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Board Meeting SITKA 2/23/15 - 3/3/15 SOUTHEAST YAKUTAT FISH
 Select a meeting (Meeting Title - Comment Deadline)

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Do you consent to your contact information being included on printed copies of your comment? *

Yes No

Comment *

From: John & Janet Engle

SUPPORTING Proposals 131,132,133,134

We truly hold GREAT CLARENCE BLOOD PERMITS and support proposals for allowing harvesting blackcod by longline or pots and allowing a longer season. We see the advantages as follows:

- Pots will allow us to avoid predation by whales, hogfish, and sandfleas. We haven't had a big whale predation problem like they have had up in the Chatham fishery but anticipate that the whales will be here soon if we don't do something about it now. Also changing the fishing times to allow a longer season will help prevent whales from showing up like they do on opening day in Unatham ready to gobble up some tasty bloodcod. Spreading out the harvest over a longer period will avoid a huge stock removal that currently takes place over a few days. I am sure we can figure out how to get an accurate survey done without too much interference - they do it in the IFQ fishery.

- Allowing pots will also help us avoid Halibut bycatch and subsequent mortality.

- As far as gear conflicts, we are already avoiding each other's gear especially in the first week of June when most of the fish is caught along with the pots. We would not have halibut mortality permits and that would be true with pots as well. We fish two permits on the Devyn Nisolo and our son Dustin Peters fishes four Clarence permits on the Pioneer. There are currently only 18 longline permits and three pot permits and none of us wants to get tangled up in other boats gear. Extending the season will also help reduce the possible conflicts and help us to deliver when the markets are most favorable.

- The change to pots or longline has already been done in Prince William Sound and is being carefully studied for the IFQ fishery. We should make the change down here sooner than later.

Thanks, John & Janet Engle