

PUBLIC TESTIMONY SIGN-UP SHEET

Agenda Item: C7 - Bering Sea Cod Trawl CV

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

#	NAME (Please Print)	TESTIFYING ON BEHALF OF:	Handout	PPT	
1	BRENT PAINE	UCB	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	6
2	Steve Beard	Golden Pisces			3
3	Mark Cooper	F/V Perseverance			3
4	Mavis Cooper	Perseverance			3
5	Frank Kelly	City of UNAlaska	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		6
6	Dan Martin	Evening Star Fisheries		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3
7	Mike Shufford	Shufford Fisheries			
8	Justin Johnson	F/V Pegasus			3
9	Paddy O'Donnell	F/V CARAVELLE		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3
10	Ernie Weiss	AEB - Self			3
11	Jim Seovers	F/V SEEKER			3
12	dave Frasa	HCDC			6
13	Nicole Kimball, Heather Mann, Joel Zarate, Joe Plesha, Sinclair + matt upton	PSPA, MTC, Icicle Seafoods, Wilt Trident, Alyeska Seafoods, U.S. Seafoods			6
14					
15	ANNIKA SALTMAN + MIKE GUY	FISHERMAN'S FINEST, INC			6
16	Jim Stone #1				3
17					
18					
19					
20					
21					
22					
23					
24					
25					

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.



March 10, 2017

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

Re: April 2017 Agenda Item E1, Staff Tasking

Dear Chairman Hull and Members of the NPFMC,

UCB requests that the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) establish a Control Date for the harvesting of Pacific Cod in the Eastern Bering Sea Trawl Catcher Vessel fishery. Establishing a Control Date for this fishery will send a signal to the Catcher Vessel trawl fleet that the NPFMC realizes that there is a problem with too much effort entering this fishery. This action sends a signal to the trawl industry that any vessel that has not participated in this fishery by the control date may not be able to participate in the future. In addition, this action sends a signal to the industry that catch of P. Cod after the Control Date might not be considered or used in the determination of catch history if the Council pursues some form of a 'Catch Share' program in the future. We ask that the date of the Control Date be today, April 10, 2017.

The reason we ask the Council for this action is that the Bering Sea P. Cod trawl fishery, one of the last remaining Open Access fisheries in the BSAI, is experiencing a 'Race for Fish'. More and more effort is entering the EBS trawl CV P. cod fishery and the increase in recent participation is having a significant negative impact on the historic participants of this fishery that are dependent on this fishery.

I subscribe to Alaska Marine Exchange's AIS vessel tracking service and was amazed at watching the number of vessels on the Unimak P. cod fishing grounds this past A season. On average there were over 45 vessels on the cod tow every morning of the season. I believe there were 6 or 7 new vessels that entered the fishery in 2017 that were not there in 2016. The historic average of vessels participating in this fishery has been somewhere in the range of 35 to 45 vessels within the past 10 years. The problem here is that if this trend continues, there might be a 20 to 30% increase in the number of trawl vessels entering the fishery in the next few years.

The 2017 EBS cod trawl A season fishery closed on February 23rd, a full two weeks earlier than when it closed in 2016 (March 9). With the fishery start date of January 20th, this fishery lasted just a month. The fleet actually went over the A season allocation of 34,962 mt by 2,189 mt due to the race for fish. So it appears NMFS is having problems managing the fishery too.

Had the 5,000 mt set aside for the AI Islands trawl fishery been in place, the EBS fishery would have lasted about 3 weeks, or closed in mid-February.

We are currently experiencing very high EBS P. Cod TACs. I suspect the TAC will trend downward at some time in the near future time and this will exacerbate this race for fish problem.

What we request is that the Council freeze the footprint of this fishery at this time, take a pause, and consider actions that might provide solutions to this effort increase problem. If you do not do this now, the problem will only get worse. Your action will send a strong signal to vessel owners who want to speculate on this fishery.

A Control Date action, without any follow-up action by the NPFMC really does nothing. Thus, along with the establishment of a Control Date at this meeting, we request the Council direct staff to initiate a discussion paper that examines the trends in effort and the problems the historic and dependant participants are experiencing.

Regarding possible solutions, this could range from at a minimum a simple LLP recency action that eliminates the truly latent LLP permits with EBS endorsements, to an analysis of a Catch Share program.

Thank you very much for your consideration of our request at this time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Brent C. Paine".

Brent C. Paine

Pacific Cod Landings in Unalaska, Harvest, Value and Tax Information

C7 Public Testimony

Pacific Cod Harvest Year	lbs.	Ave Price lbs.	Gross Sale	2% Local tax	AK Bus State 3%	Total Taxes
2013	66,203,669	\$0.26	\$17,469,599.88	\$349,391.99	\$524,087.99	\$873,479.98
2014	70,568,521	\$0.33	\$23,399,594.12	\$467,992.46	\$701,988.69	\$1,169,981.15
2015	70,218,979	\$0.24	\$17,080,862.13	\$341,617.24	\$512,425.86	\$854,043.01
2016	76,554,095	\$0.23	\$,18,277,081.07	\$365,541.62	\$548,312.42	\$913,854.04
2017 Jan-May	65,153,408	\$0.31	\$20,424,150.90	\$408,483.01	\$612,724.52	\$1,021,207.53
Totals	348,698,672	\$0.27	\$96,651,288.10	\$1,933,026.32	\$2,899,539.48	\$4,832,564.71
<p>Note: Average price per pound is influenced by different prices by sector and by Cod that goes to goes to fish meal at a lower price per pound.</p>						
<p>Note: Alaska Fishereies Business State Shared 3% tax is shared at 50% with the community the product was landed in .</p>						