

RC 16

UNALASKA NATIVE FISHERMAN ASSOCIATION

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February 17, 2013

Alaska Board of Fish

RE: Letter In Support of a Trawl Ban in Unalaska Bay Prop 162



To Whom It May Concern,

Within the Bering Sea there is a biological system comprised of millions of animals, birds, mammals, fishes and crabs, etc. Left alone it remains healthy, self correcting and sustainable due to an incredible force we call the balance of nature.

The reason man must regulate the harvest of species within this system is so things don't get out of whack. We've known this for millennia.

Unalaska Bay is a system within a system. Pollock being the most prevalent here it stands to reason every other creature in the bay interacts with it in some form or fashion. The removal of such a large portion of the Pollock in this micro system is having a negative impact and the health of the bay is suffering. We see the signs of this, in that, fishes used for subsistence and sport fishing no longer flourish here, something is happening.

Do we need a Pollock quota set for Unalaska Bay so as to reset it's balance? UNFA members have determined the health of Unalaska Bay as a top priority, not only for it's own sake, but also as it relates to the quality of life for it's residents. We have identified Pollock over fishing and by catch, as well as pollution, as primary points of concern.

Please help us in our endeavor to put the pieces back together in regards to the health and well being of this beautiful area by voting for a trawl ban in Unalaska Bay.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dustan Dickerson".

Dustan Dickerson, UNFA Vice President