



Representative Alan Austerman

Alaska State Legislature

Representative_Alan_Austerman@legis.state.ak.us

Session:

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SPONSOR STATEMENT

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 21

House Joint Resolution 21 requests the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) to cease consideration of an amendment package that would require a Pacific cod endorsement for a license limitation program (LLP) license holder to participate in the Pacific cod fixed gear fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska. It also supports the continuation of the existing LLP program for groundfish in the Gulf of Alaska, and supports a policy of broad participation in the harvest of marine resources in the Gulf of Alaska.

The NPFMC is the federal regulatory body that oversees management of the federal fisheries off the coast of Alaska, in the area from 3 to 200 miles from shore. The NPFMC is currently considering regulatory action that would create and require Pacific cod “endorsements” on Gulf of Alaska fixed gear license limitation program (LLP) licenses in order to harvest the Pacific cod resource. (In this proposed action, “fixed gear” includes pot and longline gear types.) These endorsements would be placed on only those LLPs that have been used in a specific range of recent years. LLPs without Pacific cod endorsements could not be used to fish for Pacific cod. This action renders those LLPs functionally useless and valueless to their owners and increases the barriers for re-entry or new entrance into the Pacific cod fisheries. Of the LLPs that would be impacted by this action, more than 60% are estimated to be owned by Alaska residents.

Pacific cod is among the most important of the fishery resources harvested in federal waters in the Gulf of Alaska. Pacific cod is harvested by four different gear types, and on vessels ranging in size from very small (<30 feet) to relatively large (>100 feet). The greatest number of vessels harvesting Pacific cod in the Gulf of Alaska use pot, longline or jig gear, and the vast majority of these vessels are ≤60 feet in length. This is the core of the coastal Alaska resident fleet in the Gulf of Alaska. Pacific cod are also harvested using trawl gear.

The creation and requirement of Pacific cod endorsements for participation in federal Pacific cod fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska would create significant barriers for new entrants to Alaska’s commercial fisheries, and for re-entrance by fishermen who did not participate in a specific range of qualifying years. It would also impact a group of recent fishery entrants who made their fishery investments *after* the qualifying years. Impacted individuals would include young Alaskans and enterprising crewmen looking to advance into ownership positions in the industry.

~ Representing Alaska State House District 36 ~

Akhiok | Igiugig | Iliamna | Karluk | Kodiak | Kokhanok | Larsen Bay | Levelock
Newhalen | Nondalton | Old Harbor | Ouzinkie | Pedro Bay | Port Alsworth | Port Lions

This action is also likely to lead to consolidation of the fishing fleet and concentration of LLP ownership in fewer hands. Expected results of this action would include consolidation of the Gulf of Alaska Pacific cod fixed gear fleet, fewer crew jobs, less demand for support sector services in Alaska's coastal communities, and increased costs of entry into Gulf of Alaska fisheries.

In absence of a biological concern for resource sustainability, it is important to maintain fisheries with relatively low entry barriers to encourage and allow the entrance of the next generation of fishermen into Alaska's fisheries. While HJR21 carries no legal force, it put the Alaska Legislature on record as supporting a policy of broad participation in Gulf of Alaska groundfish fisheries.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 21

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES AUSTERMAN, Thomas, Ramras, Muñoz, Millett, Edgmon, Seaton, Wilson, Harris

Introduced: 2/27/09

Referred: House Special Committee on Fisheries, Resources

A RESOLUTION

1 **Requesting the North Pacific Fishery Management Council to cease consideration of an**
2 **amendment package that would require a Pacific cod endorsement for a license**
3 **limitation program license holder to participate in the Pacific cod fisheries in the Gulf of**
4 **Alaska.**

5 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

6 **WHEREAS** the Alaska seafood industry is the largest private sector employer in the
7 state; and

8 **WHEREAS** the commercial fishing industry generates the most revenue of any
9 renewable resource industry in the state; and

10 **WHEREAS** there are more than 125 communities in Alaska that depend on
11 commercial fisheries for their economic well-being; and

12 **WHEREAS** there are numerous interior Alaska communities and regional hubs like
13 Anchorage, Juneau, and Fairbanks that indirectly depend on commercial fisheries for their
14 economic well-being; and

15 **WHEREAS** commercial fisheries provide tax revenue to the state and municipalities;

1 and

2 **WHEREAS** commercial fishing vessel owners, skippers, crewmembers, processing
3 workers, and their families are residents of Alaska; and

4 **WHEREAS** many Alaska businesses provide goods and services to the commercial
5 fishing industry and exist for the support of the industry; and

6 **WHEREAS** the fishery resource in both state waters and federal waters off of Alaska
7 is a public resource; and

8 **WHEREAS** broad participation in the harvest of this public resource by Alaskans
9 supports stronger local economies; and

10 **WHEREAS** the fishery management in 900,000 square miles of ocean off the coast of
11 Alaska is managed by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council; and

12 **WHEREAS** federal fishery management programs implemented by the North Pacific
13 Fishery Management Council increasingly favor the award of limited access privileges, in the
14 form of individual transferable quotas, to individuals and corporations without requiring their
15 active participation in Alaska's commercial fisheries; and

16 **WHEREAS** these limited access privilege programs are also known as fishery
17 rationalization; and

18 **WHEREAS** these rationalized fishery management programs have led to significant
19 job losses and fishing fleet consolidation in Alaska's fisheries and coastal communities; and

20 **WHEREAS** these fishery management programs have caused significant negative
21 effects on businesses in coastal Alaska communities and regional hubs; and

22 **WHEREAS** the same fishery management programs have enabled many owners to
23 stop active participation in Alaska's commercial fisheries, while continuing to extract
24 significant income from the fisheries; and

25 **WHEREAS** federal fishery rationalization programs have been largely responsible for
26 the 35 percent decline in the number of commercial fishermen in the state since 1990; and

27 **WHEREAS**, in rationalized and consolidated fisheries, the costs of access to fishing
28 permits and individual transferable quotas have increased substantially and created significant
29 barriers to entry for new entrants in commercial fisheries; and

30 **WHEREAS**, because of these increased economic barriers, the median age of
31 Alaska's commercial fishermen has increased to 47 years of age; and

1 **WHEREAS** the fixed gear groundfish fisheries are among the last significant fisheries
2 in the Gulf of Alaska not to have been limited through a fishery rationalization program; and

3 **WHEREAS** fixed gear groundfish fisheries are typically prosecuted by small-boat
4 fishermen; and

5 **WHEREAS** Pacific cod is the most important species for fixed gear fishermen in the
6 Gulf of Alaska groundfish fisheries; and

7 **WHEREAS** access to these fisheries requires possession of a groundfish limited
8 license program permit; and

9 **WHEREAS** the possession of a groundfish limited license permit allows fishermen to
10 harvest all groundfish species in the Gulf of Alaska identified under federal law, including
11 Pacific cod; and

12 **WHEREAS** the North Pacific Fishery Management Council is considering placing
13 Pacific cod endorsements, a form of license restriction, on only those licenses that are
14 currently being used; and

15 **WHEREAS** placement of cod endorsements on currently active fixed gear licenses
16 would have the effect of rendering all other Gulf of Alaska fixed gear licenses valueless to
17 their owners; and

18 **WHEREAS** placement of cod endorsements on currently active fixed gear licenses
19 would preclude license holders without the endorsement from using their licenses to
20 participate in the Pacific cod fishery; and

21 **WHEREAS** elimination of currently inactive limited license program licenses or
22 placement of cod endorsements on currently active licenses would have nearly identical
23 effects, namely rendering all other limited license program licenses worthless to their owners;
24 and

25 **WHEREAS** this action would hinder fishermen from entering or reentering the
26 commercial fisheries for Pacific cod; and

27 **WHEREAS** Alaskans own an estimated 75 percent of the Central Gulf limited license
28 program permits and 65 percent of the Western Gulf limited license program permits that
29 would be affected by those actions; and

30 **WHEREAS** Governor Palin requested a halt in the progress of rationalization of the
31 groundfish fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska because of the likely negative effects on Alaskans;

1 and

2 **WHEREAS** the reduction of the number of limited license program permits or the
3 placement of cod endorsements on permits is a step toward fishery rationalization; and

4 **WHEREAS** the reduction of the number of limited license program permits by more
5 than 60 percent will consolidate the vessels in the fishery, reduce the number of participants
6 in the fishery, eliminate crew jobs, diminish the demand for shore side support goods and
7 services, increase the costs of entry to the fishery, and serve as a step toward rationalization of
8 the fishery; and

9 **WHEREAS** consolidation of vessels, reduction of participants, elimination of crew
10 jobs, decreased demand for shore side support goods and services, and the increased costs of
11 entry will cause harm to Alaska's fishery dependent communities and reduce commercial
12 fishing related revenue to these communities and other regional hubs in Alaska; and

13 **WHEREAS** the Alaska State Legislature is a voice on behalf of its constituents, the
14 citizens of the State of Alaska;

15 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature supports a policy of broad
16 participation in the harvest of marine resources in the Gulf of Alaska; and

17 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature supports the retention of
18 the current license limitation program so that Gulf of Alaska fixed gear license limitation
19 program license holders will be able to continue participation in all groundfish fisheries; and

20 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature requests the North Pacific
21 Fishery Management Council to cease consideration of an amendment package that would
22 require a Pacific cod endorsement for a license limitation program license holder to
23 participate in the Pacific cod fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska.

24 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the members of the North Pacific Fishery
25 Management Council; Robert D. Mecum, Acting Administrator, Alaska Region, National
26 Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries; the Honorable Denby Lloyd,
27 Commissioner, Department of Fish and Game; and Cora Crome, Fisheries Policy Advisor,
28 Office of the Governor.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2009 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 1
 Bill Version: HJR 21
 (H) Publish Date: 3/12/2009

Identifier (file name): 26-LS0668/E
 Title: GROUND FISH FISHERIES LICENSES
 Sponsor: Representative Alan Austerman
 Requester: House Fisheries Committee
 Dept. Affected: RDU
 Component:
 Component Number:

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

	Appropriation Required	Information					
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2010	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015
Personal Services							
Travel							
Contractual							
Supplies							
Equipment							
Land & Structures							
Grants & Claims							
Miscellaneous							
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES							
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CHANGE IN REVENUES ()							
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FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts							
1003 GF Match							
1004 GF							
1005 GF/Program Receipts							
1037 GF/Mental Health							
Other Interagency Receipts							
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2009) cost: _____

POSITIONS

Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary							

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Prepared by: House Fisheries Committee
 Division: _____
 Approved by: Representative Bryce Edgmon, Chair, House Fisheries Committee

Phone 907-465-4451
 Date/Time 3/10/2009 10:00 a.m.
 Date 3/10/2009

North Pacific Fishery Management Council, December 2008
C-2(a) Gulf of Alaska Fixed Gear Recency Motion

The Council directed staff to develop an analysis based upon the following purpose and need statement, components, and options for initial public review. Final action is scheduled for April 2009.

C-2(a) Gulf of Alaska Fixed Gear Recency

Western GOA and Central GOA Pacific cod fisheries are subject to intense competition, particularly during the A season, when fish are aggregated and of highest value. Competition among fixed gear participants in the Western GOA and Central GOA Pacific cod fisheries has increased for a variety of reasons, including increased market value of Pacific cod products, a declining ABC/TAC, increased participation by harvesters displaced from other fisheries and introduction of capital that has been accrued from participation in rationalized fisheries. Additionally, fishery policies have created incentives that encourage non-traditional efficiency improvements for the less than 60 ft LOA vessel class. The possible future entry of latent effort and disproportionate vessel efficiency would have detrimental effects on LLP holders that have exhibited participation in, and dependence on, the fixed gear Pacific cod fisheries. Many fixed gear vessel owners have made significant investments, have long catch histories, and are dependent on the Western GOA and Central GOA Pacific cod resources. These long-term participants need protection from those who have little or no recent history and who have the ability to increase their participation in the Pacific cod fisheries. At the same time, retaining Federal waters opportunities for small community quota eligible (CQE) communities dependent on access to a range of fishery resources and expanding opportunities in Federal waters for small capacity jig operations is valued to promote community protections at a level that imposes minimal impact on historic catch shares of recent participants.

The intent of the proposed amendment is to prevent the future entry or re-entry of latent fixed gear groundfish fishing capacity that has not been utilized in recent years into the Pacific cod fisheries, and to preserve the traditional vessel operational efficiencies within the fisheries. This requires prompt action to promote stability in the fixed gear sectors of the GOA Pacific cod fisheries, and is expected to be implemented concurrently with the division of GOA Pacific cod among sectors which is currently under consideration. However, this action cannot address continued growth in the waters managed by the State of Alaska.

ALTERNATIVE 1.

No Action. No changes would be made to the current License Limitation Program.

ALTERNATIVE 2.

Add non-severable gear-specific Pacific cod endorsements to fixed gear licenses. Pacific cod endorsements would limit entry into the directed Pacific cod fisheries in Federal waters in the Western and Central Gulf of Alaska.

Component 1— Areas included

Western Gulf

Central Gulf (current LLP endorsement includes West Yakutat)

- Different options may be applied to each management area.

Component 2— Identify and define sectors

The sector definitions for awarding Pacific cod endorsements may be different from those used for the GOA Pacific cod sector split action. The purpose of sector definitions in this action is to allow the Council to select different catch thresholds for the different gear types, operation types, and vessel lengths. Individual licenses may qualify for any combination of a jig, hook-and-line, and pot endorsement if the license meets the respective threshold(s) for the appropriate gear type, operation type, and vessel length.

- Hook-and-line CP
Option: Hook-and-line CP ≥ 125
Hook-and-line CP < 125
- Hook-and-line CV
Option: Hook-and-line ≥ 60
Hook-and-line < 60
- Pot CP
- Pot CV
Option: Pot CV ≥ 60
Pot CV < 60
- Jig
Exempt vessels using jig gear from the LLP requirement (including the Pacific cod endorsement requirement) that use a maximum of 5 jigging machines, 5 lines, and 30 hooks per line or one line of 150 hooks.

Option: Exempt vessels participating with fixed gear in the Western GOA B season directed Pacific cod fishery from the Pacific cod endorsement requirement.

Suboption: Exempt vessels using pot gear only.

Component 3 – Qualifying years

Option 1: 2000-2006

Option 2: 2002-2006

Option 3: Add the qualifying period January 1, 2007 through:

Suboption 1: June 4, 2008

Suboption 2: December 8, 2008

- Either of these suboptions will be selected in addition to one of the qualifying periods in Option 1 or Option 2.

Suboption 3: If an LLP license qualifies only when the supplemental range of years in Suboption 1 or Suboption 2 is included, any Pacific cod endorsements granted to licenses under these suboptions would be extinguished upon transfer of the LLP license to another vessel or owner.

- If a GOA hook-and-line catcher processor LLP license holder was a voluntary non-participant in the Freezer Longliner Coalition informal PSC co-op efforts of 2006, 2007, or 2008, and does not qualify under Component 3, Options 1, 2, or 3, the LLP would not be extinguished. If Pacific cod endorsements are a result of this action in the GOA hook-and-line CP sector, the LLP would receive a Pacific cod endorsement.

Component 4 – Catch thresholds

Thresholds shall be based on legally retained catch in the aggregate during all of the qualifying years in the Federal and parallel fisheries (excluding IFQ catch). Separate and distinct thresholds may be determined for each defined sector.

Option 1: All directed Pacific cod 1, 3, or 5 landings (resulting in a Pacific cod endorsement)

Option 2: All directed Pacific Cod 5, 10, 25, or 100 mt (resulting in a Pacific cod endorsement)

Option: Hardship provision. A GOA fixed gear LLP holder who had 5 or more Pacific cod landings in 1999, but had a vessel on which the LLP was used sink in 1999 or 2000, shall be credited with qualifying history so as to obtain a Pacific cod endorsement.

Directed Pacific cod catch is defined as landings made when the directed Pacific cod fisheries are open. For purposes of catch accounting, licenses are credited with deliveries or processing activity recorded up to 7 days after the directed season closes.

Component 5 – Stacked license provisions

Where there are multiple LLPs registered to a single vessel, also known as ‘stacking’ of LLPs, groundfish harvest history will be fully credited to all stacked licenses, each carrying its own qualifying endorsements and designations.

Component 6 – Capacity/efficiency limits to CV and CP fixed gear LLPs

Add a width restriction (efficiency restriction) on each CV and CP fixed gear LLP license that is eligible to access Pacific cod under this action. The width restriction would be 1 ft of width for each 3 ft of length, and is based on the LOA of the vessel assigned to the license on December 8, 2008. The licenses that are assigned to vessels on December 8, 2008 that exceed the width restriction will be grandfathered at their present LOA. For vessels under construction on December 8, 2008, the width restriction for the license shall be equal to the vessel width upon completion. Vessels would be required to report width measurements to RAM.

Option: Add a simple gross tonnage maximum to licenses.

Component 7 – CQE community resident exemption

CQE community residents currently holding latent, non-qualifying, LLP permits shall retain their LLP and area endorsement(s) and be exempt from the Pacific cod endorsement requirement. A hook-and-line or pot gear endorsement shall be made through (a) a one-time designation at the time the endorsement is issued or (b) designated at the time the first Pacific cod landing is made based on the gear type used. The CQE community resident’s LLP, shall not be leased, and can only be transferred to an individual who has lived continuously in the permit holder’s CQE community for 24 consecutive months prior to the transfer and who intends to remain a resident of the community. Residency shall be affirmed annually upon renewal. If a CQE community LLP holder with a restricted transfer LLP is no longer a resident of the CQE community or dies without a designated qualified LLP community beneficiary, the community CQE shall designate a qualified individual in the CQE community to hold the restricted transfer LLP.

Option: Restrict exemption to LLPs with a MLOA endorsement less than 60 feet.

Additional information requested

- Additional information on the number of identical stacked licenses that meet the catch thresholds (Component 5).
- Additional information on possible approaches to identifying a maximum length to width ratio or maximum simple gross tonnage for purposes of adding a capacity endorsement to licenses (Component 6).

March 1, 2009

Representative Alan Austerman
House of Representatives
Alaska State Legislators
120 4th Street Room 3
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Representative Austerman,


I am a nineteen year old, 3rd generation Alaskan fisherman. I grew up in Kodiak and have been going out on commercial fishing boats since I was three and had the chance to go seining in Alitak with my dad. After graduating high school and attending a couple of semesters in college at UAA, I decided to come back home and fish the federal and state cod fisheries this year. In looking ahead into my future, I am interested in pursuing fishing opportunity in Kodiak and continuing my college career in the off seasons to explore direct marketing opportunity.

However, within this plan I am faced with the reality that opportunity for my generation is quickly diminishing. With the way things are looking, there may not be enough affordable entry level opportunity in enough fisheries to achieve my long term goal. The IFQ rights to fish halibut and sablefish are out of my range and I don't expect much to change there. Now there is an action at the NPFMC to further limit the number of licenses to fish for cod in federal waters. It seems this action is driven by the big industry players that made their mark in fishing under open access and now want to lock up the rights.

Where does this leave people like me? Without being able to answer what will happen to future generations that want to go fishing and live in Kodiak, the State should not support this action moving forward. It is not the job of federal managers to look out for the well being of coastal Alaskans, it is the State's. I have attended a few of these NPFMC meetings and found it all so complicated I did not know where to begin. I know that is true for most of my friends. They don't think the direction we are going in fishing is right but they, like me, don't really know what to do about it.

In reading through the resolution HJR 21, to cease the action to extinguish latent licenses and all the reasons why, I fully support the resolution. At this time we need to stand back and answer some of the basic questions, like the opportunity in the future for kids like me, before charging on ahead. I'm willing to go out on the water and work hard to make a living, but there needs to be a door left open to do it.

Sincerely,



Charlie Peterson

March 2, 2009

Representative Alan Austerman
State Capitol, Room 434
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
(907)465-4956 Fax

Re: HJR 21-Grounfish Fisheries Licenses

Representative Austerman:

Thank you for your sponsorship of HJR-21, a bill which may hold the key, to the future of many coastal communities and coastal fishermen. As you know, ground fish(Pacific Cod) is an important component of Coastal Alaska's diversified fishing fleets. Maintaining access to these fish stocks is essential to the very survival for many, "boots on deck" active fishermen, fishery support businesses, and local economies.

This bill makes a strong statement to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council(NPFMC) that the continuation on the road to more rationalized fisheries is not supported by the highest levels of the State of Alaska's government. Viable alternatives to LLP reduction already exist in the form of trip catch limits, tiered permits, exclusive registration, gear limitations, and fishing hours restrictions. None of which are currently being looked at as solutions by the council.

My family and I own/operate a small 45' combination vessel which is home ported in Kodiak. We employ between 6-8 resident crewmembers each year. Our primary fisheries have been halibut, dungeness/tanner crab, and ground fish. All of these fisheries are necessary for us to be solvent and provide year round employment.

I have personally been fishing Pacific Cod for twenty-two years(crewmember-4yrs., hired skipper-14 yrs., boat owner/operator-4yrs). LLP reduction/cod endorsements as written, would exclude us from future participation. Myself and many other active fishermen fall through the cracks in the federal plan.

Regards;

Frank Miles

Frank Miles

F.V Lady Lu-Miles Fish Company Inc.
Box 2744

Kodiak, AK 99615

(907)486-8204 PH

Rep. Alan Austerman

From: Iver Holm [skiffman88@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, March 06, 2009 1:27 PM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman
Subject: HJR 21

Honorable Representative Alan Austerman,

My name is Iver Holm and I am a lifelong resident of Kodiak. I am only 21 years old but have fished for many years crewing for salmon seine and set net as well as tanner crab, herring, halibut, and cod jigging. I am in the process of purchasing a 38' boat.

I strongly support HJR 21. My father has an LLP that I could use with my boat but it doesn't have recent history so the pending N.P.F.M.C action would render it useless for cod fishing. LLP's with history are priced so high that I wouldn't be able to afford one for many years, if ever. While I can jig for cod in the state waters season, being able to pot fish for cod in the earlier federal season may be necessary for my boat to be successful. It is clear that being able to switch fisheries based on market conditions and availability of fish is necessary to be successful in small boat fisheries.

I hope that HJR 21 receives support in the Senate and is heeded by the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council. Thank you for your efforts regarding these important issues.

Sincerely,

Iver Holm

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

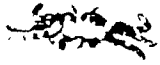


NATIVE VILLAGE OF PORT LIONS

PORT LIONS TRADITIONAL TRIBAL COUNCIL

P.O. Box 69
 PORT LIONS, AK 99550
 PH: (907) 454-2234
 FX: (907) 454-2434

March 6, 2009



To:

Representative Alan Austerman	120 4 th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax: 465-4956
Representative Bill Thomas Jr.	120 4 th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	465-2652
Representative Jay Ramras	120 4 th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	465-2070
Representative Cathy Munoz	120 4 th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	465-2273
Representative Charisse Millett	120 4 th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	465-2069
Representative Bryce Edgmon	120 4 th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	465-3445
Representative Paul Seaton	120 4 th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	465-3472
Representative Peggy Wilson	120 4 th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	465-3175
Representative John Harris	120 4 th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	465-3799
Representative Marki Neuman	120 4 th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	465-4822



Subject: HJR 21 – A Resolution requesting the North Pacific Management Council to cease consideration of an amendment package that would require a Pacific code endorsement for a license limitation program to participate in the Pacific cod fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska.

Dear Representatives: Austerman, Thomas, Ramras, Munoz, Millett, Edgmon, Seaton, Wilson, Harris and Neuman,



The Native Village of Port Lions strongly supports House Joint Resolution #21 that you have co-sponsored.

We are deeply concerned that current North Pacific Fishery Management Council action to reduce existing federal groundfish licenses for both fixed gear and trawl gear, combined with a proposed sector split is not good for our coastal communities and not good for Alaska.



The life blood of our community and many other communities in the Gulf of Alaska depend upon access to the marine resources that lie on our doorsteps. Our communities are continually losing access to local fisheries and it doesn't matter whether you call this rationalization or something else – the result is the same. If we continue down this same path at some point in the future all our federal waters Gulf fisheries could be fully owned by Outside interests.

March 4, 2009

Representative Alan Austerman
House of Representatives
Alaska State Legislature
120 4th Street Room 3
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Representative Austerman,

I strongly support HJR 21. I am a twenty three year old fisherman from the Kodiak village of Port Lions. I have been fishing since I was eleven years old, starting with my dad, Harry (Fuzzy) Nelson. I have seined salmon and herring, longlined halibut and cod, pot fished and trawled. Last year I purchased an LLP and fished it with my dad's boat, the F/V Anna Lisa. I bought a boat of my own last summer and have been fishing hard as crew to help me with my start up costs. Currently, I am a crewman on the F/V Elizabeth E with Capt Stormy Stutes. Fishing is a way of life for me, but I don't want to spend my life as crewman. I need to be able to grow. But each time a new regulation or rule is created that gives away the resources of the Gulf of Alaska to the big players, it diminishes the opportunity I need to make a life for myself. The LLP I bought will be extinguished if the NPFMC takes its planned action at the April meeting. It does not have specified recency to qualify it for continued use under the NPFMC's preferred alternatives. Each new regulation closing off opportunity for people like me helps kill communities like Port Lions, Ouzinkie, Larsen Bay, and Old Harbor. We are Alaska. We live here. We need opportunities to fish. We are not asking for the ownership rights to the North Pacific, we are asking for a right to earn a living in our communities and to contribute to the employment opportunities for our neighbors.

Thank you for HJR 21, perhaps you can help keep the big money interests from extinguishing Alaska's coastal citizens' right to earn a living from the resources right outside our front doors.

Sincerely,

Michael Nelson

HJR 21 Support Letter

03/09/09

Page 2

We encourage the Alaska Legislature to pass HJR 21 and thereby send a strong statement to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council that their amendment package is not good for Alaska communities and should be scrapped. The Council should heed the guidance in HJR 21 and cease considering the LLP recency amendment package. Any attempt to address similar issues in the future should also address as a primary goal how the fishing economies of Gulf of Alaska Communities can be maintained or strengthened as a result of the amendment package.

We thank you for your concern and effort on this very important matter.

Sincerely,



David D. Goade, President & CEO
Akhiok-Kaguyak, Inc.

cc: The Honorable Sarah Palin, Governor, State of Alaska
Denby Lloyd, Commissioner of Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Cora Crome, Fisheries Policy Advisor, Office of the Governor
John Moller, Rural Advisor, Office of the Governor



Chugach Regional Resources Commission

Chenega Bay

Eyak

Nanwalek

Port Graham

Qutebek
Native Tribe

Tatidok

Valdez Native
Tribe

March 6, 2009

To:

Representative Alan Austerman	120 4 th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-4956
Representative Bill Thomas Jr.	120 4 th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-2652
Representative Jay Ramras	120 4 th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-2070
Representative Cathy Munoz	120 4 th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-2273
Representative Charisse Millett	120 4 th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-2069
Representative Bryce Edgmon	120 4 th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-3445
Representative Paul Seaton	120 4 th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-3472
Representative Peggy Wilson	120 4 th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-3175
Representative John Harris	120 4 th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-3799
Representative Mark Neuman	120 4 th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-4822

Subject: HJR 21 – A Resolution requesting the North Pacific Fishery Management Council to cease consideration of an amendment package that would require a Pacific cod endorsement for a license limitation program to participate in the Pacific cod fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska.

Dear Representatives: Austerman, Thomas, Ramras, Munoz, Millett, Edgmon, Seaton, Wilson, Harris, and Neuman,

The Chugach Regional Resources Commission strongly supports House Joint Resolution #21 that you have co-sponsored.

We are deeply concerned that current North Pacific Fishery Management Council action to reduce existing federal groundfish licenses for both fixed gear and trawl gear, combined with a proposed sector split is not good for our coastal communities and not good for Alaska.

The life blood of our community and many other communities in the Gulf of Alaska depend upon access to the marine resources that lie on our doorsteps. Our communities are continually losing access to local fisheries and it doesn't matter whether you call this rationalization or something else – the result is the same. If we continue down this same path at some point in the future all our federal waters Gulf fisheries could be fully owned by Outside interests.

We encourage the Alaska Legislature to pass this resolution and thereby make a strong statement to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council that this amendment package is not good for Alaska communities and should be scrapped. The Council should heed the guidance in HJR 21 and cease considering the LLP recency amendment package. Any attempt to address similar issues in the future should also address as a primary goal how the fishing economies of Gulf of Alaska Communities can be maintained or strengthened as a result of the amendment package.

We thank you for your concern and effort on this very important matter.

Sincerely,

Patrick Norman for

Patrick Norman
Chairman
Chugach Regional Resources Commission

CC:

The Honorable Sarah Palin, Governor, State of Alaska
Denby Lloyd, Commissioner of Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Cora Crome, Fisheries Policy Advisor, Office of the Governor
John Moller, Rural Advisor, Office of the Governor

465-2332
465-2332
465-3532
465-3532



HAIDA CORPORATION

Representative Alan Austerman
120 4th St
Juneau, AK 99802

March 10, 2009

To: Representative Alan Austerman

Subject: HJR 21- A resolution requesting North Pacific Fishery Management Council to cease considering an amendment that package that would require a Pacific cod endorsement for a license limitation to participate in the Pacific Cod Fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska.

Dear Mr. Austerman:

The Haida Corporation Board of Directors supports HJB 21 that you have co-sponsored. We are deeply concerned that the Current North Pacific Fishery Management Council actions to reduce the existing federal ground fish licenses for the fixed gear and trawl gear, in combination with the proposed sector split is not in the best interest of Alaska nor it's fishing communities.

Our communities in the fishing industry of Alaska depend solely on the resources surrounding our coastal communities. Our community and other communities as well, continually lose access to our local fisheries. The results are the same no matter what label is applied to this issue, at some point in the future, ALL our federal Gulf Fisheries Waters would be owned by outside interests. This would not benefit our own fisheries.

We would like to urge the Alaska Legislature to pass this resolution, thus making a strong statement to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council the that this amendment is not good for Alaska and it's communities and should not be made. The North Pacific Fishery Management Council needs to heed the guidance in HJR 21 and drop all consideration regarding the HJP amendment package.

We thank you for your time and consideration in this important issue.

Sincerely,

Rick Lang
President
Haida Corporation

Native Village of Port Graham

PORT GRAHAM VILLAGE COUNCIL
P.O. BOX 5510 • PORT GRAHAM • ALASKA 99603-5510
907-284-2227 FAX 907-284-2222

March 4, 2009

To:

Representative Alan Austerman	120 4 th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-4956
Representative Bill Thomas Jr.	120 4 th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-2652
Representative Jay Ramras	120 4 th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-2070
Representative Cathy Munoz	120 4 th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-2273
Representative Charisse Millett	120 4 th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-2069
Representative Bryce Edgmon	120 4 th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-3445
Representative Paul Seaton	120 4 th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-3472
Representative Peggy Wilson	120 4 th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-3175
Representative John Harris	120 4 th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-3799
Representative Mark Neuman	120 4 th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-4822

Subject: HJR 21 – A Resolution requesting the North Pacific Fishery Management Council to cease consideration of an amendment package that would require a Pacific cod endorsement for a license limitation program to participate in the Pacific cod fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska.

Dear Representatives: Austerman, Thomas, Ramras, Munoz, Millett, Edgmon, Seaton, Wilson, Harris, and Neuman,

The Port Graham Village Council strongly supports House Joint Resolution #21 that you have co-sponsored.

We are deeply concerned that current North Pacific Fishery Management Council action to reduce existing federal groundfish licenses for both fixed gear and trawl gear, combined with a proposed sector split is not good for our coastal communities and not good for Alaska.

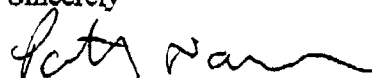
The life blood of our community and many other communities in the Gulf of Alaska depend upon access to the marine resources that lie on our doorsteps. Our communities are continually losing access to local fisheries and it doesn't matter whether you call this rationalization or something else – the result is the same. If we continue down this same path at some point in the future all our federal waters Gulf fisheries could be fully owned by Outside interests.

We encourage the Alaska Legislature to pass this resolution and thereby make a strong statement to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council that this amendment package is not good for Alaska communities and should be scrapped. The Council should heed the guidance in HJR 21 and cease considering the LLP recency amendment package. Any attempt to address similar

issues in the future should also address as a primary goal how the fishing economies of Gulf of Alaska Communities can be maintained or strengthened as a result of the amendment package.

We thank you for your concern and effort on this very important matter.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Patrick Norman".

Patrick Norman Chief Port Graham Village Council



Akhiok-Kaguyak, Inc.

1400 W. Benson Blvd., Suite 425 • Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Phone: (907) 258-0604 • Fax: (907) 258-0608

March 9, 2009

To: Representative Alan Austerman
Representative Bill Thomas Jr.
Representative Jay Ramras
Representative Cathy Munoz
Representative Charisse Millett
Representative Bryce Edgmon
Representative Paul Seaton
Representative Peggy Wilson
Representative John Harris
Representative Mark Neuman

Subject: HJR 21 – A Resolution requesting the North Pacific Fishery Management Council to cease consideration of an amendment package that would require a Pacific cod endorsement for a license limitation program to participate in the Pacific cod fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska.

Dear Representatives Austerman, Thomas, Ramras, Munoz, Millett, Edgmon, Seaton, Wilson, Harris, and Neuman,

Akhiok-Kaguyak, Inc. strongly supports House Joint Resolution 21 that you have co-sponsored. Akhiok-Kaguyak, Inc. is the Alaska Native Village Corporation for the Alutiiq villages of Akhiok and Kaguyak on the southeast coast of Kodiak Island.

We are deeply concerned that the current North Pacific Fishery Management Council action to reduce existing federal ground fish licenses for both fixed gear and trawl gear, combined with a proposed sector split is not good for our coastal communities and not good for Alaska.

The life blood of our village and many other communities in the Gulf of Alaska depend upon access to the marine resources that lie on our doorsteps. Our communities are continually losing access to local fisheries and it does not matter whether it is called rationalization or something else – the result is the same. If we continue down this same path at some point in the future all our federal water Gulf fisheries could be fully owned by Outside interests.



Gulf of Alaska Coastal Communities Coalition (GOAC3)
 PO Box 201236, Anchorage Alaska 99520
 Phone: (866) 561-7633 or (907) 561-7633 Fax: (907) 561-7634
 Web: www.goac3.org Email: goaccc@alaska.net

March 4, 2009

To:

Representative Alan Austerman	120 4 th St. Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-4956
Representative Bill Thomas Jr.	120 4 th St. Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-2652
Representative Jay Ramras	120 4 th St. Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-2070
Representative Cathy Munoz	120 4 th St. Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-2273
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Representative Bryce Edgmon	120 4 th St. Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-3445
Representative Paul Seaton	120 4 th St. Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-3472
Representative Peggy Wilson	120 4 th St. Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-3175
Representative John Harris	120 4 th St. Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-3799
Representative Mark Neuman	120 4 th St. Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-4822

Subject: HJR 21 – A Resolution requesting the North Pacific Fishery Management Council to cease consideration of an amendment package that would require a Pacific cod endorsement for a license limitation program to participate in the Pacific cod fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska.

Dear Representatives: Austerman, Thomas, Ramras, Munoz, Millett, Edgmon, Seaton, Wilson, Harris, and Neuman,

The Board of Directors of the Gulf of Alaska Coastal Communities Coalition (GOAC3) strongly supports House Joint Resolution #21 that you have co-sponsored.

For far too long the push toward rationalization of fisheries in the North Pacific has been made without consideration of the negative impacts on Gulf of Alaska fisheries-dependent communities. Although, Governor Palin has made it very clear that further rationalization in the Gulf of Alaska should not be pursued, it is evident that the LLP (license limitation program) fixed gear recency amendment package that is now before the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC), combined with the recent travel LLP reduction and the proposed "sector split" is a very real step on the path toward full rationalization without benefit of application of federally mandated community protections.

Gulf of Alaska coastal communities have continually lost access to fisheries resources as a direct result of regulatory action. Many of our communities, that have thrived for millennia, could conceivably become extinct as a result of the last 30 years of regulatory impacts.

We are concerned that pre-Statehood conditions have already returned to our adjacent federal waters. The potential for all federal fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska to be owned by Outside interests in the not-too-distant future is a "clear and present danger."


GOAC3 - Resolution IJR 21 Page 2 3/9/2009

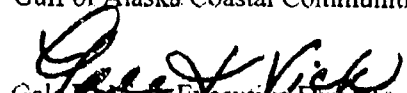
The Gulf of Alaska does not have benefit of a workable community quota program, such as the Western Alaska CDQ (community development quota) that would "anchor" a certain amount of fishing effort in Alaska. The CQE (community quota entity) program for the purchase of halibut and sablefish quota share in the Gulf has not had benefit of either initial issuance of quota or a fiscal note to enable the purchase of quota. Despite the efforts of many over the last several years, the sharp increase in the price of quota has made it infeasible for most Gulf communities to utilize the CQE program for their benefit. The GOAC3 is part of a group effort to work toward pursuing needed language changes and creative funding. But it is only one part of a progressive problem.

We encourage the Alaska Legislature to pass this resolution. We further encourage this Resolution to be a message to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council that the proposed amendment package is not good for Alaska communities and that any future amendments need to be considered within the context of whether the amendment harms or strengthens affected communities.

Thank you for your effort on behalf of this extremely important issue.

Sincerely,


Freddie Christiansen, Chairman
Gulf of Alaska Coastal Communities Coalition


Gale R. Vick, Executive Director
Gulf of Alaska Coastal Communities Coalition

Emil Christiansen Sr.
Old Harbor Native Corp.

Richard George
CCTHITA

Robert Henrichs
NV of Eyak

Patrick Kosbruk
NV of Perryville

Johnny Lind
NV of Chignik Lake

Charles McCallum
Lake & Pen. Borough

Jackie Muller
Ouzinkie Native Corp.

Pat Norman
Port Graham Tribal Council

Arnold Olsen
Konlag, Inc.

Conrad Peterson
Old Harbor Tribal Council

Howard Torsen
Ouzinkie Native Corp.

Charles Totemoff
Chetega Corp.

CC:

Denby Lloyd, Commissioner of Fish and Game
Cora Crome, Fisheries Policy Advisor
John Moller, Rural Advisor
Sarah Palin, Governor

465-2332
465-3532
465-3532
465-3532

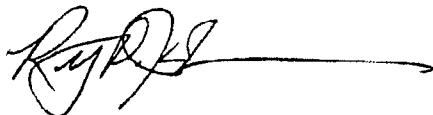
March 9, 2009

Dear Governor Palin,

I am writing to express my support for HJR21 which formalizes the State of Alaska's opposition to LLP reduction. The NPFMC is once again putting working Alaskans out of work and reducing new opportunity to near impossible levels. I am a long term participant in the Pacific Cod fishery and own an LLP that will qualify under the proposed reduction. However, my history was earned by working through some very hard winters on my old boat which was only 38 feet long. I made a modest upgrade to a 48 foot boat in January of 2008, and this new boat came with an LLP that I thought would allow me to continue my long term participation. Under the Council's proposed alternatives, my new LLP will be rendered useless and I will either have to cease participation or be forced to purchase a new valid LLP which will undoubtedly be very expensive. Many of the recipients of these new valid LLPs are older boat owners who already received a huge advantage when they were given free halibut IFQs and/or free crab IFQs. It is frustrating for a younger fisherman like myself to have to continue to borrow and buy while these graying boat owners, who don't even have to pull their boots on anymore, continue to be given huge advantages by the Federal government.

The NPFMC has recently published the Agenda for the upcoming meetings beginning March 30th. They have now scheduled the LLP reduction for the first item on the agenda, and they have listed it as "final action". There is no doubt that this was done to preempt any action by the State on HJR21. Hopefully, HJR21 can pass through its Committee hearings by then but this is doubtful. Is there any way that you can persuade the Council to postpone action until HJR21 is properly heard? I employ two hardworking local crewmembers who both have families with small children, and we need to be able to participate in Winter cod fishing in our local waters to survive. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully Yours, Ryan Johnson



Cc: Denby Lloyd, Alan Austerman

Ryan Johnson
1325 Mission Rd.
Kodiak, AK 99615
rpi@alaska.com
907-539-1972
F/V Castle Cape


March 6, 2009
House of Representatives
Subject: HJR 21
Page 2 of 2 (continued)

We encourage the Alaska Legislature to pass this resolution and thereby make a strong statement to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council that this amendment package is not good for Alaska communities and should be scrapped. The Council should heed the guidance in HJR 21 and cease considering the LLP recency amendment package. Any attempt to address similar issues in the future should also address as a primary goal how the fishing economies of Gulf of Alaska Communities can be maintained or strengthened as a result of the amendment package.

We thank you for your concern and effort on this very important matter.

Sincerely,

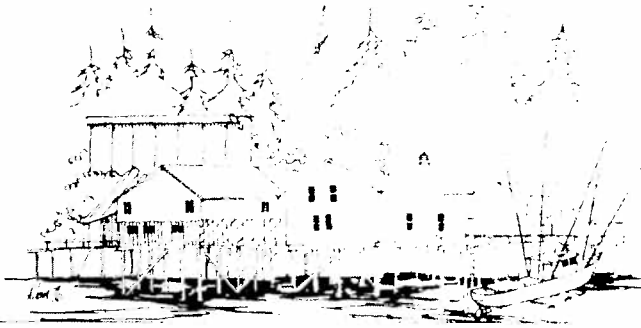
NATIVE VILLAGE OF PORT LIONS
IVAN D. LUKIN, PRESIDENT


Susan Boskofsky
Administrator

cc:

The Honorable Sarah Palin, Governor, State of Alaska	465-2332
Denby Lloyd, Commissioner of Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game	465-2332
Cora Crome, Fisheries Policy Advisor, Office of the Governor	465-3532
John Moller, Rural Advisor, Office of the Governor	465-3532

SB/mrw



City of Pelican

PO BOX 737 - PELICAN, ALASKA 99822 PHONE: (907) 465-2332 FAX: (907) 465-2332 E-Mail: city@pelicancity.net WEBSITE: www.pelicancity.net

March 9, 2009

Dear Legislators:

I am writing in support of House Joint Resolution #21 and I support the Gulf of Alaska Coastal Communities Coalition concerns that the current North Pacific Fishery Management Council action to reduce existing federal groundfish licenses for both fixed gear and trawl gear, combined with a proposed sector split, will significantly and adversely affect Alaska's coastal communities, and have a negative ripple effect throughout Alaska.

The viability of Alaska coastal communities depends upon access to marine resources. These communities are under a constant barrage of regulatory modifications that continually cause local fishermen to lose access to local fisheries. Whether this is rationalization or reallocation – the result is the same. As this continues then in the near future much of the FCZ in the Gulf of Alaska fisheries will be held by outside interests as our local communities lie dormant.

I encourage you to support this resolution and thereby make a strong statement to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council that this amendment package be rejected as it will have a significant adverse affect on our local communities. The NPFMC should heed the guidance in HJR 21 and cease consideration of an amendment package that requires a Pacific cod endorsement for a license limitation program license holder to participate in the Pacific cod fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska. Further efforts to address similar issues should recognize the socio-economies of Alaska's fishing communities and take actions that will maintain and strengthen community sustainability as a result of the proposed amendment process

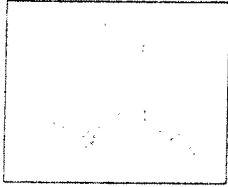
Thank you for your concern and effort on this very important matter.

Sincerely,

Patricia Phillips
Mayor

CC:

The Honorable Sarah Palin, Governor, State of Alaska	465-2332
Denby Lloyd, Commissioner of Alaska Department of Fish and Game	465-2332
Cora Crome, Fisheries Policy Advisor, Office of the Governor	465-3532
John Moller, Rural Advisor, Office of the Governor	465-3532



OUZINKIE NATIVE CORPORATION

**P.O. Box 89
Ouzinkie, Alaska 99644**

Phone: (907) 680-2208 Fax: (907) 680-2268 Email: ouzinkie@starband.net

March 6, 2009

Representative Alan Austerman
Representative Bill Thomas Jr.
Representative Jay Ramrus
Representative Cathy Munoz
Representative Charisse Millett
Representative Bryce Edgmon
Representative Paul Seaton
Representative Peggy Wilson
Representative John Harris
Representative Mark Neuman
120 4th Street
Juneau, Alaska 99802

RE: HJR 21 – A Resolution requesting the North Pacific Fishery Management Council to cease consideration of an amendment package that would require a Pacific cod endorsement for a license limitation program to participate in the Pacific cod fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska

Dear Representatives Austerman, Thomas, Ramrus, Munoz, Millett, Edmon, Seaton, Wilson, Harris and Neuman:

Ouzinkie Native Corporation strongly supports House Joint Resolution 21 that you have co-sponsored.

We are deeply concerned that current North Pacific Fishery Management Council action to reduce existing federal ground-fish licenses for both fixed gear and trawl gear, combined with a proposed sector split, is not good for our coastal communities and not good for Alaska.

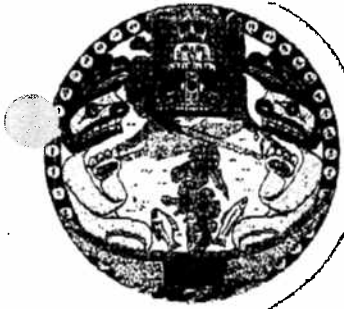
The life blood of our community and many other communities in the Gulf of Alaska depend upon access to local fisheries and it does not matter whether you call this rationalization or something else – the result is the same. If we continue down this same path, at some point in the future all our federal waters Gulf fisheries could be fully owned by Outside interests.

We encourage the Alaska Legislature to pass this resolution and thereby make a strong statement to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council that this amendment package is not good for Alaska communities and should be scrapped. The Council should heed the guidance in HJR 21 and cease considering the LLP recency amendment package. Any attempt to address similar issues in the future should also address as a primary goal how the fishing economies of Gulf of Alaska Communities can be maintained or strengthened as a result of the amendment package.

We thank you for your concern and effort on this very important matter.

Best regards,

Michael G. O'Connor,
President & CEO



ORGANIZED VILLAGE OF KASAAN

P. O. Box 26-Kasaan
(907) 542-2230

• Ketchikan, Alaska 99950-0340
• (fax) 907-542-3006

March 6, 2009

To:

Representative Alan Austerman	120 4 th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-4956
Representative Bill Thomas Jr.	120 4 th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-2652
Representative Jay Ramras	120 4 th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-2070
Representative Cathy Munoz	120 4 th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-2273
Representative Charisse Millett	120 4 th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-2069
Representative Bryce Edgman	120 4 th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-3445
Representative Paul Seaton	120 4 th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-3472
Representative Peggy Wilson	120 4 th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-3175
Representative John Harris	120 4 th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-3799
Representative Mark Neuman	120 4 th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-4822

Subject: HJR 21 – A Resolution requesting the North Pacific Fishery Management Council to cease consideration of an amendment package that would require a Pacific cod endorsement for a license limitation program to participate in the Pacific cod fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska.

Dear Representatives: Austerman, Thomas, Ramras, Munoz, Millett, Edgmon, Seaton, Wilson, Harris, and Neuman,

The Organized Village of Kasaan strongly supports House Joint Resolution #21 that you have co-sponsored.

We are deeply concerned that current North Pacific Fishery Management Council action to reduce existing federal groundfish licenses for both fixed gear and trawl gear, combined with a proposed sector split is not good for our coastal communities and not good for Alaska.

The life blood of our community and many other communities in the Gulf of Alaska depend upon access to the marine resources that lie on our doorsteps. Our communities are continually losing access to local fisheries and it doesn't matter whether you call this rationalization or something else – the result is the same. If we continue down this same path at some point in the future all our federal waters Gulf fisheries could be fully owned by Outside interests.

We encourage the Alaska Legislature to pass this resolution and thereby make a strong statement to the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council that this amendment package is not good for Alaska communities and should be scrapped. The Council should heed the guidance in HJR 21 and cease considering the LLP recent amendment package. Any attempt to address similar issues in the future should also address as a primary goal how the fishing economies of Gulf of Alaska Communities can be maintained or strengthened as a result of the amendment package.

We thank you for your concern and effort on this very important matter

Sincerely,



Richard Peterson, President
Organized Village of Kasaan

CC:

The Honorable Sarah Palin, Governor, State of Alaska	465-2332
Denby Lloyd, Commissioner of Alaska Department of Fish and Game	465-2332
Cora Crome, Fisheries Policy Advisor, Office of the Governor	465-3532
John Moller, Rural Advisor, Office of the Governor	465-3532



LARSEN BAY TRIBAL COUNCIL

PHONE (907) 847-9907
FAX (907) 847-2307

PO Box 50
LARSEN BAY
ALASKA 99624

March 6, 2009

To:

Representative Alan Austerman	120 4th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-4956
Representative Bill Thomas Jr.	120 4th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-2652
Representative Jay Ramras	120 4th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-2070
Representative Cathy Munoz	120 4th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-2273
Representative Charisse Millett	120 4th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-2069
Representative Brycc Edgmon	120 4th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-3445
Representative Paul Seaton	120 4th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-3472
Representative Peggy Wilson	120 4th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-3175
Representative John Harris	120 4th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-3799
Representative Mark Neuman	120 4th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-4822

Subject: HJR 21- A resolution requesting the North Pacific Fishery Management Council to cease consideration of an amendment package that would require a Pacific cod endorsement for a license limitation program to participate in the Pacific cod fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska.

Dear Representatives: Austerman, Thomas, Ramras, Munoz, Millett, Edgmon, Seaton, Wilson, Harris, and Neuman,

The Larsen Bay Tribal Council strongly supports House Joint Resolution #21 that you have co-sponsored.

We are deeply concerned that current North Pacific Fishery Management Council action to reduce existing federal ground fish licenses for both fixed gear and trawl gear, combined with a proposed sector split is not good for our coastal communities and not good for Alaska.

The life blood of our community and many other communities in the Gulf of Alaska depend upon access to the marine resources that lie on our doorsteps. Our communities are continually losing access to local fisheries and it doesn't matter whether you call this rationalization or something else- the result is the same. If we continue down this same path at some point in the future all our federal waters Gulf fisheries could be fully owned by Outside interests.

We thank you for your concern and effort on this very important matter.

Sincerely,

<Your Signature>

<Your Name, Title>

<Your Organization>

Dan M^Cey

Dan M^Cey

City of AKhiok

City manager/Vice mayor

PH 1-907-836-2229

Fax 1-907-836-2209

CC:

The Honorable Sarah Palin, Governor, State of Alaska

Denby Lloyd, Commissioner of Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Cora Crome, Fisheries Policy Advisor, Office of the Governor

John Muller, Rural Advisor, Office of the Governor

465-2332

465-2332

465-3532

465-3532

Native Village of Chignik Lagoon
PO Box 09
Chignik Lagoon, AK 99565
907-840-2281
FAX 840-2217

March 4, 2009

To:		
Representative Alan Austerman	120 4 th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-4956
Representative Bill Thomas Jr.	120 4 th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-2652
Representative Jay Ramras	120 4 th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-2070
Representative Cathy Munoz	120 4 th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-2273
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Representative John Harris	120 4 th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-3799
Representative Mark Neuman	120 4 th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-4822

Subject: HJR 21 - A Resolution requesting the North Pacific Fishery Management Council to cease consideration of an amendment package that would require a Pacific cod endorsement for a license limitation program to participate in the Pacific cod fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska.

Dear Representatives: Austerman, Thomas, Ramras, Munoz, Millett, Edgmon, Seaton, Wilson, Harris, and Neuman,

The Chignik Lagoon Village Council strongly supports House Joint Resolution #21 that you have co-sponsored.


We are deeply concerned that current North Pacific Fishery Management Council action to reduce existing federal groundfish licenses for both fixed gear and trawl gear, combined with a proposed sector split is not good for our coastal communities and not good for Alaska.

The life blood of our community and many other communities in the Gulf of Alaska depend upon access to the marine resources that lie on our doorsteps. Our communities are continually losing access to local fisheries and it doesn't matter whether you call this rationalization or something else - the result is the same. If we continue down this same path at some point in the future all our federal waters Gulf fisheries could be fully owned by Outside interests.

We encourage the Alaska Legislature to pass this resolution and thereby make a strong statement to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council that this amendment package is not good for Alaska communities and should be scrapped. The Council should heed the guidance in HJR 21 and cease considering the LLP recency amendment package. Any attempt to address similar issues in the future should also address as a primary goal how the fishing economies of Gulf of Alaska Communities can be maintained or strengthened as a result of the amendment package.

We thank you for your concern and effort on this very important matter.

Sincerely,


Clemens Grunert
Chignik Lagoon Village Council President

CC:
The Honorable Sarah Palin, Governor, State of Alaska 465-2332
Denby Lloyd, Commissioner of Alaska Department of Fish and Game 465-2332
Cora Crome, Fisheries Policy Advisor, Office of the Governor 465-3532
John Moller, Rural Advisor, Office of the Governor 465-3532



Representative Alan Austerman
120 4th St.
Juneau, Alaska 99802

March 9, 2009

To: Representative Alan Austerman

Subject: HJR 21 – A Resolution requesting the North Pacific Fishery Management Council to cease consideration of an amendment package that would require a Pacific cod endorsement for a license limitation program to participate in the Pacific cod fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska.

Dear Representative: Austerman,

Shaan-Seet Inc. strongly supports House Joint Resolution #21 that you have co-sponsored.

We are deeply concerned that current North Pacific Fishery Management Council action to reduce existing federal groundfish licenses for both fixed gear and trawl gear, combined with a proposed sector split is not good for our coastal communities and not good for Alaska.

The life blood of our community and many other communities in the Gulf of Alaska depend upon access to the marine resources that lie on our doorsteps. Our communities are continually losing access to local fisheries and it doesn't matter whether you call this rationalization or something else – the result is the same. If we continue down this same path at some point in the future all our federal waters Gulf fisheries could be fully owned by Outside interests.

We encourage the Alaska Legislature to pass this resolution and thereby make a strong statement to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council that this amendment package is not good for Alaska communities and should be scrapped. The Council should heed the guidance in HJR 21 and cease considering the LLP recency amendment package. Any attempt to address similar issues in the future should also address as a primary goal how the fishing economies of Gulf of Alaska Communities can be maintained or strengthened as a result of the amendment package.

We thank you for your concern and effort on this very important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Carle", written over a horizontal line.

James H. Carle
President
Shaan-Seet, Inc

P.O. Box 690 • Craig, Alaska 99921 • 907-826-3251 • Fax 907-826-3980



City of Port Lions Administrative Office
P.O. Box 110 Port Lions, Alaska 99550 • Phone: (907) 454-2332 • Fax: (907) 454-2420
E-mail: cityofportlions@hotmail.com

Dear Representative Alan Austerman,

The City of Port Lions strongly supports House Joint Resolution #21 that you have co-sponsored.

We are deeply concerned that current North Pacific Fishery Management Council action to reduce existing federal groundfish licenses for both fixed gear and trawl gear, combined with a proposed sector split is not good for our coastal communities and not good for Alaska.

The life blood of our community and many other communities in the Gulf of Alaska depend upon access to the marine resources that lie on our doorsteps. Our communities are continually losing access to local fisheries and it doesn't matter whether you call this rationalization or something else - the result is the same. If we continue down this same path at some point in the future all our federal waters Gulf Fisheries could be fully owned by Outside interests.

We encourage the Alaska Legislature to pass this resolution and thereby make a strong statement to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council that this amendment package is not good for Alaska communities and should be scrapped. The Council should heed the guidance in HJR 21 and cease considering the LLP regency amendment package. Any attempt to address similar issues in the future should also address as a primary goal how the fishing economies of Gulf of Alaska communities can be maintained or strengthened as a result of the amendment package.

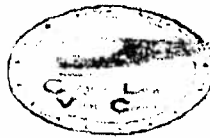
We thank you for your concern and effort on this very important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Andresen".

Steve Andresen, Mayor

City of Port Lions



March 9, 2009

To:

Representative Alan Austerman	120 4 th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 907-465-4956
Representative Bill Thomas Jr.	120 4 th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 907-465-2652
Representative Jay Ramras	120 4 th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 907-465-2070
Representative Cathy Munoz	120 4 th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 907-465-2273
Representative Charisse Millett	120 4 th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 907-465-2069
Representative Bryce Edgmon	120 4 th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 907-465-3445
Representative Paul Seaton	120 4 th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 907-465-3472
Representative Peggy Wilson	120 4 th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 907-465-3175
Representative John Harris	120 4 th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 907-465-3799
Representative Mark Neuman	120 4 th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 907-465-4822

Subject: HJR 21 – A resolution requesting the North Pacific Fishery Management Council to cease consideration of an amendment package that would require a Pacific cod endorsement for a license limitation program to participate in the Pacific cod fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska.

Dear Representatives: Austerman, Thomas, Ramras, Munoz, Millett, Edgmon, Seaton, Wilson, Harris, and Neuman,

The Chignik Lake Traditional Council strongly supports House Joint Resolution # 21 that you have co-sponsored.


We are deeply concerned that current North Pacific Fishery Management Council action to reduce existing federal groundfish licenses for both fixed gear and trawl gear, combined with a proposed sector split is not good for our coastal communities and not good for Alaska.

The life blood of our community and many communities in the Gulf of Alaska depend upon access to the marine resources that lie on our doorsteps. Our communities are continually losing access to local fisheries and it doesn't matter whether you call this rationalization or something else – the result is the same. If we continue down this same path at some point in the future all our federal waters Gulf fisheries could be owned by Outside interests.

We encourage the Alaska Legislature to pass this resolution and thereby make a strong statement to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council that this amendment package is not good for Alaska communities and should be scrapped. The Council should heed the guidance in HJR 21 and cease considering the LLP recency amendment package. Any attempt to address similar issues in the future should also address as a primary goal how the fishing economies of Gulf of Alaska Communities can be maintained or strengthened as a result of the amendment package.

We thank you for your concern and effort on this very important matter.

Sincerely,



John Lind
Chignik Lake Traditional Council President

CC:

The Honorable Sarah Palin, Governor, State of Alaska
Denby Lloyd, Commissioner of Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Cora Crome, Fisheries Policy Advisor, Office of the Governor
John Moller, rural Advisor, Office of the Governor

907-465-2332
907-465-2332
907-465-3532
907-465-3532

509 1st Street
P.O. Box 1388

Cordova, Alaska 99574-1388

Ph (907) 424-7738 * Fax (907) 424-7739



10,000 years in our Traditional Homeland, Prince William Sound & The Copper River Delta

March 4, 2009

To:

Representative Alan Austerman	120 4 th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-4956
Representative Bill Thomas Jr.	120 4 th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-2652
Representative Jay Ramras	120 4 th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-2070
Representative Cathy Munoz	120 4 th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-2273
Representative Charisse Millett	120 4 th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-2069
Representative Bryce Edgmon	120 4 th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-3445
Representative Paul Seaton	120 4 th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-3472
Representative Peggy Wilson	120 4 th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-3175
Representative John Harris	120 4 th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-3799
Representative Mark Neuman	120 4 th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-4822

Subject: HJR 21 - A Resolution requesting the North Pacific Fishery Management Council to cease consideration of an amendment package that would require a Pacific cod endorsement for a license limitation program to participate in the Pacific cod fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska.

Dear Representatives: Austerman, Thomas, Ramras, Munoz, Millett, Edgmon, Seaton, Wilson, Harris, and Neuman,

The Native Village of Eyak strongly supports House Joint Resolution #21 that you have co-sponsored.

We are deeply concerned that current North Pacific Fishery Management Council action to reduce existing federal groundfish licenses for both fixed gear and trawl gear, combined with a proposed sector split is not good for our coastal communities and not good for Alaska.

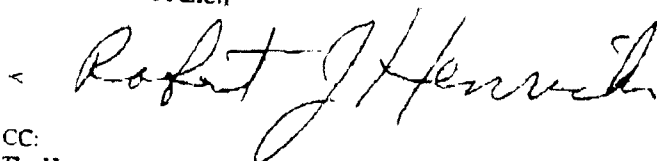
The life blood of our community and many other communities in the Gulf of Alaska depend upon access to the marine resources that lie on our doorsteps. Our communities are continually losing access to local fisheries and it doesn't matter whether you call this rationalization or something else - the result is the same. If we continue down this same path at some point in the future all our federal waters Gulf fisheries could be fully owned by Outside interests.

We encourage the Alaska Legislature to pass this resolution and thereby make a strong statement to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council that this amendment package is not good for Alaska communities and should be scrapped. The Council should heed the guidance in HJR 21 and cease considering the LLP recency amendment package. Any attempt to address similar issues in the future should also address as a primary goal how the fishing economics of Gulf of Alaska Communities can be maintained or strengthened as a result of the amendment package.

We thank you for your concern and effort on this very important matter.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Henrichs
President
Traditional Council



CC:

The Honorable Sarah Palin, Governor, State of Alaska
Donby Lloyd, Commissioner of Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Cora Crome, Fisheries Policy Advisor, Office of the Governor
John Moller, Rural Advisor, Office of the Governor

465-2332
465-2332
465-3532
465-3532



KONIAG
INCORPORATED

March 5, 2009

<p>To:</p> <p>Representative Alan Austerman Representative Bill Thomas Jr. Representative Jay Ramras Representative Cathy Munoz Representative Charisse Millett Representative Bryce Edgmon Representative Paul Seaton Representative Peggy Wilson Representative John Harris Representative Mark Neuman</p>	<p>Fax 465-4956 Fax 465-2652 Fax 465-2070 Fax 465-2273 Fax 465-2069 Fax 465-3445 Fax 465-3472 Fax 465-3175 Fax 465-3799 Fax 465-4822</p>
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Subject: HJR 21

Dear Representatives Austerman, Thomas, Ramras, Munoz, Millett, Edgmon, Seaton, Wilson, Harris, and Neuman:

Koniag Inc, strongly supports House Joint Resolution #21 that you have co-sponsored. We are deeply concerned that current North Pacific Fishery Management Council action toward reducing existing federal ground fish licenses for both fixed gear and trawl gear, combined with the proposed sector split is not good for our coastal communities and not good for Alaska.

As it was for generations of Alutiiq people before us, the life blood of our village and regional hub communities depend upon access to marine resources. Fisheries are the only economic engine in many coastal communities; the source of small business development and self reliance. The opportunity to participate in fisheries represents many things to Kodiak including thriving resident families and increasing regional infrastructure.

We encourage the Alaska Legislature to pass this resolution and thereby make a strong statement to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council that their present amendment package is not good for Alaska's communities.

Sincerely,

Charlie Powers, Vice President Corporate Affairs

<p>cc: The Honorable Sarah Palin, Governor, State of Alaska Denby Lloyd, Commissioner of Alaska Department of Fish and Game Cora Crome, Fisheries Policy Advisor, Office of the Governor John Moller, Rural Advisor, Office of the Governor</p>	<p>455-2332 455-2332 455-3532 455-3532</p>
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104 Center Ave, Suite 205
 Kodiak, AK 99615
 (907) 486-2530
 FAX (907) 486-3325
 www.koniag.com



Chugach Regional Resources Commission

Chenega Bay

Eyak

Nanwalek

Port Graham

Qutekeak
Native Tribe

Taddelek

Valdez Native
Tribe

March 6, 2009

To:

Representative Alan Austerman	120 4 th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-4956
Representative Bill Thomas Jr.	120 4 th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-2652
Representative Jay Ramras	120 4 th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-2070
Representative Cathy Munoz	120 4 th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-2273
Representative Charisse Millett	120 4 th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-2069
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Representative Paul Seaton	120 4 th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-3472
Representative Peggy Wilson	120 4 th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-3175
Representative John Harris	120 4 th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-3799
Representative Mark Neuman	120 4 th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-4822

Subject: HJR 21 – A Resolution requesting the North Pacific Fishery Management Council to cease consideration of an amendment package that would require a Pacific cod endorsement for a license limitation program to participate in the Pacific cod fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska.

Dear Representatives: Austerman, Thomas, Ramras, Munoz, Millett, Edgmon, Seaton, Wilson, Harris, and Neuman,

The Chugach Regional Resources Commission strongly supports House Joint Resolution #21 that you have co-sponsored.

We are deeply concerned that current North Pacific Fishery Management Council action to reduce existing federal groundfish licenses for both fixed gear and trawl gear, combined with a proposed sector split is not good for our coastal communities and not good for Alaska.

The life blood of our community and many other communities in the Gulf of Alaska depend upon access to the marine resources that lie on our doorsteps. Our communities are continually losing access to local fisheries and it doesn't matter whether you call this rationalization or something else – the result is the same. If we continue down this same path at some point in the future all our federal waters Gulf fisheries could be fully owned by Outside interests.

We encourage the Alaska Legislature to pass this resolution and thereby make a strong statement to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council that this amendment package is not good for Alaska communities and should be scrapped. The Council should heed the guidance in HJR 21 and cease considering the LLP recency amendment package. Any attempt to address similar issues in the future should also address as a primary goal how the fishing economies of Gulf of Alaska Communities can be maintained or strengthened as a result of the amendment package.

We thank you for your concern and effort on this very important matter.

Sincerely,

Patrick Norman for

Patrick Norman
Chairman
Chugach Regional Resources Commission

CC:

The Honorable Sarah Palin, Governor, State of Alaska	465-2332
Denby Lloyd, Commissioner of Alaska Department of Fish and Game	465-2332
Cora Crome, Fisheries Policy Advisor, Office of the Governor	465-3532
John Moller, Rural Advisor, Office of the Governor	465-3532

Verna Adams



From: Rep. Alan Austerman
Sent: Thursday, March 05, 2009 1:42 PM
To: Cliff Stone; Erin Harrington
Subject: FW: HJR 21

From: pomega@gci.net [mailto:pomega@gci.net]
Sent: Wednesday, March 04, 2009 10:45 AM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman
Subject: HJR 21

March 3, 2009

Representative Alan Austerman

Regarding HJR 21

I am writing to you today to object to you getting the legislature involved in pacific cod endorsements. We feel that the North Pacific Management Council has the back ground on this matter and that it is more appropriate for the legislature to focus on the problems that we are having with the pacific cod fishery that takes place in State Waters.

The way matters stand after this years fishery we are wondering if an action for limited entry in State waters isn't long over due and possibly would be closing the door with way too many participants already in the game.

As you probably realize Ken has been running the Point Omega out of Kodiak since it was new in 1970. It is 72' and we have been closed out of the very same p cod pot fishery we helped to develop here around Kodiak starting back in 1986. Most State water fisheries are geared toward the salmon fleet that has had State limited entry for years and has a vessel length of no more that 58'. Kodiak is the last place the Point Omega can actually fish the State water P cod fishery due to our size. We can't travel west and take part in any other area so with bigger boats that no longer do Bering Sea crab looking for places to fish we are getting a lot of help catching cod here during the State water fishery and some extra in the federal due in part to people trying to get a permit of some kind.

This action that the council has been working on does no more than to protect the resource and those of us who actually do depend on the cod fishery to be able to support a crew and our business here in our home port of Kodiak. If the legislature thinks they are doing the community a favor by jumping in on this issue that has been on the table for several years now I think they may be doing more harm than good. There may be, as always, some people in Kodiak that are not happy about the recency endorsement package, but I ask you, if you actually understand that there is entry level participation in the jig fishery as part of this package and any fixed gear vessel is able to fish in state waters during the federal fishery and any pot or jig vessel is able to participate in the state water fishery, and will be able to... endorsement or no endorsement.

3/9/2009

The amount of fixed gear LLP's that are being discussed in this action is huge, mostly they were originated by p cod deliveries made during halibut and sablefish operations and most of these LLP's have never been dependent on the p cod fishery at all. In fact they haven't even tried to make a delivery even though we had several years where rationalization was a possibility. The threshold for catch criteria in Component 4 of the recency (endorsement) package hardly shows dependence if you are actually trying to make a living at cod fishing. Once again I would like to point out that there is no such endorsement being recommended for the jig fishery and that is open to all.

People don't seem to have a problem with the limited entry program for salmon or herring, if you want to fish it and you never did before you buy a permit, in this case you would find a permit with an endorsement for the right area. It makes sense to protect the resource by limiting the amount of effort. If you think about the salmon fishery and the herring fishery and compare what is being done here it is much the same. The resource is getting smaller and the ability to have over 800 permits targeting p cod in the CGOA would have negative impacts on the resource and on those of us who have been fishing here since this fishery was first a viable fixed gear fishery. If we continue to get the kind of big boat participation that is now coming around here since crab rationalization we will soon be unable to make enough money fishing cod to make it worth the effort. This action will still leave way more permits with P cod endorsements than there are people who fish on a yearly basis so there is still opportunity for people to get in as abundance dictates.

I didn't mean to write you a novel but we are some of your constituents and we feel that you are taking sides with out giving us a proper heads up or an opportunity to hear what kind of influences have brought you to this point.

We also take exception to your whereas the median age of fishermen is now 47 years old. Does this mean that, as we age, we are no longer considered as important and that we should roll up and die and let some other person take our place? Sounds like some kind of discrimination to me. We are trying to protect some traditional ways of life here in our coastal community, we live here and our kids live here and we run our business out of here, are you sure you know enough about what you are trying to stop to make this decision for us?

Please let the NPFMC do what they are supposed to and deal with this issue in a timely fashion before we all go broke. It isn't really feasible for us to slap on some jig gear and try to make a living here while you let other people who arrive with cash in hand from other rationalization programs and take over the p. cod pot fishery we have been dependent on for the last 23 years.

Sincerely,

Chris and Ken Holland
PO Box 608
Kodiak, AK 99615
F/V POINT OMEGA

3/9/2009

To: House Fishery Committee
Re: House Joint Resolution # 21
Date: March 9, 2009

My name is Julie Bonney and I live in Kodiak. I represent fishermen that have License Limitation Permits (LLPs) that are endorsed for fixed gear in the GOA. Some of these fishermen will not receive a Pacific cod endorsement while other will if the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council or NPFMC) implements the recency action. Overall these fishermen realize that the Council must manage the fishery resource for sustainability, management easy and economics of the fishery. We do not support House Joint Resolution 21.

The resolution pits Alaskans against Alaskans both individually as well as individuals within communities. Those Alaskan's that are historically dependent on the Federal Pacific cod fishery against those Alaskan's that have not participated in the fishery. Basically this resolution puts the Alaska Legislators squarely in the middle of fish allocation decisions. However, you have not been involved in the lengthy Council public process over the last two years to understand the debate. The resolution is poorly written, contains many inaccuracies and totally misrepresents what the Council recency action hopes to accomplish.

The reality is that the recency amendment package tries to balance protecting historically dependent license holders yet create entry level opportunities for new participants at a modest level. Below is a set of questions and responses that will help you understand whether this action is good for Alaska and compares this action with the State of Alaska limited entry system that is in place for many state fisheries.

Who wins and loses based on the recency threshold of one landing for the time period 2000 to 2006?

- 1) The recency action will increase Alaska ownership for those licenses that receive a P cod endorsement in the overall license pool (see table 1 attached), assumes recency threshold of 2000 to 2006.

For the WGOA, there are presently 264 endorsed licenses, 58% of these licenses are held by Alaskans and 42% are held by non-Alaskans. If the recency P cod endorsement amendment package moves forward then Alaska ownership will increase by 11% to 69% and non-Alaska ownership will decrease by 11% to 31%.

For the CGOA, there are presently 883 CGOA endorsed licenses, 69% are held by Alaskans and 31% are held by non-Alaskans. If the recency P cod endorsement amendment package moves forward with one landing 2000 to 2006 then Alaska ownership will increase by 11% to 80% and non-Alaska ownership will decrease by 11% to 20%.

- 2) The recency action will not disproportionately disadvantage small boat vessels (see table 2 attached), assumes recency threshold of 2000 to 2006.

For the WGOA there are presently 154 licenses for the vessels less than 60 foot and 110 licenses for vessels 60 feet or greater, 58% versus 42% respectively. After recency the number of licenses with P cod endorsements would be approximately 76 licenses for less than 60 feet and 23 licenses for 60 feet and greater, 77% and 23% respectively. The pool of licenses will increase by 19% for the less than 60 foot vessel class.

For the CGOA there are presently 702 licenses for the vessels less than 60 foot and 181 licenses for vessels 60 feet or greater, 80% versus 20% respectively. After recency the number of licenses with P cod endorsements would be approximately 240 licenses for less than 60 feet and 59 licenses for 60 feet and

greater, 80% and 20% respectively. The pool of licenses available for the less than 60 foot vessel class will not change.

- 3) The recency action will remove a large portion of the Catcher processor licenses endorsed for the Western and Central GOA. Removing Catcher Processors will reduce competition with the Catcher Vessel sector for the available quota. Catcher Processors compete with the Catcher vessel sector if they are less than 125 ft and process less than 126 MT per week for the available Pacific cod quota. In the CGOA CP licenses that could participate in the Pacific cod fisheries would be reduced by 80% and in the WGOA by 48% if one landing from 2000 to 2006 is the recency threshold.

Why are there so many licenses available in the GOA?

The Limited License Program (LLP) limits access to the Federal groundfish in the GOA. Fishing under the program began in 2000. The LLP defined a general qualification period (GQP) and an endorsement qualification period (EQP) both of which must have been satisfied. The GQP period is from Jan 1988 – June 27, 1992 requiring one landing of any groundfish and the EQP requiring one landing for < 60 ft vessels and one landing in at least two calendar years from Jan 1, 1992 to June 17, 1995 for vessels equal to or greater than 60 feet. Vessels that landed two to three groundfish, which could be taken incidentally in other fisheries, qualified a vessel for a license. This was a minimal threshold that created a large number of licenses and gave license holders the opportunity to invest and participate in the groundfish fisheries. The action now being considered by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council examines whether LLP holders actually took advance of the opportunity. The recency action is considering minimal thresholds for a period of up to 2000 to 2008, a nine year period.

Presently, there are more LLP licenses available than the fishery can support. National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has stated that if all LLPs participated in the Pacific cod fishery that they would have no choice but to close the fishery since it would be unmanageable.

How does this action compare to the limited entry system in place for State fisheries?

The state of Alaska limited entry system that is in place for many state fisheries such as salmon and herring is no different than the license limitation system in place for federal fisheries for the Gulf of Alaska. In either case license holders' race for the available common quota; quota is not allocated to individuals.

In the first stage of the state limited entry system, a fishery is limited by adopting a "maximum number" of permits and issuing those permits to the highest ranking applicants under a hardship ranking ("point") system. By law and court decision, the maximum number for a fishery should be no less than the highest participation level in any one of the four years immediately prior to the qualification date.

In the second stage of limited entry, the law directs the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (commission or CFEC) to determine an "optimum number" for the fishery. The optimum number should represent a reasonable balance of three general standards specified in the law (see AS 16.43.290). The three standards include economic, resource conservation, and management concerns.

The federal action is much less restrictive than state limited entry system since the qualification period for the federal action at a minimum is five years (2002 – 2006) and at a maximum is nine years (2000 to 2008) compared to four years for the state system. In other words, state limited entry is more restrictive with regards to recent participation than what is being considered for the federal action.

How many licenses will remain after a recency action? (See table 4)

The number of licenses that will be endorsed for Pacific cod would be appropriately 200% of the average number of licenses that has participated in the fishery from 2000 to 2008 if the threshold time period of 2000 to 2006 was adopted.

Jig sector entry level opportunity?

The NPFMC is considering exempting jig gear from any LLP requirements or Pacific cod endorsements. In addition the Council is considering allocating this sector a non-historical share of the Pacific cod federal quota in the sector split amendment package. Typically Jig gear cannot compete with the other sectors during the winter months and typically jig gear harvests less than 1% of the available federal quota. The sector split amendment is contemplating allocating 5% of the federal TAC to these participants. Most jig gear operations do not have an LLP but instead participate inside the state parallel zone of 0 to 3 miles. With the exemption vessels would have access to fishing grounds from 0 to 200 miles and up to 5% of the federal quota.

For Alaskan's this opportunity is much more viable then leaving a bunch of licenses in the fixed gear sectors available for any US citizen to access. Jig gear is really only viable for Alaskan residents since the fishery is not efficient enough for non-residents. Weather impacts the fishery and trip ex-vessel values are usually less than \$2,500 per trip. It only makes sense for residences that live in Alaskan coastal communities. Additionally, cod jigging is a good supplemental income for many fishing operations in the winter and spring months. If the Council stops action on the recency action then the jig sector opportunities would most likely be stopped since this is part of the trade off for the overall action of recency and sector splits.

How can fishermen enter the Pacific cod fishery?

There are many methods to access the Pacific cod resource in the GOA besides receiving a Pacific cod endorsement for an LLP. These options included:

- 1) Fish in the parallel fishing zone without a cod endorsed LLP.
- 2) Participate in the State of Alaska Pacific cod fisheries which have been allocated 25% of the federal Acceptable Biological Catch limit.
- 3) Buy a LLP with an endorsement from another license holder.
- 4) Participate in the newly created Jig fishery (if both the recency and sector split actions move forward).
- 5) Participate in the WGOA B season which would allow an LLP holder to participate (no P cod endorsement required).

Why protect License holders?

According to Alaska statute "Economically healthy fishery" is defined in AS 16.43.990(2) as follows:

(2) "Economically healthy fishery" means a fishery that yields a sufficient rate of economic return to the fishermen participating in it to provide for, among other things, the following:

(A) Maintenance of vessels and gear in satisfactory and safe operating condition;

And

(B) Ability and opportunity to improve vessels, gear and fishing techniques, including, when permissible, experimentation with new vessels, new gear, and new techniques.

Allowing excessive entry will not provide for an economically healthy fishery. Data in the Council analysis for gross revenues data indicate that the majority of fixed gear catcher vessel and catcher processor licenses that did not have any qualified fixed gear landing during the proposed qualifying period elected to participate in other Alaska fisheries during this period.

Out of 264 Western GOA licenses, there are 171 licenses that did not have any qualified landings during 2000-2006. However, 144 of the 171 licenses had landings in other Alaska fisheries. Western GOA licenses that did not have directed Pacific cod landings, but were active in other fisheries, had revenues mainly from the IFQ halibut (35.4%) and sablefish (21.4%) fisheries, and the BSAI trawl fisheries (31.1%). Less than 1% of revenues were from GOA Federal (0.8%) or State waters (0.3%) fixed gear fisheries. In contrast, most Western GOA licenses that had at least one fixed gear groundfish landing during 2000-2006 also participated in the State waters Pacific cod fisheries (72 of 93 licenses), and many licenses had landings in the Central GOA fixed gear Federal fisheries (20 licenses). The majority of active Western GOA licenses also had shellfish, salmon, and IFQ halibut landings. Gross revenues for licenses with qualified Western GOA landings were from IFQ halibut landings (29.5%), shellfish (33.4%), and salmon (19.9%). Notably, GOA trawl groundfish fisheries comprised 18.8% of revenues for licenses with at least one qualified landing, and landings from the Western GOA directed Pacific cod fishery comprised only 11.0% of gross revenues.

Of 883 Central GOA licenses, 614 licenses did not have at least one directed Pacific cod landing during 2000-2006; 500 of these non-qualified licenses had landings in other Alaska fisheries. Similar to nonqualified Western GOA licenses, the majority of revenues by these licenses were from IFQ halibut (35.0%) and sablefish (21.3%), and the BSAI trawl fisheries (13.6%). Only a small proportion of revenues by these licenses were from the fixed gear groundfish fisheries in the Western GOA (0.7%) or from the GOA State waters Pacific cod fisheries (1.4%). Most Central GOA licenses that made at least one directed Pacific cod landing during 2000-2006 also participated in the halibut IFQ fisheries (226 of 269 licenses). These licenses also fished for salmon (164 licenses), IFQ sablefish (141 licenses), State GOA Pacific cod (140 licenses), and shellfish (123 licenses). Revenues by active licenses were from halibut IFQ landings (45.1%), followed shellfish (10.3%). Directed Pacific cod landings from the Central GOA comprised 10.0% of gross revenues by Central GOA licenses with at least one qualified landing during 2000-2006.

When comparing annual gross revenues per license, the most apparent difference between catcher vessel licenses with directed Pacific cod landings and licenses without qualified landings is that they are participating in a different suite of fisheries. Western GOA CV licenses with at least one qualified CV landing during 2000-2006 had annual gross revenues of \$274,608 per license. In contrast, Western GOA CV licenses without qualified landings had substantially higher revenues, averaging \$622,658 per license. There was not a large difference between annual gross revenues for Central GOA CV licenses with qualified fixed gear landings (\$319,458) and without qualified landings (\$353,067). Many of the fisheries that non-qualified licenses participate in are difficult for Pacific cod dependent license holders to enter. Entry for the following fisheries -- IFQ sablefish, IFQ halibut, IFQ BSAI crab, AFA pollock and state limited entry fisheries such as salmon and herring -- all would come at a substantial cost to gain access for participation. Allowing other non-dependent LLPS to enter the GOA Pacific cod fishery seems with limited costs seems wholly unfair to these economically depend fixed gear participation.

In conclusion my member fishermen do not support HJR #21. We believe the appropriate forum to advocate for fish allocations and management of fisheries resources is at the respective fishery management bodies – the Alaska Board of Fisheries and the North Pacific Fishery Management Council. Please feel free to contact me if you have questions regarding the fixed gear recency amendment package.

Sincerely,
Julie Bonney
Tel: 907-486-3033
e-mail: jbonney@gci.net

The data below is extracted from the most recent fixed gear recency analysis by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council and can be found on the web at:

http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/npfmc/current_issues/pcod/fixedgearrecency309.pdf.

Table 1. Comparison of residency of Catcher Vessel LLPs – Alaskan versus Non-Alaskans – All licenses versus licenses that would receive a Pacific cod endorsement with a directed Pacific cod landing for 2000 to 2006

	Total # of Fixed gear LLPs		Fixed gear LLPs w 1 landing	
	WG endorse	Percentage	1 landing	Percentage
WGOA				
Alaska	153	58%	64	69%
Oregon	8	3%	1	1%
Washington	92	35%	26	28%
Other States	11	4%	2	2%
Non-Alaskan TOT	111	42%	29	31%
Grand Total	264	100%	93	100%

	Total # of Fixed gear LLPs		Fixed gear LLPs w 1 landing	
	CGOA endorse	Percentage	1 landing	Percentage
CGOA				
Alaska	607	69%	215	80%
Oregon	48	5%	11	4%
Washington	183	21%	21	8%
Other States	45	5%	22	8%
Non-Alaskan TOT	276	31%	54	20%
Grand Total	883	100%	269	100%

Table 2. Comparison of < 60 foot and > = 60 foot Catcher Vessel LLPs All licenses versus licenses that would receive a Pacific cod endorsement with a directed P cod landing for 2000 to 2006.

WGOA	<60 ft	>=60 ft	Total
Hook-n-line	6	1	7
Jig	9	0	9
Pot	61	22	83
Total	76	23	99
% w/ 1 landing	77%	23%	100%
All licenses	154	110	264
% all licenses	58%	42%	100%

CGOA	<60 ft	>=60 ft	Total
Hook-n-line	159	10	169
Jig	18	1	19
Pot	63	48	111
Total	240	59	299
% w/ 1 landing	80%	20%	100%
All licenses	702	181	883
% all licenses	80%	20%	100%

Note: the number of endorsements for licenses is higher when compared to table 1 since some licenses qualify for multiple gear endorsements, 6 licenses in the WGOA and 30 licenses in the CGOA.

Table 3. Catcher Processors licenses endorsed for WGOA / CGOA and status after 2000- 2006 threshold requirement.

Category	WGOA	CGOA
W/ one landing	16	10
All licenses	31	49
% licenses w/ P cod	52%	20%
% reduction	48%	80%

Table 4. Average # of LLPs participating from 2000 to 2008 compared to potential LLPs with one landing from 2000 to 2006 that would qualify for a Pacific cod endorsement.

Area	Ave # LLP (00 - 08)	LLP w/1 land	Percentage
WGOA	46	93	203%
CGOA	134	269	201%

Alaska Whitefish Trawlers Association

March 9, 2009

P.O. Box 991
Kodiak, AK
99615
(907) 486-3910
alaska@ptialaska.net

To: House Fisheries Committee
Re: House Joint Resolution 21

Dear Committee Members:

The Alaska Whitefish Trawlers Association urges you to NOT SUPPORT HJR21. AWTA represents approximately 40 trawl vessels that fish out of Kodiak.

The resolution seeks to stop the North Pacific Fishery Management Council's (NPFMC) consideration of a recency amendment package regarding the Pacific cod fishery in the Gulf of Alaska.


The NPFMC's recency amendment package, seeks to protect those fishermen who have historically fished Pacific cod, while establishing a clear path for future entrants into the fisheries. At the same time it allows new interests to the fishery. It protects the interests of those who took all the risks and financial commitments to develop and set the foundations of Kodiak's cod fisheries.

Another big consideration regarding HJR 21, is that it puts the legislature in the position of regulating and making decisions on fisheries that are most appropriately handled by the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council and by the Alaska Board of Fish.

The resolution puts the Legislature smack-dab-in-the-middle of fish allocation issues that will pit Alaskans against other Alaskans. That is not an appropriate place for legislators, nor is it appropriate to manage fish allocation issues by legislative resolution. It sets a bad precedent that will leave Alaska's fishermen and Alaska's fish resource the worse for it.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. Thank you in advance for stopping this travesty of fisheries management from moving forward.

Sincerely,


Alvin R. Burch
Executive Director
Alaska Whitefish Trawlers Association

Alvin R. Burch
P.O. Box 848
Kodiak, AK 99615
907 486-3910
Alaska@ptialaska.net

F/V DAWN & F/V DUSK
Kodiak, Alaska

March 9, 2009

To: House Fisheries Committee
Re: House Joint Resolution 21

Dear Committee Members:

I have lived in Alaska since Territorial days, 40 years of it here in Kodiak. I've fished Alaska waters for more than 50 years. I've also been involved in fish politics and am familiar with the process of fish management conducted by the Alaska Fish Board and the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council (NPFMC).

Based on that I am opposed to HJR 21 and urge you to stop progress of the measure in the legislature.

I have two main reasons to oppose HJR 21.

- 1) It pits one group of Alaska fishermen against another group of Alaska fishermen.
- 2) It does that by injecting the legislature into the middle of fishery allocation issues that are best left to the NPFMC and the Fish Board.

The resolution seeks to stop the North Pacific Fishery Management Council's (NPFMC) consideration of a recency amendment package regarding the Pacific cod fishery in the Gulf of Alaska.

The NPFMC's recency amendment package, is designed to protect those fishermen who have historically fished Pacific cod, while establishing a clear path for future entrants into the fisheries. The package is a result of the long process of public testimony, scientific input and many months of deliberation.

The package does not take anything away from anyone that has participated in the fixed gear Pacific cod fishery. Yet it allows new entrants to the fishery. The package is necessary because it prevents people from taking a fishery away from those who have traditionally fished—those who have made it possible to even have a successful cod fishery for the new-comers to enter.

I thank you for taking my concerns into consideration. I trust that you will uphold the integrity of the resource management systems in place to take politics out of decisions that are best made by biologists and fish managers at the Council and Fish Board level.

Sincerely,

Alvin R. Burch
Owner



3/17/09 pm

My name is DJ Vinberg and I have fished in the Kodiak area for 40 years. I am a 3rd generation fisherman and own and operate the same boat as my father before me.

I am opposed to HJR21. Morally I agree with the open fishing concept, but I live and fish in a real world and have felt the impact of rationalization for 14 years. The race for history is on. Pandora's Box is open and those of us with a long history in the Kodiak area are not protected.

With relatively no restrictions, our cod fishing is rapidly becoming a derby-style fishery, not unlike Halibut fishing of the past. A Cod season used to last 3-4 months; this year it was 26 days and preseason estimates were 75-100 more participants. Boats came from the West Coast due to the depressed Dungeness economy. A large proportion were long liners from the peninsula and most disturbing to me were the larger boats from out West who have crab IFQ's (made their deal with the devil) who now are free to participate in any open fishery at no risk to their already "banked" crab money.

The Cod fishery represents 50% of my yearly income. In 2009 the length of time for fishing the Federal Cod season was reduced to 26 days and the State Cod season to 14 days. This has put me in survival mode. If left unchecked, our cod fishery will be over capitalized with emphasis on quantity and not quality caught in a 30 day period. This will allow for a more depressed price and more risky fishing, as a day missed due to weather is a missed opportunity with the clock ticking.

I personally feel that there should be more restrictions on access to our cod fishery and definitely some qualifying years set in place. The +800 LLP permits in the Central Gulf is a joke and does nothing to protect me, or boats like me, who live in Kodiak and are totally committed to the fishery. My options are limited to Kodiak – I am too small to chase cod out West, and my business is in jeopardy if my piece of "The Cod Pie" continues to shrink.

Some hard choices have to be made. You can't privatize big chunks of our Alaskan fisheries, thus protecting those participants, and leave the rest of us who are not so lucky totally exposed.

While I appreciate the opportunity to express my concerns about the future of my livelihood, I am also concerned about the Alaska Legislature's ability to undermine The North Pacific Fisheries Management Council. I think you should be concerned about our fisheries and knowledgeable about our situation, but at the same time be respectful of those whose sole responsibility is to make fishery management decisions. If you do not trust them, why should I?

Donald J. Vinberg

F/V Family Pride



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the HOUSE RESOURCES
committee name

committee on HJR 21, dated 3/17/2009
bill/subject

I HAVE FISHED PACIFIC COD SINCE 1986. I WAS BORN IN KODIAK AND STILL LIVE HERE, MY CREW LIVES IN KODIAK.

THE COD SEASON LASTED FOR MONTHS, NOW IT LAST FOR DAYS. SOMETHING HAS TO BE DONE TO SLOW IT DOWN. THERE ARE TOO MANY BOATS, IT IS ALMOST A FEEDING FRENZY.

I LOOK TO YOU PEOPLE TO SLOW IT DOWN SO MY CREW + I CAN STILL MAKE A LIVING FISHING COD.

Thorvald Olsen
Signed: THORVOLD OLSEN
Testifier

Representing (optional)
Box 322 Kodiak, ALASKA 99615
Address
(907) 654-5387
Phone number