

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board.

Thank you for this opportunity to address you.

My name is Yancey Nilsen and I have been a participant in the Golden King Crab and Tanner Crab fisheries for 30 years. These are my main fisheries and for this reason I am invested in some of the decisions you will be making during this board cycle.

I support **Proposal 65**. At the 1993 Board of Fish Meetings it was decided to make the lower Chatham Straits area and the Southern area no longer exploratory, at the same time the other areas, which were part of the exploratory area became closed to Golden King Crab fishing.

This is not what industry thought would happen at the time. This proposal is asking those areas be added into the already existing areas without an increase in GHL.

I wrote **Proposal 66**. Two years ago I was the only boat with gear in the water in lower Chatham Straits area and there was poundage left on the GHL. A series of storms came up during the closure date. When I requested the department delay the closure due to safety concerns I was told it could not be done. Just as there is a tool in place for delaying the opening of a season due to inclement weather, there could also be a regulation in place enabling managers to make extensions to the closure of a season due to weather which puts the lives and property of fisherman and crew at risk.

I oppose **Proposal 67**. There is no need to have a set closure date for the SE Alaska Golden King Crab Fishery. This proposal does not provide maximum fishing time. In the past during the few times this fishery has run past the proposed dates it has not hindered the collection or processing of data. There are times the fishery experiences low participation with healthy stocks, this enables fisherman to make a living where a set closure date will deny permit holders that opportunity.

I strongly support **Proposal 68**. I am a firm believer we must have a fishery every year to get data needed to manage the resource. As an industry we believe setting a minimum GHL based on 10% of the upper end of the GHR can do this. If that number is not met a closure can be announced. If that number is greatly exceeded the GHL could be increased based on factors gleaned from the fishery.

I oppose **Proposal 69**. The lowering of the GHR's whose numbers seem to be adjusted at nearly every Shellfish Board Meeting. They could be left where they are at, as they are a range and the GHL can be set anywhere in between. The upper end of the GHR is there for years when there is an extremely high abundance of crab in the fishery.

I oppose **Proposal 70**. Any reduction in pot limits for the Golden King Crab fishery will be reducing our production. My primary concern is deep water fishing areas such as Chatham Straits. In these areas a person needs the full compliment of 100 pots. In shallower water areas you will find that fisherman will haul all 80 pots in one day as opposed to the lesser pot lifts they are completing now. Please do not take away 20% of our production.