

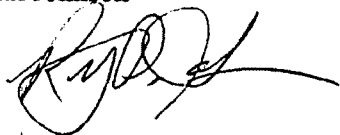
March 6, 2009

My name is Ryan Johnson, and I am a small boat fisherman from Kodiak. I am 36 years old and have fished out of Kodiak since 1993 and resided in Kodiak since 1997. Since 2001 I have participated in the Pacific Cod fishery using pots and longlines on board my very small 38 foot boat, the Cyclone. I currently own a Central Gulf LLP for the Cyclone that is valid for boats up to 46 feet in length, and all of my catch history has been with this LLP. In January of 2008 I purchased a new vessel, the Castle Cape, which is 48 feet long and came with another Central Gulf LLP that does not have any recent history. I've since learned that the NPFMC is attempting to revoke LLPs that don't have any history, which would effectively ban me from a fishery that I have participated in for seven years.

As a year-round resident and home-owner in Kodiak, I depend on several fisheries throughout the year to make my business plan work. Pot fishing for cod in the January and February seasons are crucial to my Winter survival and to the servicing of the debt that I have taken on with my fishing business. I have borrowed substantial sums over the years, not only for my vessels, but for my pots and gear such as haulers, launchers, bait-choppers etc. I employ local crewmembers who also live year-round in Kodiak and have families with small children. It is with great dismay as I watch the Council yet again run roughshod over the majority of Alaskan stakeholders for the good of only a few. Most of the beneficiaries of this action are large boatowners who are approaching or beyond retirement age, and who already received huge private quota allocations in the Halibut/ Sablefish IFQ Program and/or the Bering Sea Crab IFQ Program. If this action passes, the LLPs that are left will take on a much larger value, and I will be forced once again to take on more debt just to continue to participate.

I applaud the efforts of Representative Austerman and others to stand up for working Alaskans and oppose this harmful Council action.

Respectfully, Ryan Johnson

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ryan Johnson", with a stylized flourish at the end.