

January 17, 2018

Dear Members of the Board of Fish,

I have been fishing most of my life and it is my only source of income. I'm 35, have lived in Sitka for 35 years and have commercial fished for 20 years. I started trolling 2 years ago.

I ask that you manage the commercial sport charter sector as you do all other commercial groups and have full accountability of that sector. We need to know exactly how many fish are being caught to effectively manage the fishery. I have heard much boasting that Alaska fisheries have the best management in the world and I tend to agree with this, but when a whole sector of a managed fishery isn't held to the same standard as the other user groups it makes me question the degree of accuracy in which the fishery is managed.

I ask that you implement stricter bag limits on black cod being caught by non-residents in Chatham straight, by supporting Proposal 116. I worry that as the king salmon fishing is restricted there will be more pressure on the black cod by the charter sector.

I am of a conservative view, and I want to protect the resource as much as possible but I've also invested in the troll fishery, so I ask that you manage the king salmon fishery conservatively, and at the same time ask that you make any effort possible to allow the troll fleet, who have invested and relied upon your management to keep this fishery alive, to find a way for us to remain as a fleet, and to keep fishing. The decisions you make at this meeting will directly impact my business. My business plan is based on your management. I support the same proposals as ATA.

I just want a fair and equitable fishery. If we as trollers are taking a major "hit" to conserve the king salmon population, I ask that you spread this concern equally among user groups and acknowledge every user group, may it be trolling, gill netting, seining, commercial sport charter, sport, subsistence, or personal use.

Thank you for reviewing my comments, I know this is an especially difficult meeting.

Sincerely,

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