

RC _____

Submitted by Richard Curran, Box 1336 Sitka, Alaska
 Regarding: Proposal 131 Lawful gear for Eastern Gulf of Alaska

I oppose the use of pots in NSEI (chatham strait) blackcod fishery

New Information: Documentation of bycatch on longlines in Chatham blackcod and of sandflea predation on pot caught sablefish in Chatham

My longline rockfish bycatch on Chatham Strait Blackcod was 3.3% in 2014:

Below is a photo of my fishticket documenting my entire 2014 season for Chatham

Stat Area		Statistical Area	
Stat Area	%	Stat Area	%
245701 STRAITS 659	100		

Vessel: CHEROKEE
 ADF&G NO: 44450
 Permit: C61A 692300 1401A CURRAN RICHARD
 Crew Size: 3
 Mgmt Pgm: ID
 Observers onboard: 0
 ✓ Mag Stripe Read
 Owner: F0172 Seafood Producers Coop Sitka
 Date Fishing Began (Gear in Water): 08/15/2014
 Days Fished: _____
 Date Landed: 08/16/2014
 Custom Processor: _____

SPECIES	STAT AREA	DEL. COND.	SCALE WEIGHT	NUM	DISP.	SIZE & GRADE
710 Sablefish		03 Bled	10,900 I/S		60 Sold	
151 Rougheye rf		01 Whole	6		60 Sold	
143 Thornyhead rf		01 Whole	355		60 Sold	
Not Sold - Retained for Bait - Personal Use						
710 Sablefish		03 Bled	142 I/S		95 Pers use	
Total:						

I HEREBY ATTEST THAT THESE FISH WERE CAUGHT IN COMPLIANCE WITH ADF&G REGULATION
 Permit Holder's Signature: *[Signature]*
 Fish Received by: *[Signature]* Date: 8-16-14
 Landing Report ID: 2109296 CFEC Serial Number: 40515
 Thornyhead rf Round Weight: 355
 Rougheye rf Round Weight: 6
 Sablefish Round Weight: 11,042

Taxes
Landings Tax
AFA Fee
Other
Total

Strait blackcod. I caught 1 rockfish and 355 pounds of thornyheads. That is 3.3% of my directed catch, and well under the bycatch allowances for this area. It is quite possible to fish longline gear with a minimum of bycatch, you need to pay attention to the substrate and the depth.

The Department's pot survey caught flatfish, brown king crab, halibut, pacific sleeper shark, and rockfish. Both gear types have bycatch.

Sandfleas: if a bottom is "hot" with sand fleas they will attack fish in a pot just as quickly as fish on a longline – the Department lost many sablefish in northern Chatham in their pot surveys before they shortened their soak time. See ADFG publication (Stahl and Holum 2008):

<http://www.sf.adfg.state.ak.us/FedAidPDFs/fds08-62.pdf>.

Also NOAA documents halibut loss to sandfleas in pots in Derelict Pots WILLIAM L. HIGH and DONALD D. WORLUND: "Both crab and halibut fishermen observed that halibut often enter baited pots and are quickly attacked and killed by sand fleas (amphipods), ending up as bait within the pot for at least a short time."

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ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME
ELECTRONIC GROUND FISH TICKET

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE
E14 706027

Statistical Area WorkSheet			
Stat. Area	%	Stat. Area	%
345701 STATE 659	100		

Vessel CHEROKEE
ADF&G NO. 44450
Permit C61A 692300 1401A
CURRAN RICHARD J

Crew Size 3
Observers 0
Mgmt Pgm SMS
ID

Port of Landing or off-shore operation type
 SIT Sitka
 Type of Gear used
 61 Longline (hook and line)

✓ *Mag Stripe Read*

Owner: F0172 Seafood Producers Coop Sitka
Custom Processor:

Date Fishing Began (Gear in Water) 08/15/2014
Days Fished
Date Landed 08/16/2014

PARTIAL DELIVERY:
 Partial Delivery
 Dock Delivery
 Last Landing for Trip
 Multiple IFQ Permits

SPECIES	STAT AREA	DEL. COND	SCALE WEIGHT	NUM	DISP.	SIZE & GRADE	SOLD WEIGHT	PRICE	AMOUNT
710 Sablefish		03 Bled	10,900 I/S		60 Sold				
151 Rougheye rf		01 Whole	6		60 Sold				
143 Thornyhead rf		01 Whole	355		60 Sold				
Not Sold - Retained for Bait - Personal Use									
710 Sablefish		03 Bled	142 I/S		95 Pers use				
Total:								0	\$0.00

I HEREBY ATTEST THAT THESE FISH WERE CAUGHT IN COMPLIANCE WITH ADF&G REGULATIONS.

Permit Holder's Signature *[Signature]*

Fish Received by *Amy Meltzer* Date *8-16-14*

ADF&G USE	
Interview	
Observer	
Logbook	

Landing Report ID: 2109296 CFEC Serial Number: 40515

Thornyhead rf Round Weight: 355
 Rougheye rf Round Weight: 6
 Sablefish Round Weight: 11,042

Taxes	Rate	Amount
Landings Tax		
AFA Fee		
Other		
Total		