



March 22, 2011

Eric Olson, Chair
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
605 W. Fourth Ave.
Anchorage, AK 99501

MAK 22 2011

RE: Agenda Item C-6 GOA P. Cod Jig Fishery Management

Dear Chairman Olson,

The State GHL jig season is currently underway in the Gulf of Alaska and a significant number of community-based fishers are on the grounds prosecuting the low impact fishery this season. The majority of participants in both the State GHL and the federal jig fishery are from small coastal communities in Alaska. The revenue stream that is provided to the participants is an important segment of a diversified fishing operation. Increase in participation and catch would be most likely to benefit coastal Alaska residents. In addition, increased deliveries would increase processing activity and the onshore fleet services that are found throughout coastal communities.

In continued advocacy for maintaining working waterfronts with policy measures that provide for entry level opportunity and low impact, sustainable fishing practices, Alaska Marine Conservation Council supports Alternative 2: Reverse parallel fishery.

Alternative 2:

- Has wide support from the jig sector
- Creates opportunities for operators to fully harvest the GOA Pacific cod GHL
- Achieves the objective of providing increased access to federal waters for jig fishers
- Provides ability to fish outside of state waters during months when the weather is more favorable
- Has the potential to disperse jig effort in the GOA Pacific cod GHL by allowing vessels to fish in both state and federal waters
- Allowing fish harvested in federal waters to accrue to the state jig GHL may increase the likelihood that the jig GHL is fully harvested
- May provide year-round access to federal waters
- Has potential to increase the number of jig fishers who carry FFP's and the requirements that enhance management and conservation of the fisheries
- May reduce fishing activity inshore, which will also reduce potential interactions between fishing activities, seabirds and marine mammals

We appreciate the commitment from Council staff and Council members in keeping the management structure of the jig fishery on a timeline to realize the benefits of this action.

Sincerely,


Theresa Peterson
Kodiak Outreach Coordinator

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Eric Olson, Chair

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

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Re: Agenda Item C-6 GOA P. Cod Jig Fishery Management

Dear Mr. Olson:

My family and I have lived in Kodiak and have been involved in the fishing industry for the past 25 years. We own a 48 foot seine boat that I also use for jigging whenever possible. If there was more opportunity for jigging, it could be a substantial part of the boat's earnings. Any increase in opportunity could provide a viable fishing future for me and my two sons. I support Alternative 2, a reverse parallel fishery. If the jig fleet could fish in and outside of 3 miles throughout the year this would provide an increase in opportunity that most of us would relish. At a time when many local operations are trying to stay afloat this would really help.

Sincerely,



Stan Vanmatre

F/V Patricia Kay

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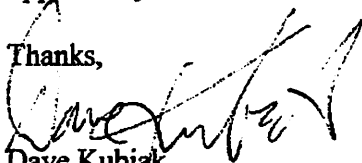
Dear Chairman Olson,

I have been jigging cod for the past dozen years and have made an important part of my spring income jigging cod. Since I was unfairly cut out of my LLP longline codfishing, I am very encouraged by the potential of fishing outside the three mile limit and taking advantage of cod that often just over across that invisible three mile fence.

This year there are over ninety boats registered to jig. More and more I see fishermen hiring crew and not just fishing solo. This is an important part of spring fishing for many boats.

I prefer the Alternative 2, as it will provide me with greater access to cod in the years when they just don't come onshore. This year I will hire crew to help me harvest and make the most of my opportunity.

Thanks,



Dave Kubiak
F/V Mythos

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