PM
To: <npfmc.comments@noaa.gov>

Mr. Hull,

My name is Norman Reinhardt, I live in Washington State and I fish (recreationally) for halibut. I as a recreational fisherman am very concerned about the high level of by catch of Halibut in the Bering Sea as described in your Final action item C2 - Bering Sea Halibut PSC. We know that the Bering Sea has a huge population of juvenile halibut and that those halibut migrate from the Bering Sea to other areas throughout the range of the pacific halibut. Right now the trawl bycatch is preventing millions of halibut from leaving the Bering Sea and repopulating other areas. This practice must be curtailed immediately or rural communities will suffer and the future of halibut fishing all over the Pacific will continue to be threatened. These are unacceptable risks to most of the users of this iconic resource in order to the benefit of a small number of trawl vessel owners and crews. It is one thing to ask all users to conserve a resource, but it is quite another to ask most users to sacrifice and conserve the resource to benefit of a specific group of large factory trawlers. That is what is happening and it is not fair or equitable. Bycatch not only needs to be reduced, it then should be linked to abundance, so all users can share in the sacrifice and in the benefits of a healthy resource. Please show all users of the halibut resource you care by taking significant action to reduce Bering Sea bycatch of halibut to a level that provides opportunity for the rest of us and protects the millions of juvenile halibut from being caught and discarded.

Sincerely,
Norman Reinhardt
President, Kitsap Poggie Club

Subject: Attention: Dan Hull, Chairman/RE: C2 - Bering Sea Halibut PSC Final action
From: "Bill Dewey" <wadewey@earthlink.net>
Date: 5/3/2015 7:57 PM
To: <npfmc.comments@noaa.gov>

Dear Mr. Hull,

My name is Bill Dewey, I live in Washington State and I fish (recreationally) for halibut.

I as a recreational fisherman am very concerned about the high level of by catch of Halibut in the Bering Sea as described in your Final action item C2 - Bering Sea Halibut PSC.

We know that the Bering Sea has a huge population of juvenile halibut and that those halibut migrate from the Bering Sea to other areas throughout the range of the Pacific halibut. Right now the trawl bycatch is preventing millions of halibut from leaving the Bering Sea and repopulating other areas. This practice must be curtailed immediately or rural communities will suffer and the future of halibut fishing all over the Pacific will continue to be threatened. These are unacceptable risks to most of the users of this iconic resource in order to the benefit of a small number of trawl vessel owners and crews. It is one thing to ask all users to conserve a resource, but it is quite another to ask most users to sacrifice and conserve the resource to benefit of a specific group of large factory trawlers. That is what is happening and it is not fair or equitable. Bycatch not only needs to be reduced, it then should be linked to abundance, so all users can share in the sacrifice and in the benefits of a healthy resource.

Please show all users of the halibut resource you care by taking significant action to reduce Bering Sea bycatch of halibut to a level that provides opportunity for the rest of us and protects the millions of juvenile halibut from being caught and discarded.

Sincerely,

Bill Dewey

Member of Kitsap Poggie Club

Bremerton, Washington

Subject: C2 – Bering Sea Halibut PSC Final action
From: eric spiegel <eric.spiegel2@gmail.com>
Date: 5/4/2015 6:56 AM
To: npfmc.comments@noaa.gov

Attention: **Dan Hull**, Chairman

RE:

My name is Eric Spiegel, I live in Seabeck, Washington and I fish (recreationally) in Alaska, Canada and Washington for halibut.

I as a recreational fisherman and I am very concerned about the high level of by catch of Halibut in the Bering Sea as described in your Final action item C2 - Bering Sea Halibut PSC.

We know that the Bering Sea has a huge population of juvenile halibut and that those halibut migrate from the Bering Sea to other areas throughout the range of the Pacific halibut. Right now the trawl bycatch is preventing millions of halibut from leaving the Bering Sea and repopulating other areas. This practice must be curtailed immediately or rural communities will suffer and the future of halibut fishing all over the Pacific will continue to be threatened. These are unacceptable risks to most of the users of this iconic resource in order to the benefit of a small number of trawl vessel owners and crews. It is one thing to ask all users to conserve a resource, but it is quite another to ask most users to sacrifice and conserve the resource to benefit of a specific group of large factory trawlers. That is what is happening and it is not fair or equitable. Bycatch not only needs to be reduced and then linked to abundance, so all users can share in the sacrifice and in the benefits of a healthy resource.

Please show Alaskans you care about the communities and the halibut resource and take significant action to reduce Bering Sea bycatch of halibut to a level that provides opportunity for the rest of us and protects the millions of juvenile halibut from being caught and discarded.

Sincerely,

Eric Spiegel

Subject: Bering Sea Halibut PSC Final action
From: Vaughn Fowler <vaughn@bandhpcas.com>
Date: 5/4/2015 11:19 AM
To: "npfmc.comments@noaa.gov" <npfmc.comments@noaa.gov>

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Attention: Dan Hull, Chairman

RE: C2 – Bering Sea Halibut PSC Final action

My name is Vaughn Fowler, my family and I live in Anchorage Alaska and we recreationally fish in Alaska for halibut.

As recreational fishermen we are very concerned about the high level of by catch of Halibut in the Bering Sea as described in your Final action item C2 - Bering Sea Halibut PSC.

We know that the Bering Sea has a huge population of juvenile halibut and that those halibut migrate from the Bering Sea to other areas throughout the range of the pacific halibut. Right now the trawl by catch is preventing millions of halibut from leaving the Bering Sea and repopulating other areas.

This practice must be curtailed immediately or rural communities will suffer and the future of halibut fishing all over the Pacific will continue to be threatened. These are unacceptable risks to most of the users of this iconic resource to the benefit of a small number of trawl vessel owners and crews. It is one thing to ask all users to conserve a resource, but it is quite another all together to ask most users to sacrifice and conserve the resource to benefit of a specific group of large factory trawlers. That is what is happening and it is not fair or equitable. By Catch not only needs to be reduced and then linked to abundance, so all users can share in the sacrifice and in the benefits of a healthy resource.

Please show Alaskans and other visiting fishermen that you care about the communities and the resource and take significant action to reduce Bering Sea By Catch of halibut to a level that provides opportunity for the rest of us and protects millions juvenile halibut for being caught and discarded.

Sincerely,

Vaughn Fowler

Subject: RE: C2 – Bering Sea Halibut PSC Final action
From: Lucas Wacker <w1a9c8k5@yahoo.com>
Date: 5/4/2015 11:22 AM
To: "npfmc.comments@noaa.gov" <npfmc.comments@noaa.gov>

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Attention: Dan Hull, Chairman

My name is Lucas Wacker, I live Anchorage and I fish (recreationally) in Alaska for halibut.

I as a recreational fisherman and I am very concerned about the high level of by catch of Halibut in the Bering Sea as described in your Final action item C2 - Bering Sea Halibut PSC.

We know that the Bering Sea has a huge population of juvenile halibut and that those halibut migrate from the Bering Sea to other areas throughout the range of the pacific halibut. Right now the trawl by catch is preventing millions of halibut from leaving the Bering Sea and repopulating other areas. This practice must be curtailed immediately or rural communities will suffer and the future of halibut fishing all over the Pacific will continue to be threatened. These are unacceptable risks to most of the users of this iconic resource to the benefit of a small number of trawl vessel owners and crews. It is one thing to ask all users to conserve a resource, but it is quite another all together to ask most users to sacrifice and conserve the resource to benefit of a specific group of large factory trawlers. That is what is happening and it is not fair or equitable. By Catch not only needs to be reduced and then linked to abundance, so all users can share in the sacrifice and in the benefits of a healthy resource.

Please show Alaskans you care about the communities and the resource and take significant action to reduce Bering Sea By Catch of halibut to a level that provides opportunity for the rest of us and protects millions juvenile halibut for being caught and discarded.

Sincerely,
Lucas Wacker