

PUBLIC TESTIMONY SIGN-UP SHEET

Agenda Item: C-1 Pacific Cod Jig Fishery

	NAME (PLEASE PRINT)	TESTIFYING ON BEHALF OF:
1	Darius Kasprzak	Alaska Jig Association
2	Neil Rickman	self
3	Patrick Brown	self
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NOTE to persons providing oral or written testimony to the Council: Section 307(1)(I) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act prohibits any person " to knowingly and willfully submit to a Council, the Secretary, or the Governor of a State false information (including, but not limited to, false information regarding the capacity and extent to which a United State fish processor, on an annual basis, will process a portion of the optimum yield of a fishery that will be harvested by fishing vessels of the United States) regarding any matter that the Council, Secretary, or Governor is considering in the course of carrying out this Act.

206th Plenary Session
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
Anchorage Hilton Hotel
Dec 7-13, 2011

RE: Agenda Item C-1 (Pacific Cod Fishery Management)

FOR THE RECORD: TESTIMONY OF DARIUS KASPRZAK

Mr. Chair, Council members, and Secretary,
I am Darius Kasprzak, owner-operator of the 46' Kodiak ported jig vessel FV Marona. I am also president of the Alaska Jig Association, whom I am representing.

We appreciate recent BOF action approving local management triggered concurrent Federal/State jig seasons. We are also pleased that consideration of the reversal parallel concept in the long term is to be included in the upcoming joint protocol meeting. We request that prior to the joint protocol meeting, council staff be directed to continue to pursue and clarify legal authority and management issues with NOAA GC and NMFS regarding implementation of a reverse parallel jig fishery. We also request that staff be directed to continue analysis of an option to prohibit operators participating in the Federal jig fishery from using any other gear type on board. In addition, we ask that the language of this option and analysis be expanded to include prohibiting operators from carrying any other deployable gear type on board while participating in the Federal jig fishery.

We prefer a reverse parallel jig cod fishery during lean years (those of low biomass inside of three miles) to create a seamless inshore/offshore jig season during the crucial post-spawn, heavy feeding months of late March to early June. While concurrent season actions endorsed by the BOF provide some degree of flexibility and opportunity to the jig fleet, there are still practical limitations to this approach. Local management in Kodiak has indicated that they would be hesitant or unwilling to allow concurrent seasons with a more than below average fleet size (approx. 40-50 vessels) or only about a third of last year's State registered Kodiak area jig fleet.

If concurrent seasons are implemented during any particular year, jig vessels would still need to deliver and reregister prior to switching from a Federal to a State fishery or vice-versa. In reality, most of the predominately small vessel contingent of the jig fleet will only fish over the three mile line as weather permits, realistically only a day or two of a standard three day trip. Jig fishers need flexibility to range back and forth across the three mile line on a single unbroken trip during the crucial spring harvest months of late March to early June.

In addition to providing opportunity to jig fishers, a successfully managed inshore/offshore jig fishery during lean years will reduced localized stock depletion as well as sea lion interaction in State waters. There would also be significant safety benefits imparted to the jig fleet, in that they may be able to fish relatively close to processing

facilities rather than ranging long distances in inclement weather searching for scant jig worthy biomasses inside three miles.

We would like to emphasize that should the reverse parallel concept become a reality, we desire that local management be delegated authority to implement it in practice on a season by season basis, similar to the concurrent season scenario approved by the BOF. Simply stated, we need the ability to fish offshore only during lean periods of low inshore cod biomass (such as the great jig famine of 2006-2008), when GHL was continually stranded largely due to inability to pursue fish over the three mile line. During years of adequate inshore cod biomass (such as 2009-present), either a concurrent season or reverse parallel fishery is not desirable, as it may exacerbate unpredictable high catch rate pulses that marginalize local management abilities to accurately close the State season on target without exceeding the GHL.

We stress that that it is our goal to provide maximum sustained opportunity to the jig fleet while minimizing stranded fish in either the State or Federal fisheries. A well managed reverse parallel fishery, triggered by local management during years of low inshore biomass that are characterized by low catch rates, is our best means to achieve this goal.

We ask that the next review of jig issues be moved to the June meeting in Kodiak for the council agenda. This will allow maximum amount of Central Gulf jig fishers to participate and testify, and will allow us time to analyze our first fully fished A season under sector split implementation and results of the joint protocol meeting.

Thank you for your time and consideration of these issues.

Sincerely,

Darius Kasprzak
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