

From: [sean_griss](#)
To: [Haight, Glenn E \(DFG\)](#)
Subject: Clarence sablefish
Date: Wednesday, July 27, 2016 4:18:51 PM

To Glenn Haight

This is in regards to the petition to the Clarence season extension. My name is Sean Griss and I am part owner of the FV Obsession and full time longline captain. I fish a full blackcod cap in the gulf of Alaska and 3 Clarence permits and my concerns for all blackcod fishing in every area is whale predation. This has been a burden on all longliners for quite some time but now in the past 5 years it has truthfully gotten a bit out of hand and is now affecting our stocks substantially. No longer can you run and hide because they are specifically targeting and literally hunting us down. In Clarence it has been getting worse every year with killer whales and the last couple they have been relentlessly hunting us down and taking 70-90% of our catch and there is just not enough mileage in the fishing area to get away from them. So this greatly concerns me for our future. They are there waiting for the salmon and with the season being June 1st we are the perfect meal ticket before the salmon run, all the permit holders and even the pot permit holders are for getting these dates changed immediately because this fishery will not sustain the predation.

I enjoy longlining very much and I am one of the youngest captains with one the largest amounts of sablefish to harvest in the state. I started when I was 17 and now I am 33. I would like to see my 1 year old son do the same but things need to change or this livelihood will perish and that is no understatement by any means, I live it 6 months a year. I am heavily financially invested into sablefish and would like to see more people my age do the same for our future of fishing benefits for the state of Alaska but they are scared of one thing and that is whales. It just makes sense to have a longer season for these reasons:

- 1- eliminating the chances of fishing around killer whale migration patterns in Dixon entrance
- 2- being able to catch fishing during times of higher market value
- 3- cutting back on expenses endured during broken whale trips
- 4- not having to fish until you drop from sleep deprivation when you aren't getting whaled because you know you will at some point
- 5- it just makes sense

Thank you for reading my concerns I hope you consider more options for gear and season dates quickly before it is too far gone because honestly most of us in the longline fleet believe it might be in central gulf because of sperm whales and things weren't done quick enough, with us to blame, the Feds, and the scientists.

Sean Griss

Sent from my iPhone