



**F/V MISS GINA**

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Dear Chairman Kinneen,

My name is Michael Friccero and I have been commercial longline Halibut fishing in the Kodiak area 3A and westward districts 3B and 4A for 40 years. The Halibut fishery represents approximately 30-40% of my annual family income. I am a resident of Kodiak Alaska and have lived here for 50 years. I have personally witnessed declines in abundance of these GOA stocks and am aware of how they are affected by the continued high volume of bycatch that is ever increasing relative to stock abundance.

The continued use of the PSC (static) bycatch limits, allows for a bycatch level that is far too high as compared to long term stock abundance and accelerates its decline. I urge you to select alternative methods to calculate allowable bycatch and utilize methods that are tied to stock abundance. The high bycatch levels currently allocated to the trawl fleet and particularly the Bering Dea Sector 80 Trawl Fleet are far too high and are impacting my ability to provide for my family.

There are many here in the coastal communities of Alaska that benefit from the harvesting of Halibut in all sectors. We look to the State of Alaska and the Council to protect the halibut resource on behalf of all the stakeholders and user groups. It is only fair to set bycatch levels based on stock abundance.

Respectfully Submitted.

Michael Friccero

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