

"Honorable council members,

my name is Natalia Basargin, Im 61-year-old small-scale fisherman I rely heavily on this income from 4A halibut IFQ shares.

I stand before you today with a sense of urgency and frustration, as my vital source of income remains unharvested due to the crippling vessel length restrictions.

Year after year, I've struggled to find a boat under 35 feet that can catch my halibut IFQ, with only a partial amount caught in recent years due to the limited vessels available.

In 2023, I couldn't find any vessels under this restriction, leaving my halibut IFQ in Area 4A uncaught, causing hardship for me and my family.

The limited availability of suitable vessels has caused significant financial hardship, making it challenging to pay my bills.

I urge you to consider the practical and economic implications and vote in favor of lifting the restriction, allowing us to fish vessels up to 60 feet in Area 4A.

This would provide a safer, more practical solution, enabling me to harvest my Halibut IFQ and support my livelihood.

The lack of diversity in small vessels fishing Area 4A Halibut IFQ has created additional hardship for shareholders like myself.

I am in support of lifting the restriction and amend the vessel length proposal by KBay Fisheries Association.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Natalia Basargin  
(907) 399-2395