

May 19, 2016

Glenn Haight, Executive Director
Alaska Board of Fisheries
Board Support
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811
email: dfg.bof.comments@alaska.gov

RE: May Board of Fish Draft Proposal Review Process

Dear Mr. Haight and Board of Fisheries Members,

Petersburg Vessel Owner's Association (PVOA) is composed of 100 members participating in a wide variety of species and gear type fisheries. An additional thirty businesses supportive to our industry are members. Our members fish throughout Alaska from Southeast to the Bering Sea. Targeted species include salmon, herring, halibut, sablefish, cod, crab, shrimp, pollock, tuna, geoduck, and sea cucumber.

PVOA's mission statement is to: "Promote the economic viability of the commercial fishing fleet in Petersburg, promote the conservation and rational management of North Pacific resources, and advocate the need for protection of fisheries habitat."

PVOA members are unhappy with parts of the proposal review process. We understand allowing the Department Review to eliminate proposals submitted late, without contact information, or outside the call. We recognize this is a current practice of the Board process.

Our members are concerned with the Committee on Committee (CoC) review of proposals. We would prefer a method that allowed all proposals to make the review book and access the public. Allowing the CoC to divide proposals into two categories, one for BOF work sessions and one for public review and public meetings is problematic to our members. We strongly feel that all proposals should be available to the public to review and comment on.

PVOA members understand the need to decrease the amount of proposals at public meetings and ease the fiscal burden. Our members believe the Advisory Committees (ACs) should help weed out proposals for meetings. This would allow adequate opportunity for the public to voice their support or concerns. Otherwise, they fear decisions on proposals in the delegation category would be made with input from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, but not the industry. It is important that there is a balance of expertise from both groups when making fisheries management decisions and that the process remains public.

In order to allow ACs to aid in the review of proposals, PVOA members suggest the CoC instead sort proposals into categories concerning topics such as management plans, allocations, methods and means, time and area, et al. Then the ACs, along with ADF&G, at

BOF Draft Proposal Review Process
PO Box 232 Petersburg AK, 99833

Petersburg Vessel Owner's Association
(907) 772-9323

email: pvoa@gci.net

their meetings could identify which proposals are, or are not appropriate for the full public meeting. Proposals that are not found to be favorable by the AC members, public in attendance, and ADF&G staff should be thrown out and not addressed at the public meetings.

We believe this process could both increase the awareness of proposals and the BOF process within communities, as well as increase participation and thereby the effectiveness of the AC process. Thank you for the opportunity to comment. As always, we are happy to answer any questions.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Megan O'Neil". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned below the word "Respectfully,".

Megan O'Neil
Executive Director