

Patrice R Lee
Self
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RE: Public Comment - opportunity to provide ideas

Please stop/significantly reduce the waste of halibut and other species of fish. I came to Alaska in 1977 and we could find and afford or even fish for halibut close enough to places like Valdez and enjoy the halibut meal weekly. Now after a full career of teaching, retirement and entering into the twilight of my life, on a teacher's nearly non-existent retirement, the joy of a halibut meal eludes me save once or twice a year. We save up, reduce other things in our grocery budget and try to find fresh halibut. The \$30 plus per pound price is too much. I realize how hard the fisher persons work and the costs associated with what is now a rare delicacy. Then I think about a million pounds of wasted halibut. It's enough to make one cry. How many elderly, homeless, poor, subsistence users could be enriched if this waste was reduced with the goal of eliminating it? Please, choose to be a better steward of what used to be a boundless resource of nutritious food. 1. Place watchers and or cameras on board all boats fishing for halibut in Alaska waters. 2..Provide an incentive for license holders to institute a percentage of bycatch to food banks and reduced cost to grocers who are limited to the price per pound plus cost of handling only. Require licensee's to be present if fishing in Alaska waters or their direct representative, not subleasing their license. More enforcement of existing regulations and improved legislation to protect the interest of Alaskans who should have access, including maximum benefit for our resources, including halibut, salmon, trout and other species.