

Vojtech (Vojta) Novak

412 Teal Way, Kodiak
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May 30th 2025

North Pacific Fishery Management Council
605 W 4th Ave, Suite 306, Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Dear Chair Drobnica and Members of the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council:

As a Kodiak, Alaska resident, I own two fishing vessels (F/V Seabrooke and F/V Incentive) and Alaskan Fisherman a.s., a seafood company that engages in catching, purchasing, processing, and direct-to-consumer online sales. I arrived in Alaska in 2002 as a J1 program participant from the Czech Republic, working as a processing worker. The Alaskan seafood industry, particularly Copper River Seafoods, provided me with invaluable opportunities for growth and development.

The Alaskan seafood business is undergoing significant changes, and I believe it's crucial to focus on quality products and fair competition. Over the past few years, I've invested substantial amounts in catching and selling my own fish, as well as in Pico ice machines (over several hundred thousand dollars) to improve fish quality through innovative fishing methods. As only one of vessels over 60 feet utilizing this technology, I'm committed to achieving the highest quality fish.

As a newcomer to Bering Sea fishing without historical catch data, I'm concerned that rationalization proposals could jeopardize my business and efforts to enhance quality. I'm open to discussions about implementing changes that promote better quality and consistency in our industry. However, I urge you to consider the impact on entrepreneurs like me who are working to revolutionize the business for a better future.

Rationalization could disproportionately benefit a select few, potentially limiting opportunities for those willing to work hard and innovate. I hope you'll consider the long-term benefits of fostering a competitive and quality-driven industry.

Dear Chair Drobnica and Members of the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council, I look forward to collaborative discussions that prioritize the future of Alaskan seafood.

I wish everyone wonderful day

Vojta Novak

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Vojta Novak', written in a cursive style.

