HALIBUT AND SABLEFISH IFQ PROGRAM AMENDMENT PROPOSAL

North Pacific Fishery Management Council Fax: (907) 271-2817

Name of Proposer: Shawn McManus Date: February 20, 2014

Address: 17421 NE 166th Pl., Woodinville, WA. 98072

Telephone: 425-488-3747

Brief Statement of Proposal:

Consideration of owner onboard and future vessel ownership interest exemption for qualified U.S. veterans:

- 1. Allow all honorably discharged U.S. veterans as indicated on their Department of Defense form 214(DD214) who qualify for a Transfer of Eligibility Certificate (TEC) from owner onboard and future vessel ownership interest requirements. Or
- 2. Allow only honorably discharged U.S. veterans who have served in a combat environment as indicated on their DD214 who qualify for a TEC from owner onboard and future vessel ownership interest requirements. And
- 3. Provide lifetime ownership privileges and exemption from owner onboard and future vessel ownership interest requirements to the spouse or partner of a U.S. veteran who was either killed in action (KIA) or missing in action (MIA) as indicated on service member's DD214 and held halibut or sablefish IFQ at the time of death or disappearance.

Objectives of Proposal (What is the problem?): Since inception of the halibut and sablefish IFQ program, individuals as well as both for profit and tax exempt CDQ/CQE corporations have benefited greatly for simply being in the right place at the right time during the qualifying and framing years of the halibut and sablefish IFQ program. Veterans who have fought for our country on the other hand have found themselves in the wrong place at the wrong time. Your typical veteran doesn't have the deep pockets of most corporations, but rather pockets full of patriotism. It's time to both acknowledge and reward the fishermen who have not only been fishing boots on deck but also combat boots on the ground.

Need and Justification for Council Action (Why can't the problem be resolved through other channels?):

Council is the deciding body.

Foreseeable Impacts of Proposal (Who wins, who loses?):

The winners are the veterans who will benefit from the proposal by being recognized for their service to our country. Losers would be some initial as well as 2nd generation halibut or sablefish allocates who don't enjoy the owner onboard and future vessel ownership interest exemptions of veterans and CDQ/CQEs.

Are there Alternative Solutions? If so, what are they and why do you consider your proposal the best way of solving the problem?

I don't know of any alternative solutions inside the halibut and sablefish IFQ program that address paying homage to U.S. veterans for service to our country.

Supportive Data and Other Information (What data are available and where can they be found?):

At a minimum, this proposal warrants a discussion paper that encompasses how many veterans are actively fishing in the halibut and sablefish IFQ program and what the foreseeable impacts to the halibut and sablefish IFQ program would be.

Shawn McManus

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