

HALIBUT AND SABLEFISH IFQ PROGRAM
AMENDMENT PROPOSAL
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
Fax: (907) 271-2817

Name of Proposer: MICHAEL DOUVILLE Date: 3/31/06
Address: PO BOX 68 CRAIG, AK 99921
Telephone: 907 826 3407 EMAIL: MYRNA MIKE@HOTMAIL.COM

Brief Statement of Proposal:

To allow for the use of pots in the Gulf of Alaska southeast sablefish/blackcod fishery.

Objectives of Proposal (What is the problem?):

Provide fishermen an alternative type of gear to longline.

Need and Justification for Council Action (Why can't the problem be resolved through other channels?):

This proposal can address several problems which the Council is working on:

- a) sea bird by-catch
- b) interaction with whales

Foreseeable Impacts of Proposal (Who wins, who loses?):

There will be no negative impact on anyone. As an allowable gear type, fishermen could chose to use pots, but would not be required to invest, if they are happy with long line gear.

However, the use of pots could lead to a decline in bird by-catch, including albatross, and a decrease in fishing gear/whale activity. By catch of rock fish would also be reduced, less bait and man hours to catch the same amount of fish

Are there Alternative Solutions? If so, what are they and why do you consider your proposal the best way of solving the problem?

It is an excellent solution, because it provides a gear alternate opportunity for fishermen, and can lead to reductions in by-catch or unwanted marine mammal interaction.

The use of bird deterrent lines are cumbersome and unnecessary for many areas in Southeast Alaska. Research has demonstrated that whales will continue to take fish from longline gear.

Supportive Data and Other Information (What data are available and where can they be found?):

List of supportive data will follow

Signature: _____

MICHAEL DOUVILLE
P.O. BOX 68
CRAIG, AK 99921

PO BOX 68
CRAIG, AK 99921

Subject: Agenda Item D-1(b): Gear committee report on implementing a sablefish pot fishery
From: Jeremie Pikus <jpikus@msn.com>
Date: 9/24/2013 10:47 AM
To: "npfmc.comments@noaa.gov" <npfmc.comments@noaa.gov>

Polar Star, Inc.
Patrick Pikus
P.O. Box 2843
Kodiak, AK 99615

Eric Olson, Chair
North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Re: Agenda Item D-1(b): Gear committee report on implementing a sablefish pot fishery

Dear Chair Olson:

I would like to reiterate my support for the development of a sablefish pot fishery here in the Gulf of Alaska.

I own and operate the F/V Polar Star, a 58-ft vessel that participates in the IFQ sablefish fishery in both the Central and Western gulf areas. Whale predation in the hook-and-line fisheries is on the rise. This has been a problem in the Western gulf and BSAI for some time, and we are starting to see an increase in whale predation in the Central gulf now. It is very depressing to spend hours upon hours baiting hooks only to come up with blanks when you haul the gear, while the whales swim around nearby full and content.

I believe that whale predation has a bigger impact than is accounted for. Sablefish are high value; fishermen are going to catch their IFQ regardless of how much whales take. Thus, whale predation in the hook and line fishery may be having a significant impact on the sablefish biomass.

Given the economic impact on IFQ fishermen and the difficulty in accounting for the effects of whale predation on the sablefish biomass, I would argue that something needs to be done to mitigate whale predation. Sablefish pots have been permitted in the BSAI, so why not look at allowing them here in the Gulf? I believe a carefully designed and regulated sablefish pot fishery would be very viable and any gear conflicts could be minimized. I see little downside to giving us the option to try sablefish pots in the Gulf.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,
Patrick J. Pikus
Polar Star, Inc.