

Matt Gruening

From: Nancy Hillstrand <halibuts@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 23, 2019 8:31 AM
To: House Fisheries
Subject: House Bill 116

Pioneer Alaskan Fisheries Inc.
Box 674
Homer, Alaska 99603

RE: DO NOT support HB 116 House Fisheries Committee Tuesday April 23
Leave the word "Renewal" in as critical for relevant considerations in AS 38.05.083

Greetings

Our processing business helped to start the oyster farms in Kachemak Bay and have seen many changes over the last 25 years.

Please do not remove the opportunity of relevant consideration upon renewal of an oyster farm. We are just beginning to understand all the repercussions this presents, as farming in our navigable waters grows.

While we enjoy oysters it is important to understand that Oyster farming blocks and alters navigation in the waters of Alaska.

The sponsor statement says: helping "small" Alaska based businesses.

What is the definition of "small"?

Some of the proposed operations are over 150 acres or more. They can blanket remote navigable waters altering an area. Is there a cap on size? Is there a density within regions?

What is the definition of small?

Most Alaskan citizens do not know when or how permits come up to lease open waters in remote neighborhoods

The Notification system is archaic not prominent for alerting impacted citizens about proposed permitting and requires an updated means to communicate with the public.

Unforeseen issues arise and become evident after initial permits are issued requiring open consideration upon renewal.

ADNR will have all the initial permit documents so a renewal process will not be difficult to initiate from the original documentation but allowing learned new relevant comment is critical.

Note: the controversy of oyster farms with traditional fishing operations in this months April 2019 National Fisherman , on page 25 entitled:
Generations have fished...now their livelihood is being threatened.

Conflict with other stakeholders in Alaska has and will come up. Oyster farming can be noisy and adds traffic to an area unforeseen.

We need to prevent these controversies to remove burdens from the citizens of Alaska and keep communications open as this industry is developed in an open organized collaborative manner. Not closed from Alaskans who own waters in common.

Democracy is painful sometimes. Renewals need required relevant comment and consideration from Alaskan Citizen stakeholders affected by ocean farming that may conflict with their homes, livelihoods, and navigation. Alaskans own this waters in common.

Please leave the word Renewal in this legislation.
Thank- you kindly for your consideration

Nancy Hillstrand