

## *Fax Form*

*From:*

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*To: Board of Fish Fax# 907-465-6094*

*From: Mike Lockabey and Karen J. Lockabey  
Both active Dungeness permit holders*

*Re: Record Copy*

*Date: 1/8/2018*

*Pages including cover: 4*

*I have two other faxes of record Copy. The total pages for record Copy faxes is less than the allowed 10 pages.*

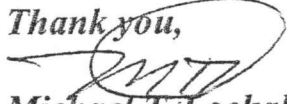
*I respectfully request 3 minutes to speak on the Sea Otter issue in SE Alaska as it pertains to SE Shellfish regulation changes being considered at this 2017 Board of Fish meeting. Many proposals being considered mention the Sea Otter issue and I am prepared to do a very informative short talk on this issue. I will have my supporting material with me. In December I sent letters and 92 pages of Studies, research papers and reports supporting my letters to The Secretary of The Interior and The President concerning what we face in regards to predation of our marine resources by Sea Otters. I have included in this fax, as an 'Executive Summary of Supporting Sources' a list of material that my understanding of this issue is based on and verified by. I would send it along but it is 150 plus pages. My short presentation will summarize the 'Otter' issue for the Board.*

*The subject of Sea Otter predation has been brought up at the last two cycles and an action letter or comment was requested from Board or Dept. at those previous meetings. Now the problem is acute as the*

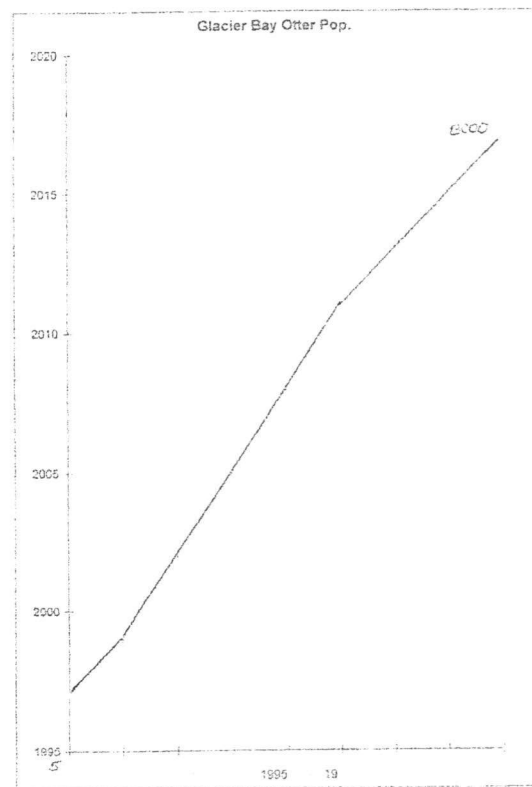
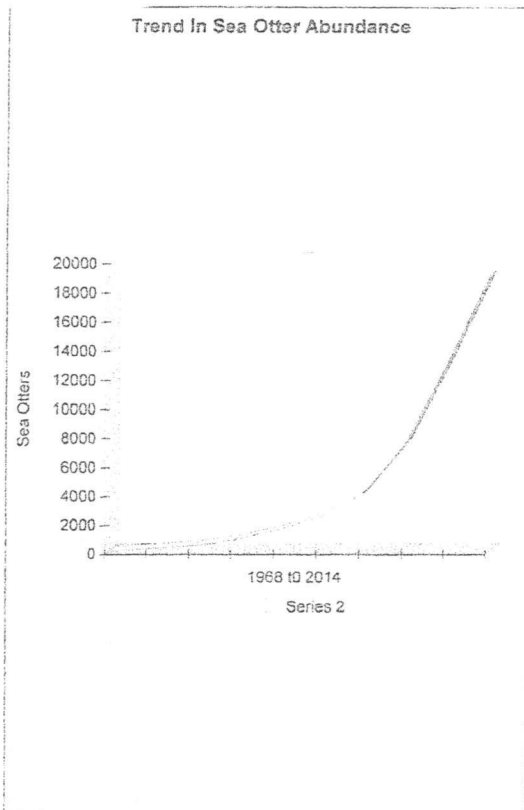
proposals this year have many comments concerning Sea Otter predation and we now face possible restrictions from their impact on our resources. I respect this Board process and know that it is in fact the best system on the west coast, I have lived and worked up and down the coast. I am representing a coalition of fishermen at Oral Testimony during this meeting and have been disheartened by the unanimous feeling of the fisherman that The Board and The Dept. are managing fisherman and not the overall health of all the resources, those who live with it, make our livelihoods from it and the balance required to sustain it all.

Again, Respectfully I request 3 minutes to make a presentation.

Thank you,

  
Michael T. Lockabey

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# Executive Summery

## **1) The Issue**

SE Alaska Sea Otter population and subsequent predation of commercial, subsistence and recreational ocean resources

## **2) The Problem**

1960s reintroduction of Sea Otters in SE Alaska. & Resulting population explosion as the reintroduced Otters fill and over fill available habitat.

Sea Otters are at a level that is greatly affecting fisheries as of 2012.

Annual growth of Sea Otter population has been 8% to 13% (avg. 10.5%) since 1990 and continues unabated. The Park Service has population growth rates at 17+% in SE to a high of 42% in Glacier Bay. Populations will double every 3 to 7 years.

Extensive Sea Otter predation on multiple existing commercial, subsistence and recreational fisheries species in SE Alaska is occurring **NOW**.

Resulting in closures and proposed new restrictions for all resource harvesters. Lost time and revenue as the populations of predator / pray continue to become even more unbalanced.

## **3) The Current and eventual results**

Available resource and time to harvest resource will continue to decline to the point of not being economically feasible for commercial harvesters.

The loss of those resources and thousands of jobs in our coastal communities

Areas of Cordova and Craig Alaska are already dead zones for all users.

Commercial, Sport and Subsistence fisheries are affected

If Sea Otter predation continues at present growth, **fisheries will collapse!**

## **4) The Resolutions**

Remove Sea Otters from current extreme protected status.

Allow for harvest at normal resource harvest rates

Lessen current regulations on sale, trade, transport and export of sea Otter hides.

## **5) Results to Resolutions**

Current expansion of sea Otters will be lessened and areas behind expansion will have lower densities of Otters per sq. mile. In short an Eco balance will be brought about.

Sea Otter populations will be kept to an acceptable level as will expansion in area.

SE Alaska harvesters will experience additional job/business opportunity in harvesting of Otters as a new resource.

A 10% to 13% harvest rate will add approximately 1 to 1.5 million dollars to SE and the State of Alaskas struggling economy.

## **Conclusion**

A win win action is possible with removal and reduction of regulations **NOW!**

# Executive Summary Supporting Sources

- 1) Sea Otter Population Growth Graph  
(NPRD., M.T. Lockabey et al.)
- 2) Glacier Bay Sea Otter Population Growth 1995 to 2017  
(2014 N.P.S. - Michael Lockabey et al)
- 3) Sea Otter population Area Expansion map  
(2016 NPRD, M.T. Lockabey et al)
- 4) North Pacific Research Board 2012 Final Report  
Supported by:  
School of fisheries and Sciences, University of Alaska  
US Fish & Wildlife Service, Marine Mammal Management  
National Park Service Glacier Bay Sea Otter study  
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management  
Alaska Sea Grant Marine Advisory Program  
With contribution from 79 scientific papers and reports
- 5) Excerpts From 2012 State of Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game  
Report to The State Board Of Fisheries
- 6) The Alaska Board of Fisheries 2017/2018 Proposed Changes to  
Regulations SE Shellfish
- 7) Michael T. Lockabey et al  
25 other fisherman
- 8) Oral Testimony given at 2014 Board of Fish Meeting on SE Shellfish  
Held in Wrangell, Alaska  
Testimony of record