

# PUBLIC TESTIMONY SIGN-UP SHEET

Agenda Item: DLE IFQ Eligibility

Check the boxes below if you will have a PowerPoint or Handout

|    | NAME (Please Print) | TESTIFYING ON BEHALF OF: | Handout | PPT |
|----|---------------------|--------------------------|---------|-----|
| 1  | Linda Rozak         | Alaskan Leader Fisheries |         |     |
| 2  | Hannah Hinbush      | Self                     |         |     |
| 3  | ALEXUS KWACHIKA     | SELF                     |         |     |
| 4  | Bob Alverson        | FVOA-Seattle -           | X       |     |
| 5  | Craig Evans         | Self                     |         |     |
| 6  | Megan O'Neil        | FVOA                     |         |     |
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NOTE to persons providing oral or written testimony to the Council: Section 307(1)(I) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act prohibits any person "to knowingly and willfully submit to a Council, the Secretary, or the Governor of a State false information (including, but not limited to, false information regarding the capacity and extent to which a United State fish processor, on an annual basis, will process a portion of the optimum yield of a fishery that will be harvested by fishing vessels of the United States) regarding any matter that the Council, Secretary, or Governor is considering in the course of carrying out this Act.

**Public Comment Statement: Bernie Burkholder  
F/V Northern Endurance**

**Agenda Item: D6 - IFQ Eligibility**

**Mr. Charmain and Council Members, my name is Bob Alverson and I have agreed to read this written statement on behalf of Bernie Burkholder who represents the F/V Northern Endurance.**

**These are Bernie's comments:**

**The F/V Northern Endurance represents a third-generation fishing family and successful fishing company. We are fortunate to have initial recipients, secondary quota shareholders, category A shareholders and hired masters that make up our business plan. We do not believe many of the proposed changes would be fair to our company, family, crew and the investments we have all made.**

**I believe many of the proposed changes to the IFQ eligibility requirements are not appropriate nor would these changes be in the best interest of this fishery. In addition, many of the changes under consideration would force quota transfer, decrease value and undermine the stability of the IFQ program.**

**Initial Recipients were granted specific fishing rights. These Initial Recipients, relying on long standing commitments, made significant investment in vessels, gear and fishing technology that has helped the entire IFQ fleet and associated crewmembers. Other long-standing programs like Hired Masters and Quota Leasing have also provided valuable components to the IFQ program. These programs have given new entrants proven business plans and the means to gaining access to the fishery. These programs have also provided younger fishermen**

**access to safer quality vessels and gear at significantly reduced capital outlay that many of them could not otherwise afford.**

**In due-course, initial recipients and other large secondary quota holders will divest and transfer quota. Divestiture planning will be essential in maintaining stability in this fishery. This stability will help protect communities, families and jobs.**

**A qualified and established open trading market has determined quota value. These values are supported by banking institutions that lend on the stability and established value of the IFQ quota and program. These same banking institutions play a critical role in providing capital to individuals and communities – including new entrants.**

**Changes in the IFQ program, that are made without adequate thought and planning, could well have unintended consequences that undermine the stability of the present IFQ program. These changes would in turn hurt the very communities, families and jobs that now rely on this program.**

**I would encourage the Council to proceed with caution regarding changes in IFQ eligibility. I believe the most appropriate action would be to table eligibility changes until the consequences are well understood as they relate to the stability of the IFQ program.**

**Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments and for your consideration.**