

Craig Advisory Committee RC on Proposal 108

Mr. Chairman and Board of Fisheries Members

Steve Merritt here the Craig AC representative. Proposal 108 intends to expand the pounding area in which the fishery could be executed. In our AC's deliberations the protection of the stocks outside that region was the main focus of our intent on opposing 108.

After conferring with the department I discovered that the stocks in the region are considered as one stock and have a GHJ for that fishery. It has been the policy of the department to open area outside the current boundaries of the pound fishery by emergency order. Specifically the exact areas the proposer intends put in regulation by this proposal.

It is distinctly possible that our AC, had department staff been on hand at the meeting, would have come out in Support of this issue rather than OPPOSED. But as the AC representative I can only speak on that particular vote (if occurred) for myself. I myself would have changed my vote on this proposal given this information.

In short, I am not sure you should denote as much weight to our AC's position as you normally would on this particular proposal.

Sincerely Steve Merritt