

December 10, 2019

RC0047



Re: Proposal 278 — Designate the Aleutian Islands Subdistrict an exclusive registration area for Pacific cod

Chairman Morisky and Members of the Board:

The Under Sixty Cod Harvesters represents member vessels under 60 feet in length harvesting Pacific cod with pot gear in both the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands. Given the varied levels of participation from our members in the Aleutian Islands state water fishery, our organization has chosen to remain neutral on this proposal.

Should the Board choose to adopt this proposal, we support an option for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to use a trigger date at which they would consider lifting exclusivity. We ask that the trigger date be tied to statewater fishery timing and not to the timing of a federal fishery. Due to multiple management items under consideration for BSAI Pacific cod in the federal process, it is possible the federal fishery landscape could change in ways we're currently unable to predict.

Regards,

Brett Veerhusen, USCH Executive Director