

11/1/07

RC 033

Hello Members of the Board,

My name is Leonard Carpenter, and I am speaking to you on behalf of my family and myself on proposal 49. My family and I have been involved in the Kodiak area jig fisheries for a decade and a half as owner/operators of a 35' vessel. The directed fishery for black rockfish is an important component of our fishing portfolio, and with annual landings of 20- 30 percent of the harvest, we are historically dependant on it.

Therefore, We are adamantly opposed to any changes to the current rockfish management plan, for the following reasons.

1. Removing the 5 day trip limit will prevent effective management of district GHLS. Allowing back to back trips will result in the closure of districts in a matter of days instead of months by a handful of vessels. With the prospect of increased landings per vessel over the course of a month, it is very likely larger vessels will enter the fishery to take advantage of this opportunity. Harvests in excess of the GHLS are also likely to occur.

2. An accelerated fishery will force vessel operators to fish in inclement weather. If we are allowed to do back to back trips the quota will go so quickly we will feel forced to fish in adverse weather, this will be especially disadvantageous to smaller vessels such as ours.

3. Increasing the S.E. trip limit will attract more vessels, result in increased competition from larger vessels and will probably result in the inability of ADFG to effectively manage it, leading to harvests in excess of the GHLS. Additionally, the S.E. district already has a provision to increase the trip limit to 7000 pounds effective August 15 if the GHLS has not been achieved.

In fact, in 2 out of the past 3 years, the S.E. district stayed open until late fall allowing operators to take advantage of the increased trip limit.

4. Much progress has been made in the last few years to develop niche markets and bolster the ex-vessel prices for rockfish which have been stagnant in Kodiak for over a decade. In the past year we have received 2-4 times the ex-vessel price for some of our rockfish deliveries.

Accelerating this fishery will destroy those inroads and markets which rely on high quality, smaller deliveries spaced over a longer period of time.

The current management plan allows effective and responsible management by slowing the pace of this fishery.

With this in mind, Please vote No on proposal 49, and allow us to continue expanding our markets to realize the ex-vessels prices that these beautiful fish and the men and women who depend on them deserve.

Thank you.

Leonard Carpenter
Leonard R. Carpenter