



***North Pacific Fisheries Association***  
***P.O. Box 796 · Homer, AK · 99603***

December 1, 2014

To: North Pacific Fisheries Management Council

Chairman Dan Hull

Re: Agenda Item C7 Vessel IFQ Caps

Dear Chairman Hull,

The North Pacific Fisheries Association is a Homer, Alaska based mixed gear, multi species, commercial fishing organization representing about forty fishing operations. This letter is to reconfirm to the council that our Board of Directors has taken a position against changing the current Halibut IFQ Vessel Cap.

The December 2014 Discussion Paper sums up our position on Page 11, "In an exceptionally competitive IFQ Fishery, consolidation will likely benefit a few vessels at the expense of the rest of the large fleet. It could lead to fewer crew jobs, a negative impact to secondary industries, and possible increased rental fees for walk-on IFQ holders."

We feel the cap was well designed and included in the program for good purpose. The current low abundance of halibut is a challenge across the fishery and everyone is feeling the burden. The quotas are consistently being attained in all areas that have processors buying during the halibut season. We do not support any type of floor or other modifications to benefit a few vessels. We appreciate your consideration.

Thank You,

Malcolm Milne, President

North Pacific Fisheries Association