

My name is Kyle Watkins. I have been commercially fishing Dungeness crab for the past 14 years, and currently the captain of the 98ft F/V Shellfish. The 2022 North Peninsula District Dungeness crab season was our first season participating. To start, I would like to say that I am partially opposed to Proposal 170. I do not see how a 10,000 pot cap would work. With a profitable 2022 season for all fishermen,, it's only obvious many many more are going to participate in 2023. With a 10,000 pot cap in place, and triple, if not quadruple the fishermen, starting and finishing the season at different times, I do not see how we are all suppose to keep track of how many pots we are allowed to fish with the lack of communication in the Aleutian Islands. I see the 10,000 pot cap as an extreme inconvenience on keeping track on how many pots we can legally fish, and from my understanding can change at any given time during the season. For example, a fisherman registers to fish north pen and never even sets a pot in the water and affecting all actual participating fishermen financially. The one thing I am not opposed to, is a pot limit. And If you look into all other Dungeness crab fisheries, from California to Alaska, they are all managed with a pot limit with every pot required to have a buoy tag. If there's going to be any change with more management in the North Pen Dungeness crab district for the 2023 season, the answer is not with a 10,000 pot cap. If anything, it should be with pot limit.

Thank you for your time on reading about my opinions and suggestions on Proposal 170

Kyle Watkins
Captain F/V Shellfish