



RC356

January 20, 2018

Attention Board of Fish Members

Fax No: (907) 465-6094

RE: Proposal 116-5 AAC 47.020 - Annual Bag limits on sablefish (Black cod) for non-resident sport harvester.

I am a career fisherman who has harvested sablefish out of Chatham Straits since 1975 and Clarence Straits since 1990. I am quite familiar with abundance and harvest trends in these areas as well as the off-shore federal fisheries where I am also licensed to fish.

It is imperative that all users of fishery resources be accountable and have limits to their harvest of any finite resource. As removals by commercial harvesters are required to be tracked, the same should be required of sport harvesters. Annual take limits of sablefish by the sport sector are not new to the area as they are currently in play in the Chatham and Lynn Canal regions. For management consistency such annual limits should be extended throughout the Southeast region as proposed.

With the advent of new technologies, e.g. power reels and equipment, the sport industry has been able extract sablefish from very deep depths that was not previously possible. Sablefish were not typically considered a sport fish species, but now with increasing demand by Asian clientele it is a highly sought after fish and its harvest is growing. An annual harvest limit of 8 fish per person is generous and should be adequate, otherwise the overall experience of sport fishing over filling freezers for future trade is suspect.

Your considerations of my comments would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James T. Hubbard", written over a white background.

James T. Hubbard  
Owner / Captain  
F/V Kruzof

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