

October 12, 2018
Alaska Board of Fish and Game Board of Fisheries
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

RC 15

RE: Comments for October 17-19, 2018 Meeting Board Members:

I apologize for the tardiness of my letter. My name is Mike Spokas, Captain of the F/V Saint Paul and an Associate Member of the Under Sixty Cod Harvesters Association. I ask that you please give the information presented careful consideration, even though my submission is past the public comment deadline. I am currently out fighting the Bering Sea weather, somewhat short-handed, to finish the 2018 fall cod fishery, and my access to the technology to facilitate a timely submission is somewhat limited.

I write to support Proposal 13 and Proposal 6 while opposing Proposal 15. The F/V Saint Paul is a 58-foot vessel that participates in BSAI and Western Gulf federal cod fisheries, as well as the Dutch Harbor State cod fishery. I have been fishing in Alaska since March 1991. I became Captain of my first vessel in March 1999. I was in December 2011 to operate the F/V Saint Paul and have been Captain of the vessel since. The F/V Saint Paul is a Super 8 that primarily fishes pot cod. My pertinent work history prior to the F/V Saint Paul includes many years of crabbing on the F/V Trailblazer, and Captain of the F/Vs Vixen and Silver Spray. I have fished all crab species, in addition to halibut, cod, and salmon. On average I spend eight months/year in Alaska. I am a career fisherman and my dedication to the industry is a great benefit to the local economy.

Thank you for your consideration.
Mike Spokas Captain, F/V St. Paul