

Attn: Alaska Board of Fisheries

March 8, 2016

Tom Kluberton, Chairman
Orivlle Huntington
Fritz Johnson
Bob Mumford

John Jensen, Vice Chairman
Sue Jeffry
Reed Morisky

To the Members of the Alaska Board of Fisheries,

The Aleut Corporation is in support of Proposal 194. The Aleut Corporation has 132 shareholders in Unalaska/Dutch Harbor.

The trawl fishery that operates in Unalaska Bay has displaced, and possibly removed due to bycatch, many subsistence resources that residents of Unalaska depend on. Many subsistence users have had to leave their traditional hunting and fishing grounds to try and meet their subsistence needs. These new fishing and hunting grounds are farther away from their homes and out of the Bays safe waters. This has put an unjustifiable increased economic burden on those individuals to purchase more fuel because they have to travel farther and some have had to purchase larger safer boats.

In addition to the increased economic burden, trawling in Unalaska Bay has also put subsistence users in unsafe conditions. Subsistence users have to travel out farther and leave the safety of the Bay. Most residents use small skiffs which are not sea worthy and can easily be swamped in rough waters. Some subsistence users have purchased larger safer boats; but these are expensive and most residents **cannot** afford to do this. For those subsistence harvesters who do not have the proper boat, cannot afford the fuel, or are too young or old, they have lost their subsistence opportunity all together. As you know subsistence provides a source of food, but more importantly it provides a cultural connection and that connection cannot be replaced.

Alaska state law directs the Board of Fisheries to provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses first, before providing for other uses of any harvestable surplus of a fish or game population [AS 16.05.258 (b)]. This is often referred to as the "subsistence preference" or sometimes the "subsistence priority

Adoption of this proposal would allow local fish and wildlife populations to recover so that local rural Alaskan residents and subsistence users, of Unalaska, can return to their traditional hunting and fishing grounds, so that they can provide food for their families and have a connection with their culture.

Sincerely,



Thomas Mack
President
Aleut Corporation