

Mr. Dan Hull, Chairman  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
[npfmc.comments@noaa.gov](mailto:npfmc.comments@noaa.gov)

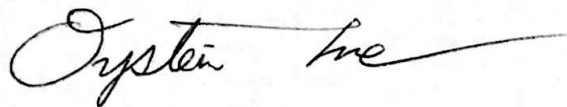
Re: December 2014 meeting agenda item C-9 – observer coverage on small CPs

Dear Mr. Hull:

I am a member of Lone Larsen LLC, which owns the 98-foot fishing vessel Pacific Sounder. In 2013, the Pacific Sounder operated as a catcher-processor (CP) in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI) hook-and-line sablefish & Turbot fisheries. Due to the heavy expense of the first year of doing 100% observer coverage and paying 100% of the fee it was not feasible for us to fish in 2014. This year we tendered instead of fishing, and as a result we left a lot of quota on the table. We hope this situation can be fixed quickly so we can go back to fishing as a CP.

NMFS recently issued a discussion paper on potentially revising observer program regulations to place relatively low-production CPs like the Pacific Sounder in partial coverage rather than 100% coverage. NMFS proposes several production thresholds for further analysis, along with a Purpose and Need Statement and a Statement of Objectives. Lone Larsen LLC / Pacific Sounder supports the agency's proposals and requests that the North Pacific Fishery Management Council adopt them as stated in the discussion paper.

Regards,



Oystein Lone  
Operator/Manager Pacific Sounder