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Alaska Peninsula / Chignik / Aleutian Islands- Bering Sea Pacific Cod

Proposal 15

My name is Adam Lalich, F/V YORJIM, I only jig fish.

On proposal 15, to extend the boundaries of Area O from 164W to 170W on the Bering Sea side, I would like this proposal to go thru, but I would like it to include a small jig only quota in the state waters. A quota of 50,000 lbs to start, jig only, NON EXCLUSIVE in the area of the Bering Sea from 164W to 170W.

We as jig boats have plenty of quota in the federal fisheries in the Bering Sea, some years there is fish for us and other years not, for our type of fishing method. At present we are not allowed to fish cod west of the 164 West only black rockfish. There is a small federal quota for longliners and jig but it's caught early on in the year, and is caught by longliners, where it is not accessible for us jig boats to fish in the winter months.

I would like to see the area from 164 West to 170 West become its own subarea, jig only, NON EXCUSIVE, (if exclusive it will never be caught so no use), and a quota of 50,000lbs, and adhere to the Steller Sea lion ruling and no transit zones. The few of us that may go there are all friends and can easy to monitor the catch rate ourselves so we do not exceed the 50,000lbs, if there is more than one of us in the area, If we do catch the 50,000lbs each year for the 3 coming years, then the next cycle of the board we could ask for a bit more.

I do not think 50,000lbs of cod from Area O will harm any of the pot boats, and as state waters is both pot and jig I would think it would open up more opportunity for us few jig boats that may go west.

Thanks.

Adam Lalich F/V YORJIM Jig only