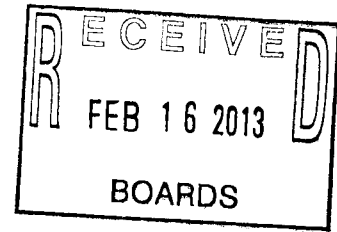


RC 14

February 16, 2013



ADF&G, Board of Fisheries
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Re: Proposal 162 – Unalaska Bay Trawl Closure

To Whom It May Concern;

I support Proposal 162 to the Board of Fisheries, to close Unalaska Bay to trawl fishing.

I've have been a resident of Unalaska for over 30 years and have commercial fished and subsistence fished here during this time because it's an important part of living here.

We've witnessed a tremendous decline in fish and game in Unalaska Bay where we gather fish and game for subsistence and our livelihoods. It is a very important part of our life that we need to protect. At the same time we see these big trawlers towing around us in our traditional areas we hunt and fish and then seeing the dead fish floating and washed up on the beaches.

We are having to go outside the bay in our small skiffs to find fish and game now which is dangerous and is expensive. A lot of times we can't even set our gear in the middle of the bay because we have lost it in the past few years since the trawlers have been coming up inside the bay and we don't want to risk getting run over by them. While fishing I've lost subsistence crab gear inside the bay, and have had to hurriedly relocate subsistence longline gear that was right in the track of a trawler. The trawlers are a nuisance not only to our fishing gear and way of life, but also to our safety.

Everyone in our community supports this closure. Throughout the state of Alaska many other communities have been given this protection around their communities and it is time for us to also. We need to protect our rights to be able to continue to fish and hunt and request you support this proposal.

Thank You,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marty Wech". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the typed name.

Marty Wech
P.O. Box 452
Unalaska
907-581-2128