

Dear Chairman Johnstone and Board Members,

My name is Matthew Graham I'm the son of a fisherman I do not support proposals 43, 44, 45, 101, or 102. I'm speaking specifically towards proposal 44. My dad Robert (Buck) Graham has been in the fishing industry since 1983. He started his career in Oregon as a deckhand and worked his way up to Captain. When the industry started to decline in 1999 he chose to fish the Bering Sea, where he started out at the bottom again and had to work his way back up to the top. Six years ago he came to Kodiak to be fulltime captain of the F/V Peggy Jo. During the last fifteen years there have been good fishing years and bad years which affects the livelihood of not just my family but all the vessel's crew and their families as well. This year the Pollock quota which is 60 percent of our annual income, was finally bumped up to a number that would allow trawlers to catch a higher percent of fish thus allowing them to become better providers for their families who rely on the fisheries to survive. If proposal 44 is to pass, the end result will take 25% of the Pollock quota away from historical trawlers and reallocating the resource to others. This reduces the amount of money that Peggy Jo is able to take home to their families. I personally rely on my father's income to help pay for my college tuition. Without his assistance it would not be possible for me to get the education I need in order to succeed in life. That being said, I'm not the only one who relies on this industry. My soon to be newborn sister will come to rely on the fishing industry to provide food, clothes, and a roof over her head for the next 18+ years. The crew of the Peggy Jo who are very good friends and almost like family to mine, rely on the industry to provide for not just themselves, but also for their families. The fishing industry isn't just a way for our families to make money. It's a way of life for us, without it, we would have nothing.

In the end, why would a 58' boat have more fishing rights than a 98' boat that has been fishing in Kodiak since 1966? Due to the changing industry the Peggy Jo has had to switch from catching king crab to becoming a trawler because of that change, why should the captain and crew be punished by having some of their quota taken away from them when they were just doing what the industry required them to do in order for them to maintain a living.

Also, a large part of this proposal that doesn't make sense is the three mile line. How is a fish going to know which side of the line it's on? Pollock and salmon are going to be moving back and forth across this invisible line because they are fish, not cognitive beings that are aware of a man made invisible line. Allowing trawlers to fish both sides of the line will help keep them out of the salmon and on to the Pollock which will help both sides of the industry.

Sincerely,

Matthew R. Graham