

Kilkenny, LLC
Box 8166
Kodiak, AK 99615

Senate Resources Committee
Alaska State 28th Legislature

Dear Senator Wagoner and Committee Members,

This letter is in support of Senate Bill 54 to extend the vessel-based limited entry system for the Alaska weathervane scallop and Bering Sea hair crab fisheries. My comments are limited to the scallop fishery as the Owner/ Captain of the F/V Kilkenny.

I have extensive experience in the scallop fishery in New England in the 1970s and in Alaska throughout the 1980s. I have operated the F/V Kilkenny since 2009 as an independent business, employing eight to ten crewmembers per season. With the exception of one student, all crew are Alaska residents, young people who have developed the skills to efficiently and sustainably harvest the resource with attention to the future of the stocks. I have trained two capable relief skippers in the past three years.

When I re-entered the scallop fishery in 2009 I was immediately included in resource management discussions with both the Alaska Weathervane Scallop Cooperative and State and Federal managers. I have been impressed with the collaboration between all participants in the industry, with everyone focused on sustainable management of this valuable but limited resource.

I believe the language in SB 54 to extend the current system until 2023 is the best option to maintain the weathervane scallop fishery in a commercially viable form. I truly believe that wide-open access at this point would jeopardize the businesses of those currently invested in the fishery while also failing to provide successful alternatives to potential new entrants. I am also concerned about the effects of more gear on the harvestable beds, and of the state's ability to effectively regulate an open access fishery without greatly expanding the personnel currently assigned to the management of the fishery, at considerable cost. The use of a moratorium will preserve the rights of others to enter the fishery at a later date, if the stocks improve, without total privatization of the resource.

I urge your support for SB54. I would be pleased to provide more information and answer any questions at a public hearing.

Respectfully,

Bill Harrington

cc: Senator Gary Stevens
Representative Alan Austerman
Commissioner Benjamin Brown