

RC27

To: Alaska Board of Fisheries

October 23, 2019

Re: Record Copy (RC)

From: Randy Blondin
PO Box 159
Kodiak, Alaska 99615

My name is Randy Blondin, I was born & raised in Kodiak, Alaska and have fished Dungeness crab on Kodiak for 46 years. I am respectfully requesting a regulation change for the Kodiak Area Dungeness fishery (Area J) in which it specifies Dungeness gear to be removed from the water within a 14-day period and to be extended to a 21-day period. There is no biological justification for a 14-day restriction versus 21 days, it results in unnecessary economic loss to stakeholders, and the Department of Fish and Game is supportive of this change.

I was unable to attend the meeting in which this regulation was originally adopted but I have been fighting for the past 2 years to change it and I have made several requests to the board of fisheries to do so.

The reason for the regulation change is because literally, every fisherman on Kodiak island that fishes Dungeness crab also participate in other fisheries. This regulation forces fishermen to lose fishing time which will cause an economical loss, for no reason.

Over the last two years, I have talked with virtually every Dungeness fisherman on Kodiak and all of the fisherman anonymously agree that a 14-day window is too restrictive of a time period. Specifically, when fishermen are fishing out to 1,000 pots, over 100 miles of shoreline, for a 6-month period.

I was planning on attending this meeting, but unfortunately I was recently in an accident and am unable to travel. However, if you have any questions, of any kind, I would be happy to answer them.

I can be reached at 907-512-9494

Thank you for your time

Randy Blondin