

Submitted by Joseph Person

I am submitting this RC in regards to proposal 46, submitted by myself, which requested for the 5 day trip limit in the lower Cook Inlet directed rockfish jig fishery to be raised from 4000lbs to 6000lbs. During oral testimony I withdrew my support from the proposal due to the results of the 2016 season which happened since the time of submitting my proposal and stated I would submit an RC to that effect as is usually requested in such instances. I will take this opportunity however to make some comments on the subject.

After my testimony two other fishermen testified in regards to proposal 46, and both were in support of the increased trip limit. They expressed exactly the same reasons and justifications that prompted me to write the proposal in the first place. A large part of why I was willing to withdraw my support from my own proposal was because in discussion with the department before the meeting, it was expressed to me that most fishermen the past two seasons (which I did not participate in) seemed to be content with the trip limit, and furthermore that it was uncommon for deliveries to even make the trip limit. This was not remotely the case last time I participated in the fishery, and if conditions and situations had changed, combined with the GHL finally being caught it seemed the current trip limit was warranted and not impeding participation in the fishery. Public testimony given, seemed to contradict this. The 4000lb trip limit has always been on the cusp of financial viability given the relatively low market value of the product, and travel distance necessary to reach productive fishing grounds. Other testimony has reinforced my belief that this is still the case.

However, I am still withdrawing my support from my proposed trip limit increase primarily because I strongly desire this fishery to remain a small boat fishery with very low barriers to entry which is its strongest point, and is a niche that is filled by relatively few fisheries in South Central. As long as it is viable enough to have participation by multiple boats and the GHL harvested, I feel that the current trip limit is probably appropriate.

Joseph Person