

ATTN: AK BOF STATEWATERS PACIFIC COD MEETING OCT.18-22, 2013

TESTIMONY/COMMENTS OF DARIUS KASPRZAK, PROPOSALS 14 AND 22

Board of Fish Members,

My name is Darius Kasprzak, and I own/operate the Kodiak ported 46' jig vessel F/V Marona. Since 1998, I have realized the majority of my income jigging cod and rockfish in the central and western Gulf of AK, including the statewater jig fisheries of Kodiak, Chignik, and South AK peninsula.

I support Proposal 14 (Chignik Area Pacific Cod Management Plan- Remove superexclusive registration for jig gear in statewater Pacific cod fishery). I would like to amend this proposal to read: The Chignik area is a nonexclusive registration area for vessels using jig gear during a statewater season.

The Chignik statewater jig quota has rarely if ever been fully harvested. This year, not a single landing was recorded. Making the registration requirement nonexclusive would provide harvest opportunity to jig vessels that also fish other AK statewater areas for cod, and would result in less stranded quota at the end of the year.

I oppose Proposal 22 (South AK Peninsula Area registration- Change registration from exclusive to a superexclusive), as regarding jig gear only. As I am not a pot fishery stakeholder, I have no opinion or comment as to implementing superexclusive registration for pot vessels only. However, if this proposal is to be acted upon, I would like to insert an amendment that reads: The South AK Peninsula remains an exclusive registration area for jig gear only.

Some jig vessels that fish other statewater cod fisheries (such as the nonexclusive Aleutian Area around Adak) as well as South AK Peninsula would be negatively impacted by having to choose between these different areas. In my case, a superexclusive registration requirement would preempt me from jigging both the South AK Peninsula area, and the Kodiak area beginning Oct.30 -when the Kodiak area exclusive registration requirements are relaxed. I historically jig the Kodiak area in the late fall/winter, and to be preempted from doing so after a summer of fishing South Ak Peninsula would negatively affect my livelihood and lifestyle, as well as increasing the amount of stranded quota left in the Kodiak area.

Thank you kindly for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Darius Kasprzak

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