

Subject: CATCH

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To: NPFMC <npfmc.comments@noaa.gov>

CC: linda behnken <alfafish@acsalaska.net>

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I am very much opposed to the new idea put forth by the charter industry labeled CATCH. There is already a method in place for the charter fleet to increase their allowed catch thru leasing of quota from the longliners.

I realize that preliminary figures have the charter fleet going substantially over their quota for 2014. To me this means that further management measures WILL be put in place and they can lease more from the longline fleet. I am in hopes that they now realize that going over their quota WILL result in a decrease in the daily catch allowed and that to increase that they need to not just go catch more anyway but to figure out how much and lease some. I realize that having to be accountable for their own industries catch is new to the charter fleet but it had to happen sometime and learning to deal with hard fast quota numbers is in the resources best interest.

I feel the proposed CATCH idea is a terrible one. I strongly feel that to allow a central entity to buy quota and then lease it out to individual charter operators is going to set a bad precedent for consolidation of the quota which is something no one wants. This idea could easily and most likely lead to all kinds of under the table paybacks and deals between quota buyers(donors) and charter operators. It will basically allow big businesses to fund quota for the charter fleet. This is not the intent of the IFQ program and never should be!!

The I is for Individual. Please don't forget this.

Another thought along this line is that if this is allowed for the charter fleet than what is to stop it going thru for the longline fleet too and then processers buying up quota and then if a fisherman wants to fish longline they have to lease from the processer and get what price given them. It is exactly the same thing and should be avoided at all costs in this management program.

I strongly feel that each person wanting more halibut to catch needs to be responsible for that.

Allowing a central business to buy up quota is bad business for all involved. It is definitely going to raise the prices of quota to make it even harder for the small boat longliners trying to either enter the fishery or increase their holdings as there will be less available. It will force charters wanting more fish to catch to lease from the holding company of their quota and that will definitely be at a set price which wont be good for free enterprise either. And what are they going to do with the lease money- buy more and more and more? Where is the limit? If there is a limit on how much they can buy then will the money beyond that taken in be used to politically fight for more- you bet- this is a bad road to slide down

I feel that the leasing of quota for the charter fleet is just starting to happen. It is working and there is no need for a central corporation to hold quota!

Please just send this bad idea right out. We are talking about INDIVIDUAL fishing quotas.

Thank you

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