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C/P Fishin Magician
Ken Christiansen
1849 Marmot Drive
Kodiak, AK 99615

December 9, 2014

Mr. Dan Hull, Chair
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
605 West 4th Avenue, Suite 306
Anchorage, AK 99501

Re: Agenda Item C-9 Observer coverage on small CP's

Mr. Chairman:

I own and operate The C/P Fishin Magician. I catch and process my product using only jig gear in the Kodiak Island or Alaska Peninsula areas of the Westward Region.

I started fishing for groundfish using long line gear in the early 1980's. I fished primarily for halibut and cod. As the years went by I decided to scale down. Instead of being a longliner and having larger crews, I decided to use jig gear to fish for cod so I could take my two children with me. Jigging proved to be a good fit for me and a few years later I installed a freezer system and became a catcher processor.

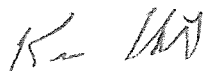
I began processing and freezing product in 2006. My main reasons for becoming a catcher processor were to increase quality by freezing the fish while fresh and to reduce operational costs, particularly fuel costs, by being able to stay out fishing for a longer period of time. The catcher processor operation has not been lucrative but has provided for making ends meet over the last several years. With the possibility of having to take an observer on my boat 100% of the time and pay for the coverage on a day to day basis, I am concerned about the added expenses of having to do so. The margins of profit are already skinny and I'm afraid that if I am required to have observer coverage I won't be able to continue fishing with my small operation. I don't freeze more than a ton of finished product a day and have minimal by-catch. Small scale, low impact gear types striving for improved quality and higher value should be encouraged, not discouraged with economic barriers which make it impossible.

As a longliner I had by-catch, but as a jigger if I catch any fish other than my targeted species then I simply move somewhere else. As a jigger, we should be allowed to fish state or federal waters simply because the fish are not always easy to find. Sometimes they are inshore and sometimes they are off shore.

I support the Council action to address this issue and encourage moving this forward for initial review. This is a straight forward solution to an inequitable outcome to small boat catcher processor operations. I support the alternatives although the range far exceeds what is necessary for my jig operation.

Thank you for hearing the opinion of one of the little guys who does care about the future of our fishery.

Respectfully,



Ken Christiansen