



# Alaska House Bush Caucus

Representative Bryce Edgmon, Chair  
Alaska State Legislature  
Capitol Building, Room 410  
Juneau, AK 99801

Honorable Sean Parnell  
Governor, State of Alaska  
P.O. Box 110001  
Juneau, AK 99811

March 11, 2014

Dear Governor Parnell,

At the April 7 through 15 meeting of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) there will be deliberations over the development of a catch share program to manage by-catch in the Gulf of Alaska groundfish trawl fishery.

While Individual or Vessel Transferable Quota systems allow for strategies that can significantly lessen levels of prohibited species catch, they also have been shown to adversely impact Alaskan coastal communities that depend on fishing. Catch share programs in other fisheries have resulted in less access for young Alaskans, loss of jobs and other economic benefits through extreme fleet consolidation, loss of locally based vessels, and flight of wealth from our ports.

The federal Magnuson-Stevens Act recognized this problem and provided a provision making fishing communities eligible to receive initial allocations of quota for catch share programs. In other catch share programs Community Fishing Associations (CFAs) have proven effective in mitigating the drawbacks noted above. By ensuring that a portion of the fishing quota remains with the community, CFAs allow communities to retain local fleets, sustain opportunities for resident skippers and deckhands, and support the entry of new generations into gainful fishing careers.

Experience has shown how difficult it is to redress unwanted impacts on communities once catch share programs have been established. Because it is so crucial that CFAs be given careful consideration at this early juncture in the process, we members of the Alaska House Bush Caucus respectfully request that you strongly urge the Council to add this important matter to its agenda. We ask you to instruct your Alaskan representatives on the NPFMC to include Community Fishing Associations among the program components to be analyzed for consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bryce Edgmon".

Representative Bryce Edgmon  
House District 36  
Bush Caucus Chairman

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alan".

Representative Alan Austerman  
House District 35



Representative Eric Feige  
House District 6



Representative Neal Foster  
House District 39



Representative David Guttenberg  
House District 38



Representative Bob Herron  
House District 37



Representative Sam Kito  
House District 32



Representative Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins  
House District 34



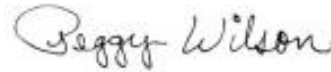
Representative Cathy Munoz  
House District 31



Representative Benjamin Nageak  
House District 40



Representative Paul Seaton  
House District 30



Representative Peggy Wilson  
House District 33

Cc by Email Delivery:

ADF&G Commissioner Cora Campbell

Eric Olson, Chairman, North Pacific Fishery Management Council

John Henderschedt, Vice Chairman, NPFMC

Jim Balsinger, NPFMC

Craig Cross, NPFMC

Ed Dersham, NPFMC

Duncan Fields, NPFMC

Dave Hanson, NPFMC

Dan Hull, NPFMC

Roy Hyder, NPFMC

David Long, NPFMC

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Nicole Ricci, NPFMC

Bill Tweit, NPFMC

Stefanie Moreland, Office of the Governor