

Boards Support Section  
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RC 034

From: Mike Shupe  
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RE: Proposals 43 and 44

As a single-plant processor of ground fish and salmon in Seward, Polar Seafoods has developed a niche business over several years. In recent years the groundfish fishery has been especially difficult to pursue due the harvest of Pollock under a derby style fishery spreading from Prince William Sound to Chignik. Boats targeting Pollock will frequently come to Prince William Sound and harvest the entire quota of Pollock with a single trip that goes to Kodiak and contributes nothing or, little, to the economy of Seward. By comparison, in 1997-1999, Polar Seafoods in Seward processed 10-12 million pounds of Pollock per year, when the nearby waters were open to fishing and the season lasted until March or April. Clearly, state waters fisheries are necessary for local economies to benefit from the harvest of the resources at their front door.

Comments:

Proposal 43 oppose

I agree that state waters fisheries should be established; however, I also believe that the legalization of trawl gear in state waters fisheries where it is not legal gear, now would be counter productive to efforts to maintain stability in the fishery, improve product quality, and minimize gear conflict.

Proposal 44 support

I support except for the 100% observer requirement. I'd like to see the observer requirement apply to the processing plant/ fishing vessel on the random basis. I also do not support vessel limit under 125 feet as this would eliminate many of the boats available to participate in the state waters fishery would be eliminated by a 58 foot limit.

Thanks for your consideration,

Mike Shupe, Owner

