

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