

Dear Chairman Kinneen and Council Members,

My name is Jeff Farvour, I halibut and salmon fish for food and a livelihood and reside in Sitka. I am writing to thank you for taking the time to develop a long needed Abundance Based Management system for halibut PSC.

Because the current halibut PSC regime is stagnant, it fails to be receptive to the halibut stock. This results in the halibut fishery and the communities that depend on it, to disproportionately be the bearers of conservation of the resource which is especially punitive at lower abundance. A tragic, inequitable and otherwise avoidable situation that's unresponsive to balancing NS's 1, 3, 4, 5 and 8.

Since 2011, this fixed PSC has allowed halibut bycatch to exceed the directed halibut fishery removals in the Bering Sea. This is neither fair nor equitable and has been recognized by the Council's development of an Abundance Based Management program as a priority. To address this inequity, I support Alternative 4 (and very much oppose options 3 and 4) as the best alternative to address this profound problem.

Thanks again for your commitment to addressing this important issue.

Sincerely, Jeff Farvour