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**6/1/07**

**Tim Johnson**

**P. O. Box 3633**

**Seward, AK 99664**

**Dear members of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council,**

**I am writing to urge you to protect essential fish habitat in the northern Bering Sea by adopting Alternative 2, which would freeze the footprint of bottom trawling in the Bering Sea.**

**The Bering Sea is home to many species of rare and endangered marine mammals and seabirds, including the federally-listed Spectacled Eider. These birds rely on mollusks on the seafloor as a critical food source. Bottom trawling would destroy the essential fish habitat of the Bering Sea floor on which the Spectacled Eider and many other species depend.**

**Clearly, Alternative 2 provides the greatest protection for the wildlife, communities, and benthic habitats of the northern Bering Sea, while having a minimal impact on the economic health of existing fisheries and fishing communities.**

**Thank you for your consideration.**

**Yours sincerely,**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Johnson", written in a cursive style.

**Tim Johnson**

North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 W. 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501-2252  
Tel: 907.271.2809 Fax: 907.271.2817

May 30, 2007

*For the Official Record – 182d Plenary Session – June 6-12, 2007, Sitka, Alaska  
Please include this letter in the Executive notebooks and provide copies on the meeting tables.*

**RE: D-2 GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT**

**D-2(d) Review EFP for electronic monitoring of CGOA rockfish fisheries (T).**

Dear Chris Oliver, Executive Director:

**We oppose the EFP, and our preferred alternative is Alternative #1 – not allowing the request.**

In the future we'd prefer that if EM is evaluated and applied, it not be restricted to the Rockfish program alone. It should apply to all trawl fishing, and is part of the total management package that needs all stakeholders to work out at the Council level over a longer time frame.

The application was filed April 30, 2007 and is already on the Council agenda. It was published in the Federal Register on Thursday, May 24, 2007, and even though we are members of affected stakeholder groups, we have just become aware of it. Yet it is already scheduled on the agenda for Monday, June 11, 2007. **Public comment is taking place only 42 days after the application filing.**

Furthermore, it is too late to make arrangements as there are limited to no rooms available in Sitka; and we have other fisheries to attend to. In other words, this short-announcement is extremely inconsiderate of other stakeholders and the public, in the multispecies management of GOA groundfisheries.

**We are especially opposed to fast-tracking the application for an Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) by the Alaska Groundfish Data Bank (AGDB represents trawlers and closed-class shoreside plants combined). We just got the EA hours ago, and have inadequate time to review its 57 pages, including the Application itself – so had to dash this letter off hastily as a result.**

It also attempts to establish higher incidental take allowances in the budding, exclusive Rockfish program that has just begun. **These additional bycatch allowances will surely become historical percentages for future secondary species wealth extraction.** The RPP players should be forced to work under the program's starting requirements and existing TAC, instead.

Page 2 of 3

Premises underlying the proposal have not been adequately discussed with strong representation among the affected user groups, smaller processors, conservation and other industry components. Rockfish cooperatives are not inherently efficient as they discourage free market forces from operating. The rockfish program already has excluded a small Kodiak processor (Global Seafoods) who processed over 2,500,000 pounds of Rockfish last year, and paid higher prices to the fleets. This new RPP will clearly have (antitrust) price-lowering effects that have yet to be determined.

**The EFP is an extension of the TAC. To exceed TAC is considered in most minds as "overfishing"!**

There already exist special allocations under the closed-market Rockfish Pilot Program (RPP) and its processor-linked cooperatives, as an exclusive and exclusionary fishery.

**It is also an attempted end-run of Bycatch goals and the Precautionary Principle** restricting non-target species to incidental take: of returning fish to the sea alive, first and foremost, and secondarily of reducing overall bycatch. It does not encourage efficient harvesting concentrating on target species only.

**Moreover, Electronic Monitoring is not something new. NOAA/NMFS is acting as if this is an emergency;** but it is something that has been suggested for years. Canada has been using EM for over 10 years.

Who considers it so important to push this through without adequate public involvement and thorough discussion with affected stakeholder and permit holding groups affected by this application? It's the participants who avoided adequate observer coverage in the past.

**This is an attempt to obtain special allocations – worth significant value.** Here are some basic figures illustrating that point, for just a few of the species:

The EFP application by the Alaska Groundfish Data Bank asks for the Council to support the program by allocating an additional 906,000 pounds (412 MT) of groundfish ABOVE the Rockfish Pilot Program's existing Prohibited Species Catch allocations. The 57,200 pounds of retained sablefish (black cod) alone is worth \$228,800 (at \$4/lb.) and the retained Pacific Cod of 96,400 pounds is worth at least \$48,200. Likewise, the additional 26,400 pounds of halibut (discarded above program PSC) is worth at least an additional \$105,600 (at \$4/lb.) These three species alone represent an additional take and/or species destruction of \$382,600! In the first year, alone.

Page 3 of 3

The problem with this application is not just overfishing but the rush to do so, and there are existing programs (and TAC in place) which can be utilized for the EM test. The TAC for the Central GOA already includes 29,453 MT of Pacific cod, and 6,159 of Sablefish (trawl) – over 78,000,000 pounds. There is no need for an additional 153,600 pounds of these two species, a mere 2/10<sup>th</sup> of 1%. Only greed leads to this kind of thinking. The process of asking for it was a waste of NOAA manpower and time!

We are opposed to this program for all of these general reasons and principles. However, as halibut and sablefish quota holders, we also see this proposal as an **impingement upon our harvesting rights and future TAC setting.**

In addition, Mr. Dochtermann has since June of 2005 proposed proper Observer Coverage of GOA trawl fisheries, and never once been allowed to have this proposal placed on the Agenda at the Council. This would have provided for the data quality and other informational needs that must first be known before the Council makes further GOA groundfish decisions, like this one.

Furthermore, this special agenda item should have been on the Observer Coverage (C-5) agenda where it could be handled in proper context.

**Again, we oppose the EFP application and suggest the Council members please vote for Alternative #1, turning down the AGDB trawler and processor's scheme.**

Sincerely,



Ludger W. Dochtermann  
F/V Stormbird, F/V North Point &  
P.O. Box 714; Kodiak, Alaska 99615



Walter Sargent  
F/V Major, F/V Lady Lu  
1830 Mission Road  
Kodiak, Alaska 99615

# to the Editor

# Flori Clos

Some of the guides I actually enjoy. Even if they are generally a whining lot. You won't get much sympathy crying about discrimination, and how hard it is to buy quota-share from men who are already doing so. One guy mentioned that he was capped out for quota in some area. I asked him how he got so much, he must have been Johnny-on-the-spot back in the day derby fishing? "No," he said, "I was too young to get any at all. I just fish other people's pounds." There are a couple of those guys in our game. Young, self-made, very wealthy men.

The Chinese have a symbol in their calligraphy with two meanings. One is calamity, catastrophe. But, the same sign also indicates opportunity. In spite of the tales of hardship and woe, IFQ seems to be working for those who want to work. Loan capital is available from state and federal agencies to purchase quota share. There is no doubt in my mind it would work just as well in the recreational sector, as it has in the longline fisheries.

Of course, it's a lot easier to mount an organized attack on other people's assets, and livelihoods. It seems to be pretty easy to buy off politicians. It takes a lot less expenditure of energy to take something, than work for it.

That's why I'm urging the North Pacific Fishery Management Council to reconsider last year's decision against incorporating guides into IFQ management. There should simply be some free-market mechanism where hard work is rewarded more than organized theft of the fruits of other men's labors. I urge the community, whether you fish or not, to join me in asking the council when it meets here June 4-12 at Centennial Hall to formulate a working solution to all this acrimony over allocation. I believe that solution is IFQ for charter vessels.

Sigurd Rutter, Sitka

WEST PALM BEACH — Gov. Charlie Crist Monday moved to amend the state's primary election law, a move that would allow voters to choose their primary candidates in person at the polls.

The move, which had been behind only the caucus and primary and on Carolina's Democratic

Florida has by the end of the year set for January and a move in which the well-funded can get greater advantage by drawing attention away from the states.

"This is going to be a tough race for our candidates to win large amounts of votes in Florida," said Mr. Crist, a professor at Emory University in Atlanta. "If you can't win in the primary, that's going to be a problem if you're not a serious

Crist, a Republican, said GOP leaders have been more diverse in their opinions in deciding the next primary election. The delegate election was the disputed 2000 election.

"We may not be able to win the election, but we're at least going to be there," he said after signing the bill. He will be the first major party candidate to be the next leader of the party.

Florida's early primary has implications for the state's schedule of primary elections, including those in California.

A win in Florida would cause the state to be the first of the nation to have a primary election, so it should be a

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Dear Ms Madson's  
Charter IFQs

Dear Editor: There is only one place I know of where commercial and charter fishermen associate freely and amicably. That is across the green felt baize of local poker tables. I suppose respect for the guy across the table is just something intrinsic to no-limit poker.

Date: 5/25, 2007

Dear Ms. Madsen:

**We must protect ocean habitat in the northern Bering Sea and Arctic from destructive bottom trawling.**

**As you consider management alternatives for Bering Sea habitat conservation, please adopt Alternative 2 to freeze the current bottom trawl footprint in the Bering Sea and prevent industrial trawling vessels from moving North.**

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Sincerely,

Name: Jerry Brown

Address: 3204 NE Alameda Tr

City: Portland State: OR Zip: 97211

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

May 26, 2007

North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
Stephanie Madsen, Chair  
605 W. 4th St., Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501-2252

Dear Ms. Madsen,

I am a small time halibut fisherman and have been since 1979. I hold quota share in area 2C. Originally, I received quota share. Subsequently, I purchased additional share. Although it has been 5 or so years since I paid it off, those years of loans and payments were difficult financially.

Like many people, I am concerned about the direction of the halibut fishery related to charter fishing. I observed the mushrooming of the charter industry here in Sitka over the last 12 years, mostly by newcomers outside the state of Alaska. Somewhat ironically, charter fishing isn't considered "commercial fishing" because the clients have sportfishing licenses. I think this is a mistake in definition.

I am opposed to forced reallocation of my quota share or any change to the charter allocation. I think the current charter allocation should be a percentage which will rise and fall with the total CEY. If we were all treated equally, one commercial entity should not be negatively impacted by another commercial entity by reallocation or restricted rights to the halibut resource.

It is also important for charter operators to be accountable for the harvest levels, just like the traditional commercial fishers like me. In addition, charter operators should pay for the costs - just like I do.

It's a tough issue. Good luck and do the right thing to represent our country's concepts of equality and responsibility.

Sincerely,

William Hutton  
1232 Georgeson Loop  
Sitka, AK 99835

May 16, 2007

Stephanie Wilson, Esq.  
1000 1st Avenue  
Anchorage, AK 99501

I am writing to you regarding the proposed...  
I am writing to you regarding the proposed...  
I am writing to you regarding the proposed...

Like many people, I am concerned about the...  
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Like many people, I am concerned about the...

I am opposed to the...  
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Stephanie Wilson, Esq.  
1000 1st Avenue  
Anchorage, AK 99501



FAX (907) 271-2817

Ms Stephanie Madsen  
Chair  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4th Ave, Ste 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

I am writing to urge you to adopt effective management measures to control charter harvest in Area 2C to the GHL and to ensure that these measures are implemented in time for the 2008 charter season. I would also urge you to move forward as quickly as possible with similarly effective measures in Area 3A. Commercial fishermen have asked the Council for the past 14 years to stop the open-ended reallocation of halibut from the commercial to the charter sector. Fourteen years is a long time to wait. In April 2006, the Council committed by unanimous vote to manage the halibut charter sector to the GHL until superseded by a long-term management strategy. Please keep that commitment. Each sector needs to live within its allocation until a mechanism for compensated reallocation is established.

I further request that the Council convert the GHL to a percentage-based allocation that fluctuates with abundance and implement a mechanism that allows compensated transfer between the commercial and charter sectors. The percentage must be derived from the existing GHL and all subsequent transfers must be between willing buyers and willing sellers. Finally, I oppose any permanent revenue streams to the charter sector that would subsidize charter purchase of quota share. Charter operators that want to increase their halibut harvest should pay more for that opportunity.

I have invested in the halibut quota share program and fishery with the expectation that the resource will continue to be well managed and that the Council will fairly balance the needs of all who depend on the halibut resource, from consumers through fishermen and processors. I respectfully request that the Council live up to that expectation.

Sincerely,

Flor Kuzmin

Address P.O. Box 1671

DeltaJct. AK. 99737

Date: 5/20/07

FAX (907) 271-2817

Ms Stephanie Madsen  
Chair  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4th Ave, Ste 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

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Sincerely,

Albert Diukoff

Address 51686 139<sup>th</sup> Ave

BONVICK MN 56644

Date: 5-24-07

FAX (907) 271-2817

Ms Stephanie Madsen  
Chair  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4th Ave, Ste 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

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Sincerely,

Eric McDowell

Address

1418 Mary Ellen  
Juneau, AK 99801

Date:

5/19/07

FAX (907) 271-2817

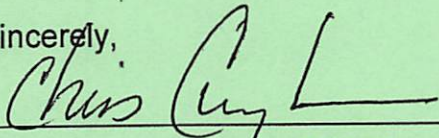
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Sincerely,



Address                      **F/V Pura Vida**  
**Chris Cunningham**  
**10005 Frank Maier Dr.**  
**Juneau, AK 99801**

Date:                      **(907) 789-5483**

5-17-07

FAX (907) 271-2817

Ms Stephanie Madsen  
Chair  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4th Ave, Ste 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

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Sincerely,

Juan Gjertsen

Address 411. DEGROFF ST  
SITKA AK 99835

Date: 5-27-07

FAX (907) 271-2817


Ms Stephanie Madsen  
Chair  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4th Ave, Ste 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

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Sincerely,

  
Address Clint Meekam  
11766 So Canberra Dr  
Sandy UT 84074  
Date: 5/14/07

FAX (907) 271-2817

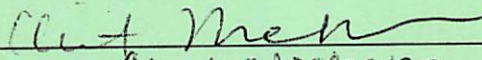
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Sincerely,

  
Clint Meekam  
Address 11766 So Canberra Dr  
Sandy UT 84094  
Date: 5/14/07

FAX (907) 271-2817

Ms Stephanie Madsen  
Chair  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4th Ave, Ste 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

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Sincerely,

Jan O Lunde

Address 2190 Black Pt Rd

Brinnon WA

Date:

5/23/07



FAX (907) 271-2817

Ms Stephanie Madsen  
Chair  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4th Ave, Ste 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

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Sincerely,



ERIK VELSKO  
Address 780 DAYBREEZE CT.  
HOMER, AK 99603

Date: 5-24-07

FAX (907) 271-2817

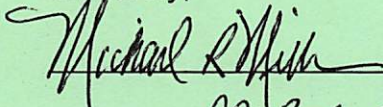
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Sincerely,

  
\_\_\_\_\_

Address PO Box 273

Seldonia, Ak. 99663

Date: 5/30/07

FAX (907) 271-2817

Ms Stephanie Madsen  
Chair  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4th Ave, Ste 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

I am writing to urge you to adopt effective management measures to control charter harvest in Area 2C to the GHL and to ensure that these measures are implemented in time for the 2008 charter season. I would also urge you to move forward as quickly as possible with similarly effective measures in Area 3A. Commercial fishermen have asked the Council for the past 14 years to stop the open-ended reallocation of halibut from the commercial to the charter sector. Fourteen years is a long time to wait. In April 2006, the Council committed by unanimous vote to manage the halibut charter sector to the GHL until superseded by a long-term management strategy. Please keep that commitment. Each sector needs to live within its allocation until a mechanism for compensated reallocation is established.

I further request that the Council convert the GHL to a percentage-based allocation that fluctuates with abundance and implement a mechanism that allows compensated transfer between the commercial and charter sectors. The percentage must be derived from the existing GHL and all subsequent transfers must be between willing buyers and willing sellers. Finally, I oppose any permanent revenue streams to the charter sector that would subsidize charter purchase of quota share. Charter operators that want to increase their halibut harvest should pay more for that opportunity.

I have invested in the halibut quota share program and fishery with the expectation that the resource will continue to be well managed and that the Council will fairly balance the needs of all who depend on the halibut resource, from consumers through fishermen and processors. I respectfully request that the Council live up to that expectation.

Sincerely,

  
Address 51686 139th Ave

COMICK MN 5644

Date:

5-24-07

Executive Director  
James A. Donofrio



May 29, 2007

North Pacific Fisheries Management Council  
605 W 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 306  
Anchorage AK 99501-2252  
Fax (907) 271-2817

Dear Council Member:

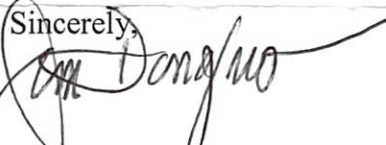
Please accept the following comments on behalf of the Recreational Fishing Alliance (RFA) regarding the compensated reallocation report (C-1a) and Area 2C GHM measures (C-1b) as they pertain to Charter Halibut Management. I request postponement of all issues dealing with the charter sector until October.

RFA believes the reallocation report and final action for Area 2C GHM measures are premature, at this time. The Council has passed final action for the moratorium-this is the first step in limiting charter fishing. In October 2007, the Council will take up the topic of equitable allocation. Only after this has been determined should there be any discussion on compensated reallocation elements. I request postponement of discussion on compensated reallocation until the October meeting.

We will not have final harvest data for 2006 until the fall, 2007. Currently the Council is working with trends, and not real numbers – final action should not be based on projections. For C-1b, Area 2C GHM Management Measures, RFA supports Alternative 1, No Action. The risk of negatively impacting Alaska's tourism industry is profound and sport anglers will not tolerate a daily bag limit of one halibut.

The RFA encourages the Council to take no action at this time. Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

  
Jim Donofrio  
Executive Director

FAX (907) 271-2817

Ms Stephanie Madsen  
Chair  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4th Ave, Ste 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

I am writing to urge you to adopt effective management measures to control charter harvest in Area 2C to the GHL and to ensure that these measures are implemented in time for the 2008 charter season. I would also urge you to move forward as quickly as possible with similarly effective measures in Area 3A. Commercial fishermen have asked the Council for the past 14 years to stop the open-ended reallocation of halibut from the commercial to the charter sector. Fourteen years is a long time to wait. In April 2006, the Council committed by unanimous vote to manage the halibut charter sector to the GHL until superseded by a long-term management strategy. Please keep that commitment. Each sector needs to live within its allocation until a mechanism for compensated reallocation is established.

I further request that the Council convert the GHL to a percentage-based allocation that fluctuates with abundance and implement a mechanism that allows compensated transfer between the commercial and charter sectors. The percentage must be derived from the existing GHL and all subsequent transfers must be between willing buyers and willing sellers. Finally, I oppose any permanent revenue streams to the charter sector that would subsidize charter purchase of quota share. Charter operators that want to increase their halibut harvest should pay more for that opportunity.

I have invested in the halibut quota share program and fishery with the expectation that the resource will continue to be well managed and that the Council will fairly balance the needs of all who depend on the halibut resource, from consumers through fishermen and processors. I respectfully request that the Council live up to that expectation.

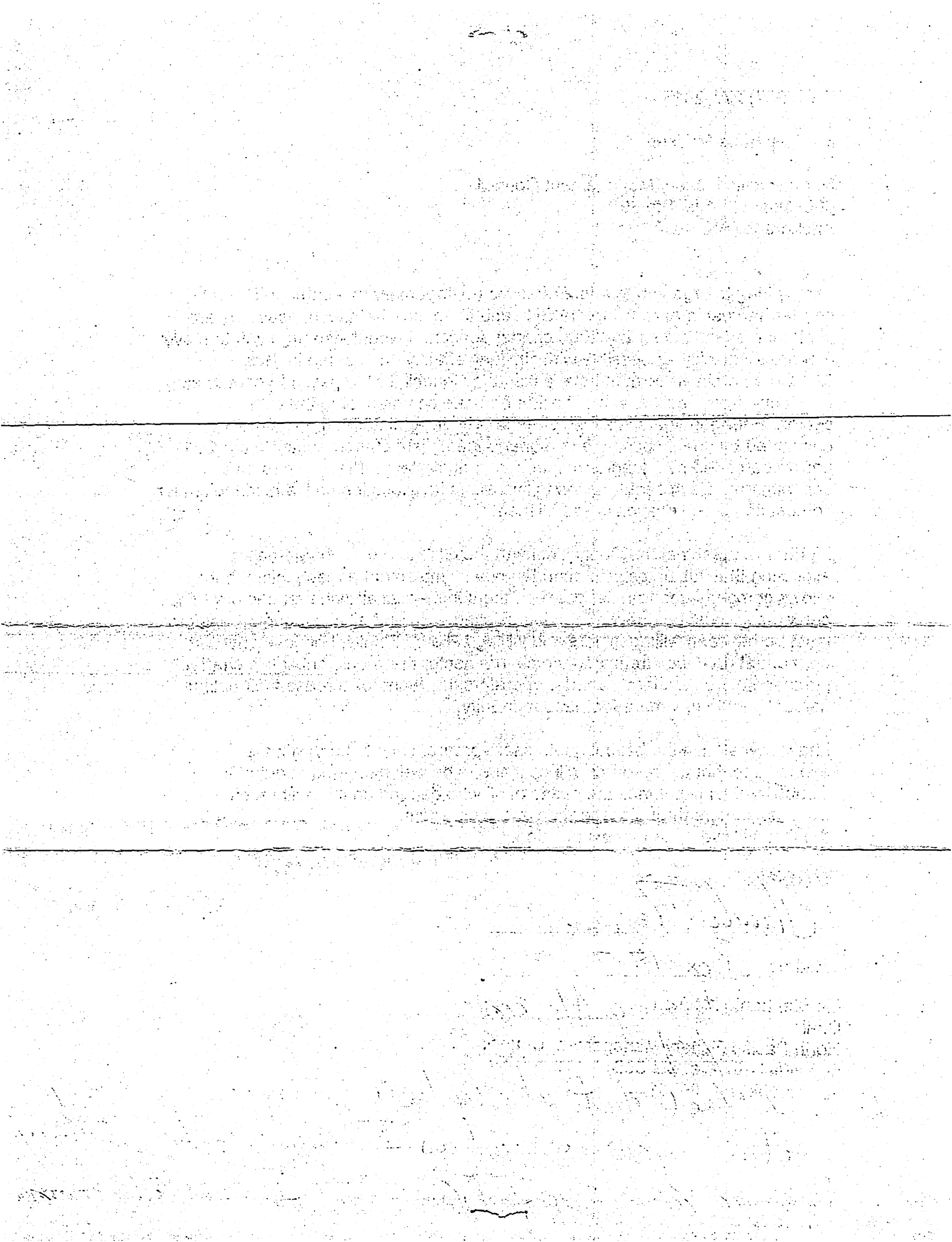
Sincerely,

Chudi Thyne

Address Box 1517  
Petersburg, Ak 99833

Date: 5/29/07

P.S. I feel that charter boat operators are every bit as commercial as I am, & I had to buy 85-90% of the I.F.Q.'s that I currently own.



FAX (907) 271-2817

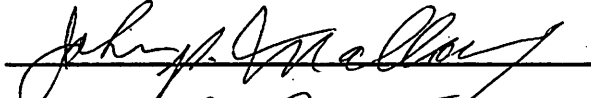
Ms Stephanie Madsen  
Chair  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4th Ave, Ste 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

I am writing to urge you to adopt effective management measures to control charter harvest in Area 2C to the GHL and to ensure that these measures are implemented in time for the 2008 charter season. I would also urge you to move forward as quickly as possible with similarly effective measures in Area 3A. Commercial fishermen have asked the Council for the past 14 years to stop the open-ended reallocation of halibut from the commercial to the charter sector. Fourteen years is a long time to wait. In April 2006, the Council committed by unanimous vote to manage the halibut charter sector to the GHL until superseded by a long-term management strategy. Please keep that commitment. Each sector needs to live within its allocation until a mechanism for compensated reallocation is established.

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Sincerely,



Address PO Box 502

Cordova AK 99574

Date: 5/17/07

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Third block of faint, illegible text, continuing the document's content.

Fourth block of faint, illegible text, showing further details or a list.

Fifth block of faint, illegible text, possibly a concluding paragraph or signature area.

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Ms Stephanie Madsen  
Chair  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4th Ave, Ste 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

I am writing to urge you to adopt effective management measures to control charter harvest in Area 2C to the GHL and to ensure that these measures are implemented in time for the 2008 charter season. I would also urge you to move forward as quickly as possible with similarly effective measures in Area 3A. Commercial fishermen have asked the Council for the past 14 years to stop the open-ended reallocation of halibut from the commercial to the charter sector. Fourteen years is a long time to wait. In April 2006, the Council committed by unanimous vote to manage the halibut charter sector to the GHL until superseded by a long-term management strategy. Please keep that commitment. Each sector needs to live within its allocation until a mechanism for compensated reallocation is established.

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I have invested in the halibut quota share program and fishery with the expectation that the resource will continue to be well managed and that the Council will fairly balance the needs of all who depend on the halibut resource, from consumers through fishermen and processors. I respectfully request that the Council live up to that expectation.

Sincerely,



John Bocci

Address

Box 1312

Coedova AK

Date:

5/29/07

FAX (907) 271-2817

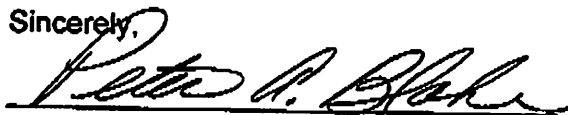
Ms Stephanie Madsen  
Chair  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4th Ave, Ste 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

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I have invested in the halibut quota share program and fishery with the expectation that the resource will continue to be well managed and that the Council will fairly balance the needs of all who depend on the halibut resource, from consumers through fishermen and processors. I respectfully request that the Council live up to that expectation.

Sincerely,



Address

Box 718  
Cordova, AK 99574

Date:

5/29/2007

FAX (907) 271-2817

Ms Stephanie Madsen  
Chair  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4th Ave, Ste 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

I am writing to urge you to adopt effective management measures to control charter harvest in Area 2C to the GHL and to ensure that these measures are implemented in time for the 2008 charter season. I would also urge you to move forward as quickly as possible with similarly effective measures in Area 3A. Commercial fishermen have asked the Council for the past 14 years to stop the open-ended reallocation of halibut from the commercial to the charter sector. Fourteen years is a long time to wait. In April 2006, the Council committed by unanimous vote to manage the halibut charter sector to the GHL until superseded by a long-term management strategy. Please keep that commitment. Each sector needs to live within its allocation until a mechanism for compensated reallocation is established.

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I have invested in the halibut quota share program and fishery with the expectation that the resource will continue to be well managed and that the Council will fairly balance the needs of all who depend on the halibut resource, from consumers through fishermen and processors. I respectfully request that the Council live up to that expectation.

Sincerely,

George Kirk

Address

Box 2296

Kodiak AK 99615

Date:

5-29-07

907-271-2817

May 29, 2007

North Pacific Fisheries Management Council  
605 W 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 306  
Anchorage AK 99501-2252  
Fax (907) 271-2817

Dear Council Member,

I own and operate ALASKA TREE TOPS FISHING LODGE and have been in business since 2004]; I request postponement of all charter issues until October. Our short fishing season has begun so I am not able to attend the June, 2007 council meeting. I am commenting on the compensated reallocation report (C-1a) and Area 2C GHM measures (C-1b) as they pertain to Charter Halibut Management.

I truly believe the reallocation report and final action for Area 2C GHM measures are premature, at this time. The Council has passed final action for the moratorium-this is the first step in limiting charter fishing. In October 2007, the Council will take up the topic of equitable allocation. Only after this has been determined should there be any discussion on compensated reallocation elements. I request postponement of discussion on compensated reallocation until the October meeting.

We will not have final harvest data for 2006 until the fall, 2007. Currently the Council is working with trends, and not real numbers - final action should not be based on projections. Furthermore, the Council's premature actions are encouraging the rapid expansion of bare-boat rentals and unguided sport harvests by non-residents of Alaska. Going back to C-1a, I am against the individual buy back option. I am more inclined toward an aggregate buy back option and recommend the Council research a government buy back provision.

For C-1b, Area 2C GHM Management Measures, I am for Alternative 1, No Action. There are problems with all of Alternative 2 options because of the diversity of private businesses within the guided sport industry. The risk of negatively impacting Alaska's tourism industry is profound. I am definitely strongly opposed to Option 4, which will reduce the bag limit to one fish per day. The sport angler will not tolerate a daily bag limit of one halibut. Bottom line - final action should not be taken until final numbers for 2006 are confirmed. Between the Moratorium, a raise in allocation and a method to purchase commercial halibut needed to stay within the allocation, GHM Management measures may not be necessary. Therefore, I encourage the Council to take no action because none is needed at this time. Thanks again for your attention.

Sincerely,

JOHN E. & CAROLE S. MYERS  
P.O. BOX 135  
SELDOVIA, AK. 99663  
907-234-6200

May 29, 2007

FAX (907) 271-2817  
Ms Stephanie Madsen, Chair  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4th Ave, Ste 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

I am writing to urge you to adopt effective management measures to control charter harvest in Area 2C to the GHI, and to ensure that these measures are implemented in time for the 2008 charter season. I would also urge you to move forward as quickly as possible with similarly effective measures in Area 3A. Commercial fishermen have asked the Council for the past 14 years to stop the open-ended reallocation of halibut from the commercial to the charter sector. Fourteen years is a long time to wait. In April 2006, the Council committed by unanimous vote to manage the halibut charter sector to the GHI until superseded by a long-term management strategy. Please keep that commitment. Each sector needs to live within its allocation. I further request that the Council convert the GHI to a percentage-based allocation that fluctuates with abundance. The percentage must be derived from the existing GHI. Finally, I oppose any permanent revenue streams to the charter sector that would subsidize charter purchase of quota share. Charter operators that want to increase their halibut harvest should pay more for that opportunity. I have invested in the halibut quota share program and fishery with the expectation that the resource will continue to be well managed and that the Council will fairly balance the needs of all who depend on the halibut resource - from consumers through fishermen to processors. I respectfully request that the Council live up to that expectation.

Sincerely,

*Donald Normandy*

Address Box 48

PT. BAKER AK 99527

Date: 5/29/07

May 29, 2007

FAX (907) 271-2817  
Ms Stephanie Madsen, Chair  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4th Ave, Ste 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

I am writing to urge you to adopt effective management measures to control charter harvest in Area 2C to the GHL and to ensure that these measures are implemented in time for the 2008 charter season. I would also urge you to move forward as quickly as possible with similarly effective measures in Area 3A. Commercial fishermen have asked the Council for the past 14 years to stop the open-ended reallocation of halibut from the commercial to the charter sector. Fourteen years is a long time to wait. In April 2006, the Council committed by unanimous vote to manage the halibut charter sector to the GHL until superseded by a long-term management strategy. Please keep that commitment. Each sector needs to live within its allocation.

I further request that the Council convert the GHL to a percentage-based allocation that fluctuates with abundance.

The percentage must be derived from the existing GHL.

Finally, I oppose any permanent revenue streams to the charter sector that would subsidize charter purchase of quota share. Charter operators that want to increase their halibut harvest should pay more for that opportunity.

I have invested in the halibut quota share program and fishery with the expectation that the resource will continue to be well managed and that the Council will fairly balance the needs of all who depend on the halibut resource, from consumers through fishermen and processors. I respectfully request that the Council live up to that expectation.

Sincerely,

Donna L. Lonson

Address Bx 70

POINT BAKER AK

Date: 05/29/07 99927

Steve Fish and Kari Johnson  
P.O. Box 6448 Sitka Alaska 99835

May 29, 2007

North Pacific Fisheries Management Council  
Ms. Stephanie Madsen, Chair

Dear Ms. Madsen and Council Members,

I am writing to urge you to adopt meaningful management measures to keep the charter halibut harvest in area 2C to their GHL. Commercial halibut fishermen brought to the council's attention 14 years ago that the uncontrolled growth of the guided sport fishery was effecting an open ended reallocation of halibut from the commercial to the charter sector. Politics and shameful selfishness on the part of the charter sector have obscured the real issues, and the causes of fairness and conservation have not been served.

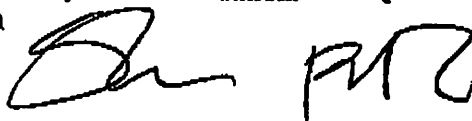
At the beginning of the IFQ system, I didn't have any 2C poundage due to my fishing other areas during the qualifying period. Since then, my wife and I have slowly accumulated 2C quota, maintaining a substantial debt load which we are still paying on. We have no problem whatsoever having our quota drop for conservation reasons in the IPHC's management of the resource. When our quota drops, as it has been incrementally over the past years, in order to sustain a new, unmanaged commercial industry, we know that that is wrong.

For over 85 years the commercial halibut fleet has supported research, good science and conservative management in order to keep the resource safe indefinitely. The halibut fishery has been the best managed cross-boundary fishery in the world. It is really embarrassing that the U.S. government responded to the credible history of the IPHC and their conservation tradition by overturning the IPHC's reduction of the guided sport halibut daily bag limit. It is shameful that the halibut charter industry has been pandered to for so long now and continues to grow at the expense of the long established commercial fleet, strains the local area halibut resources, is cutting into the supply of halibut for the U.S. grocery and restaurant market, and undermines the ability of local users from finding a fish to bring home. It is not all their fault, however. It is the fault of the managers who have failed to act.

The only fair and effective way to manage a commercial industry is to hold them to an allocation which goes up and down with abundance. Please convert the GHL to a percentage-based allocation which floats with abundance. And on the idea of a "compensated reallocation"; any such transfer needs to be between willing participants, and purchases need to be at market value, without government subsidy.

What we have now is unfair, ineffective, destabilizing, and against conservation principals. You are clever, caring people and you made a commitment, by unanimous vote, in April 2006 to manage the halibut charter sector to the GHL. Please push ahead with a will.

Thank You for your consideration.  
Steve Fish



FAX (907) 271-2817

Ms Stephanie Madsen  
Chair  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4th Ave, Ste 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

I am writing to urge you to adopt effective management measures to control charter harvest in Area 2C to the GHL and to ensure that these measures are implemented in time for the 2008 charter season. I would also urge you to move forward as quickly as possible with similarly effective measures in Area 3A. Commercial fishermen have asked the Council for the past 14 years to stop the open-ended reallocation of halibut from the commercial to the charter sector. Fourteen years is a long time to wait. In April 2006, the Council committed by unanimous vote to manage the halibut charter sector to the GHL until superseded by a long-term management strategy. Please keep that commitment. Each sector needs to live within its allocation until a mechanism for compensated reallocation is established.

I further request that the Council convert the GHL to a percentage-based allocation that fluctuates with abundance and implement a mechanism that allows compensated transfer between the commercial and charter sectors. The percentage must be derived from the existing GHL and all subsequent transfers must be between willing buyers and willing sellers. Finally, I oppose any permanent revenue streams to the charter sector that would subsidize charter purchase of quota share. Charter operators that want to increase their halibut harvest should pay more for that opportunity.

I have invested in the halibut quota share program and fishery with the expectation that the resource will continue to be well managed and that the Council will fairly balance the needs of all who depend on the halibut resource, from consumers through fishermen and processors. I respectfully request that the Council live up to that expectation.

Sincerely,

Cherise Jackson

Address

Bx 200  
Kake AK 99830

Date:

5/29/07



FAX (907) 271-2817

Ms Stephanie Madsen  
Chair  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4th Ave, Ste 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

**RECEIVED**

MAY 30 2007

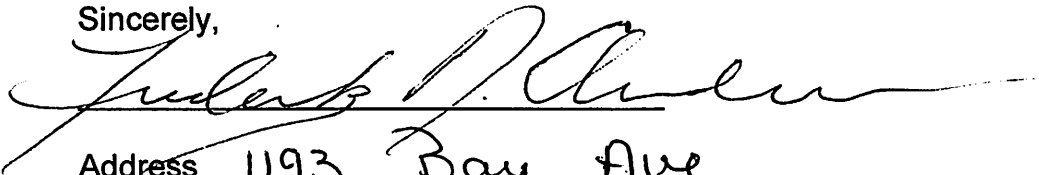
**N.P.F.M.C.**

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I have invested in the halibut quota share program and fishery with the expectation that the resource will continue to be well managed and that the Council will fairly balance the needs of all who depend on the halibut resource, from consumers through fishermen and processors. I respectfully request that the Council live up to that expectation.

Sincerely,



Address 1193 Bay Ave  
Homer, AK. 99603

Date: 5/28/07

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FAX (907) 271-2817

Ms Stephanie Madsen  
Chair  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4th Ave, Ste 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

**RECEIVED**

MAY 30 2007

**N.P.F.M.C.**

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Sincerely,

TED W. Spraker

Address 49230 Victoria Ave

Soldotna, AK 99669

Date: May 17, 2007

Dear Mr. [Name],  
I have your letter of [Date] regarding [Subject].  
I am sorry that I cannot give you a more definite answer at this time.  
I will be in touch with you again as soon as I have more information.

I am sure that you will understand my position.  
I will be glad to discuss this further if you wish.  
I am sure that you will understand my position.

I am sure that you will understand my position.  
I will be glad to discuss this further if you wish.  
I am sure that you will understand my position.

I am sure that you will understand my position.  
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I am sure that you will understand my position.

I am sure that you will understand my position.  
I will be glad to discuss this further if you wish.  
I am sure that you will understand my position.

*[Handwritten Signature]*  
[Name]  
[Address]  
[City, State, Zip]

North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 west 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Ste. 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

Juneau, AK  
May 27, 2007

**Members of the Council:**

I offer the following comments as an individual fisherman on issues related to Council Agenda item C-1: Final Action on 2C GHL Measures and Stakeholder Committee report on compensated reallocation. My comments are confined to two topics: the need to implement effective management measures in 2008 that will restrain charter halibut removals to the existing GHL; and considerations regarding future transfer of harvest between the charter and long-line fishery sectors.

**Charter GHL in 2008**

For years NOAA Fisheries has failed to hold the charter halibut fishery to the established GHL in Area 2C and thus has permitted an open-ended but unsanctioned reallocation from the long-line to the commercial charter sector. In 2007 NOAA Fisheries, in the absence of effective Council action, arbitrarily promulgated unprecedented regulations ostensibly intended to achieve an arbitrarily derived and unanalyzed alternative standard for annual charter halibut harvest. NOAA Fisheries had neither a plausible legal rationale nor an arguable scientific basis for its action. It is unacceptable for this situation to be continued into 2008. The existing GHL, entered into the Federal Register in 2003 and reaffirmed unanimously by the Council in 2006, defines the federal obligation for regulation of the charter fishery and must be implemented and enforced in 2008 and beyond. Given the history of failure to implement the established regulatory standard and the resulting harm to Area 2C long-line fishermen and related interests, patience is exhausted. The circumstance demands Council action and NOAA approval to finally make meaningful the Area 2C GHL as the hard allocation that its history clearly documents it was intended, and was portrayed to the public, to be. Effective implementation, of course, will require specifying the necessary management mechanism that will permit appropriate responses to changes in halibut abundance over time.

While implementing the charter GHL in 2008 finally will stop the string of agency failures to abide by explicit fishery requirements, developments during this period of GHL excesses bear on upcoming allocation decisions. The steadily increasing levels of unchecked charter harvests have led to pressures and proposals to institutionalize those unauthorized greater catch levels as formal allocation. At the same time, performance of the charter fishery at those elevated harvest levels has generated information that is useful, both in terms of charter sector economics and the halibut resource, for evaluating the merits of increased charter sector allocation.

Three points are noteworthy in examining recent (since 1999) charter halibut fishery performance. First, the longstanding issue of localized depletion has become not so localized. Difficulty in accessing halibut near charter fishery concentrations has increased significantly both for charter operators and for local

personal use and unguided sport users. Local users have expressed dissatisfaction about charter impacts on local halibut availability. Charter operators are now reporting increased difficulty in locating halibut, and greater distances required for transporting clients to successful fishing. These reports reflect harvest pressures beyond the ability of local areas to produce. Charter testimony to the Council has asserted daily runs into the range of 80 to 100 miles as well as fuel consumption in excess of 400 gallons per day, figures that strain the economic viability of those businesses. This observation leads directly to the second point. The rate of turnover among charter operators has ranged around 30% to 40% per year, a clear indicator of overcapitalization in the sector. An increased harvest of more than 180% since 1999 with little or no increase in the number of charter operators has not produced greater economic stability. Making available even greater harvests, at disproportionately increased costs to the individual businesses is not a route to resolving the charter sector's economic difficulties. Third, charter operators have initiated discussions intended to lead to limited entry under the State of Alaska for charter fishing businesses. This seems an entirely rational move for a stressed industry. If completed successfully, the move into limited entry will involve determination of an optimal number of charter operators in specified geographical units. Until that process runs its course, any increased allocation to the charter fishery would be unsound economically and an unjustified additional burden to long-line and unguided sport fishermen.

#### **Transfer mechanisms between business sectors**

Charter harvests above the established GHJ have until now entailed unauthorized and uncompensated reallocation from the long-line fishery. Protests over the patent unfairness of such advantaging one sector at the direct expense of the other has led to consideration of, and a Council stakeholder committee focused on, more acceptable means to accomplish the transfer of harvest rights between the sectors. While obviously necessary as such, the discussion has tended, misleadingly in my view, to concentrate on methods and funding mechanisms for compensated reallocation of halibut harvest from long-line to charter.

As stressed above, strong arguments can be made against mandating increases beyond the established GHJ for the charter fishery. More basically, the charter and long-line fisheries are both commercial, that is, small businesses that depend significantly upon a common fishery resource. They present competing business models because the halibut resource is fully utilized. But the essential point is that they are similarly situated commercial enterprises that do not present compelling features for selective official favor. Providing the equipment and expertise that allows individuals the experience of catching halibut is not in itself unarguably more desirable or more worthy of government-sanctioned advantage than providing the equipment and expertise that makes halibut available to consumers nationwide, or vice versa. Access to the halibut resource via fishing is opposite access to the halibut resource as a retail or restaurant consumer. No argument has been raised to lend objective support to subsidizing one of these business models by and to the direct disadvantage of the other. Yet establishing a method, and at least implicitly an underlying policy, that facilitates reallocation to charter harvest, however compensated, is in fact a long-line subsidy of the charter business model.

In virtually all other business situations the competition between business models would sort itself out in response to the governing market factors. Conserving and optimizing the long-term productivity of the finite halibut resource weighs against such unregulated competition in this case as it did in the evolution of the IFQ program that now regulates the long-line fishery. What is ultimately necessary for the charter and long-line situation is establishment of a common currency for the exchange of harvest rights within the IPHC-established biological limits. In an ideal system economically, this arrangement would have minimal or no external constraints on the freedom of exchange. More practically, an acceptable model likely will require features included in the rescinded Council program that would have melded charter harvests into the long-line IFQ program. In particular, agreed quantities likely will be segregated within the overall TAC for charter only and long-line only harvests. Outside those dedicated portions, harvest amounts could transfer freely in response to market demands.

This discussion is not intended to refocus attention on the specifics of the rescinded program. Rather, regarding coming discussions and analyses of harvest transfer issues the Council is urged to recognize that it is likely shortsighted and presumptuous to take a policy position that anticipates continued growth of the charter fishery and obligatory decline of the long-line sector. Current indicators are not consistent with that view. No one is positioned to grasp the rate or even the direction of change in the relative economic standings of the respective business models in the short term let alone over time. The Council and the various stakeholders will be well served if Council action establishes a flexible and responsive system that permits the markets to dictate harvest transfers over years with the ebb and flow of charter and long-line economics that should be anticipated.

With these considerations in mind, the Council should insist that any transfer mechanism that it recommends facilitates transfers in both directions equally. It should reject out of hand and not waste time on analysis of any proposed method that would force transfer explicitly from one group to the other or would otherwise violate the 'willing buyer-willing seller' standard. Finally, while the 'individual business' model outlined by the stakeholder committee offers the most straightforward and likely easiest to administer approach to sector transfers, the 'common pool' model does contain elements that may support a workable transfer system.

I appreciate the opportunity to offer my views to the Council and sincerely trust that I will not find myself subsidizing yet further an economically unstable charter fishery.

Respectfully,

Jev Shelton  
F/V Kirsten Anna  
1670 Evergreen Ave.  
Juneau, AK 99801

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Ms. Stephanie Madsen, Chair  
North Pacific Fisheries Management Council  
907-271-2817  
May 29, 2007

Re: C-1 Halibut Charter Issues

Dear Ms. Madsen,

I am writing to request for the council to postpone any discussions and decisions regarding Halibut Charter Issues. It is impossible to have a fair representation of the charter fleet at any June meeting. Our season is VERY short and we are unable to abandon our businesses and fishermen to attend the meeting in Sitka.

Final action on the Moratorium was taken at the March, 2007 meeting. Most people who testified for the Moratorium asked for the Moratorium for the Council's number one priority for staffing so the Moratorium could be in place in 2008. What is the progress on the Moratorium?

Hundreds of staff hours were spent preparing the final analysis draft for 2C Management Measures, but nothing was included in the analysis as to how the Moratorium would affect the need for 2C Management Measures. Furthermore, the final Fish and Game numbers for 2006 will not be completed until August or Sept. 2007 so it would be unfair for the Council to take further restrictive action at this time. E.O. 12866 requires that the OMB review proposed regulatory programs that are considered to be "significant." Adverse effects economically to charters, cities and the state cannot be determined until a comprehensive economic study is completed- The Moratorium could have an effect on the economy of over \$100 million; Annual effects on the economy should be considered in aggregate for all restrictive measures of charters. 2C GHL management measures should not have final action; allocation will be discussed in October and long range solutions are a work in progress at this time. Once the allocation is set, it should be up to the charter sector to determine how to stay under that allocation.

Compensated reallocation should not be discussed at this June meeting – it is part of the Long Term solution and should be discussed within that context. Further, Stakeholder minutes from the April 12<sup>th</sup> meeting have not been posted on the NPFMC website as of May 29<sup>th</sup>, this prohibits an intelligent response from vested members of both commercial and charter industries.

Thank you,  
Donna C Bondioli  
Captain B's Alaskan C's Adventures  
PO Box 66  
Homer AK 99603



FAX (907) 271-2817

Ms Stephanie Madsen  
Chair  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4th Ave, Ste 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

I am writing to urge you to adopt effective management measures to control charter harvest in Area 2C to the GHL and to ensure that these measures are implemented in time for the 2008 charter season. I would also urge you to move forward as quickly as possible with similarly effective measures in Area 3A. Commercial fishermen have asked the Council for the past 14 years to stop the open-ended reallocation of halibut from the commercial to the charter sector. Fourteen years is a long time to wait. In April 2006, the Council committed by unanimous vote to manage the halibut charter sector to the GHL until superseded by a long-term management strategy. Please keep that commitment. Each sector needs to live within its allocation until a mechanism for compensated reallocation is established.

I further request that the Council convert the GHL to a percentage-based allocation that fluctuates with abundance and implement a mechanism that allows compensated transfer between the commercial and charter sectors. The percentage must be derived from the existing GHL and all subsequent transfers must be between willing buyers and willing sellers. Finally, I oppose any permanent revenue streams to the charter sector that would subsidize charter purchase of quota share. Charter operators that want to increase their halibut harvest should pay more for that opportunity.

I have invested in the halibut quota share program and fishery with the expectation that the resource will continue to be well managed and that the Council will fairly balance the needs of all who depend on the halibut resource, from consumers through fishermen and processors. I respectfully request that the Council live up to that expectation.

Sincerely,

*Ken Holland*  
*Chris Holland*

Ken and Chris Holland  
F/V Point Omega  
PO Box 608  
Kodiak, Alaska 99615

May 29, 2007

**Ms Stephanie Madsen**  
**Chair**  
**North Pacific Fishery Management Council**  
**605 West 4th Ave, Ste 306**  
**Anchorage, AK 99501**

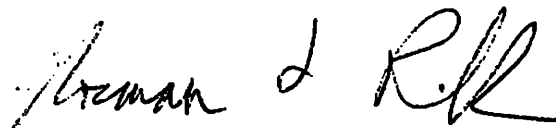
Ms. Madsen, council members,

Due to the recent passing of a family member, I will not be able to attend the forthcoming meeting scheduled for Sitka, in which I was planning to testify in regards to the proposed halibut charter restrictions. Please accept this letter in place of my personal appearance. I have been a halibut fisherman all my life, over 30 years now, and continue to do so. I own my own vessel, and longlining is my primary source of income to support my family of six. I have also been involved in the charter industry in the past, being in a partnership for 2 years, and I currently employ 2 crewmembers on my commercial vessel who both operate their own boats in the charter season. So you can see I have some first hand knowledge of both sides of this issue.

I support the idea of any kind of growth management of the charter fleet. It's in their own interest as well as the commercial sector. In 1994 I harvested 130k lbs of blackcod and roughly 50k lbs of halibut. In 1995, at the inception of the IFQ program, my allotted quota was 30k blackcod and 25k halibut. This was a dramatic cut in my income level! And many friends were cut out completely. However I fully supported and still support the idea of IFQ's. The program has benefited the fisheries in so many ways, that in my opinion, the gains far out weighed the pain.

The point here is that no matter what action the council decides on someone is going to feel the pain. None the less, action has to be taken to hold the charter sector to a GHLL and to control the growth of this industry, to create some stability for all user groups and put to an end the debate over who gets how many, in an already fully utilized fishery, as well as eliminate the perceived animosity this issue has created between user groups, friends, and neighbors throughout the coastal communities of Alaska. Thank you for your time and hard work. Sincerely,

Norm Pillen  
F/V Sherrie Marie



FAX (907) 271-2817

Ms Stephanie Madsen  
Chair  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4th Ave, Ste 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

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I further request that the Council convert the GHL to a percentage-based allocation that fluctuates with abundance and implement a mechanism that allows compensated transfer between the commercial and charter sectors. The percentage must be derived from the existing GHL and all subsequent transfers must be between willing buyers and willing sellers. Finally, I oppose any permanent revenue streams to the charter sector that would subsidize charter purchase of quota share. Charter operators that want to increase their halibut harvest should pay more for that opportunity.

I have invested in the halibut quota share program and fishery with the expectation that the resource will continue to be well managed and that the Council will fairly balance the needs of all who depend on the halibut resource, from consumers through fishermen and processors. I respectfully request that the Council live up to that expectation.

Sincerely,

*George Elasin*  
*102 Kuhnle Dr.*  
*Sitka, AK 99835*

FAX (907) 271-2817

Ms Stephanie Madsen  
Chair  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4th Ave, Ste 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

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Sincerely,

*Rich Brachner*

Address *Box 1846*

*Westport, Alaska*

Date: *5-26-07*

May 30, 2007

Stephanie Madsen  
605 W 4th Ave, Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501-2252

Dear Madsen,

As a concerned citizen, I am writing to urge the Council to protect the Northern Bering Sea from the destructive impacts of bottom trawling.

Both people and animals, alike, depend on the Bering Sea for their survival. The Bering Sea is home to a wide array of marine life including numerous fish populations as well as a myriad of protected and endangered species including gray, beluga and bowhead whales, Pacific walrus, Steller sea lions, seals and seabirds. The Bering Sea is also home to communities of indigenous peoples who depend on a healthy and diverse ocean environment.

Bottom trawling poses a substantial threat to many who rely on a healthy marine environment for survival. It is up to fishery managers to take the necessary steps to protect essential fish habitat in the Northern Bering Sea by limiting further expansion bottom trawling in the region.

Specifically, I urge the Council to endorse Alternative 2 contained in the draft environmental assessment and establish procedures for continued research and monitoring. Alternative 2 would freeze the footprint of mobile bottom contact gear, limiting bottom trawls to where they currently operate and preventing them from moving northward.

This level of protection is critical and can be provided with minimal economic impact on fisheries. According to data from the National Marine Fisheries Service, Alternative 2 to freeze the bottom trawl footprint and establish a northern boundary will have a less than five percent economic impact on fisheries.

The Bering Sea is one of the most biologically diverse and productive marine environments. Keep bottom trawling out of the Arctic to ensure that this area remains productive, resilient and diverse for future generations of ocean life and people.

Sincerely,

Mr. David & Deborah Luxem  
1903 SW Hillcrest Rd  
Burien, WA 98166-3321

May 30, 2007

Stephanie Madsen  
605 W 4th Ave, Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501-2252

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Sincerely,

Ms. Caroline Bell  
Beverley Ave  
Unanderra, None 2526

May 30, 2007

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605 W 4th Ave, Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501-2252

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Sincerely,

Mrs. Michael Cree  
45 Chestnut St  
Rochester, NY 14604-2303

May 31, 2007

Stephanie Madsen  
605 W 4th Ave, Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501-2252

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Sincerely,

Ms. Lisa Zarzour  
5803 Gilbert Ave  
Cleveland, OH 44129-3037



May 31, 2007

Stephanie Madsen  
605 W 4th Ave, Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501-2252

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Sincerely,

Ms. Carol Law  
Cliff Road  
Wollongong, None 2500

May 30, 2007

Stephanie Madsen  
605 W 4th Ave, Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501-2252

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Sincerely,

Ms. Rosalie Sable  
7315 SW Beaverton Hillsdale Hwy Apt 107  
Portland, OR 97225-2068

May 30, 2007

Stephanie Madsen  
605 W 4th Ave, Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501-2252

Dear Madsen,

As a VERY CONCERNED CITIZEN, I am writing to URGE THE COUNCIL TO PROTECT THE BERING SEA FROM BOTTOM TRAWLING !

Bottom trawling poses a substantial threat to many who rely on a healthy marine environment for survival. It is up to fishery managers to take the necessary steps to protect essential fish habitat in the Northern Bering Sea by limiting further expansion bottom trawling in the region.

Specifically, I urge the Council to endorse Alternative 2 contained in the draft environmental assessment and establish procedures for continued research and monitoring. Alternative 2 would freeze the footprint of mobile bottom contact gear, limiting bottom trawls to where they currently operate and preventing them from moving northward.

PLEASE DO THE RIGHT THING !

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Michael Theodore

Sincerely,

Mr. Michael Theodore  
20335 Ventura Blvd Ste 425  
Woodland Hills, CA 91364-2478

May 29, 2007

Stephanie Madsen  
605 W 4th Ave, Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501-2252

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Sincerely,

Mrs. Sandy Harris  
6006 Spring Hill Dr  
Olive Branch, MS 38654-7262

May 30, 2007

Stephanie Madsen  
605 W 4th Ave, Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501-2252

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Sincerely,

Ms. Ann Sunderland  
15555 Flight Way  
Saint Paul, MN 55124-6019

May 30, 2007

Stephanie Madsen  
605 W 4th Ave, Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501-2252

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Sincerely,

Mr. Neal Esterly  
3635 Dupont St  
San Diego, CA 92106-3223

May 30, 2007

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605 W 4th Ave, Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501-2252

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Sincerely,

Mrs. Amanda Lewis-Hohman  
105 Whayland Dr  
Hebron, MD 21830-1058

May 30, 2007

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605 W 4th Ave, Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501-2252

Dear Madsen,

As a concerned citizen, I am writing to urge the Council to protect the Northern Bering Sea from the destructive impacts of bottom trawling.

Both people and animals, alike, depend on the Bering Sea for their survival. The Bering Sea is home to a wide array of marine life including numerous fish populations as well as a myriad of protected and endangered species including gray, beluga and bowhead whales, Pacific walrus, Steller sea lions, seals and seabirds. The Bering Sea is also home to communities of indigenous peoples who depend on a healthy and diverse ocean environment.

Bottom trawling poses a substantial threat to many who rely on a healthy marine environment for survival. It is up to fishery managers to take the necessary steps to protect essential fish habitat in the Northern Bering Sea by limiting further expansion bottom trawling in the region.

Specifically, I urge the Council to endorse Alternative 2 contained in the draft environmental assessment and establish procedures for continued research and monitoring. Alternative 2 would freeze the footprint of mobile bottom contact gear, limiting bottom trawls to where they currently operate and preventing them from moving northward.

This level of protection is critical and can be provided with minimal economic impact on fisheries. According to data from the National Marine Fisheries Service, Alternative 2 to freeze the bottom trawl footprint and establish a northern boundary will have a less than five percent economic impact on fisheries.

The Bering Sea is one of the most biologically diverse and productive marine environments. Keep bottom trawling out of the Arctic to ensure that this area remains productive, resilient and diverse for future generations of ocean life and people.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Elaine Wagner  
8370 Poppy Ln  
Liberty Township, OH 45044-9815



May 30, 2007

Stephanie Madsen  
605 W 4th Ave, Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501-2252

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Mr. Phil Roche  
2155 W 700 S  
Cedar City, UT 84720-1946

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Miss Sharon Julie Tankenson  
10729 Esther Ave  
Los Angeles, CA 90064-3222

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Mr. Leon Biggs  
9317 W State Road 114  
Rensselaer, IN 47978-8842

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Mr. Paul DiMarco  
5425 Club Head Rd  
Virginia Beach, VA 23455-6816