

New Venture Fisheries

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May 29, 2025

To: Chairman Drobica and other NPFMC members

Fr: Dan Mattsen

Re: LAPP for Bering Sea Pacific Cod

Chairman Drobica:

I am the managing partner of the FV New Venture, which fishes for gray cod all over the western waters of Alaska. We hold endorsements for CG, WG, BS, and AI. We also often fish Kodiak during the state waters fishery.

We also harvest Bering Sea Sablefish and Golden King Crab. Occasionally we target Tanner Crab around Kodiak. Our year concludes with salmon tendering. Our vessel is a typical house-forward crabber in the 'western combination' style.

The hallmark of our business style is flexibility. We go to where we think will be most profitable. Some years we stay in Kodiak until Sablefish opens, other years we spend all winter and Spring in the Bering Sea. A LAPP for gray cod would limit our flexibility, especially as the proponents of the idea envision it.

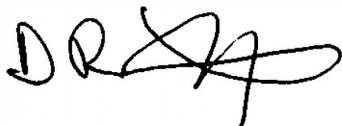
Since we fish wherever it looks best for our operation, we have limited catch histories in any given area. A LAPP would probably eliminate the Bering Sea as a possibility for our fishing operations.

Many of the proponents of a Bering Sea LAPP are large Bering Sea crab QS holders whose only codfishing is in the Bering Sea. Since they only fish cod in the BS, they would disproportionately benefit from a LAPP, while smaller, more diversified operations like ours would lose access to an important component of our fishing year.

Another reason I dislike this proposal is more personal. My partner, the New Venture captain, would like to buy out my share of our operation over time. (I am getting long in the tooth). Make no mistake about this: the proposed LAPP is about monetizing participation in the BS codfishery. A LAPP will dramatically increase the value of whatever QS comes out of this, and will further limit the next generation's access to Alaskan fisheries.

I could go on and on why the current proposal being pushed by Craig Lowenberg is bad for the industry, but I'll end my remarks here. Please table this very bad idea- at least until the industry as a whole comes together with a fair and sensible plan.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DR Mattsen', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Daniel R Mattsen

Managing partner, New Venture Fisheries LLC

41 year active deckhand/mate/captain/owner operator in the Bering Sea