

PUBLIC TESTIMONY SIGN-UP SHEET

Agenda Item: DZ WGOA Pollock Limits

*Check the boxes below if you will
have a PowerPoint or Handout*

#	NAME (Please Print)	TESTIFYING ON BEHALF OF:	Handout	PPT
1	Kaddy O'Donnell	MYSELF		
2	Paul R Grouholch	AEB } Together		
3	Ernie Weiss	STP		
4	Beth Stewart	Peninsula Fisherman's Coalition		
5	Mike Alfieri	MYSELF		
6	Rebecca Skinner	AWXA		
7	Kiley Thompson	F/V Decision		
8	JOHN GRUBER	UNITED CREATOR ROATS		
9	Heather Mann	Midwater Trawlers Coop		
10	Julie Ginn	AEB		
11	Dan Martin	Eveningstar Fisheries		
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NOTE to persons providing oral or written testimony to the Council: Section 307(1)(l) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act prohibits any person "to knowingly and willfully submit to a Council, the Secretary, or the Governor of a State false information (including, but not limited to, false information regarding the capacity and extent to which a United State fish processor, on an annual basis, will process a portion of the optimum yield of a fishery that will be harvested by fishing vessels of the United States) regarding any matter that the Council, Secretary, or Governor is considering in the course of carrying out this Act.



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December 7, 2018

Mr. Simon Kinneen, Chairman
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
605 W. 4th Ave, Suite 306
Anchorage, AK 99501-2252

Re: D-2 WGOA Pollock Vessel Limitations

Dear Chairman Kinneen and Council Members:

The Kodiak Island Borough (KIB) and the City of Kodiak are concerned with the proposed limitation and possible elimination of the over-58 ft. trawl vessel class participation in the WGOA Pollock fishery. The discussion paper, *Western Gulf of Alaska Pollock Vessel Limitations*, states the Council's interest in "how these actions might impact participating vessels, processors, and communities."¹ As a coastal fishing community, we understand the goals of Sand Point and King Cove to protect their respective communities; however, the findings of this paper are inconclusive.

Kodiak is highly dependent on a diverse mix of fisheries. Kodiak's commercial fishing industry accounted for 40% of all employment in Kodiak in 2014². The McDowell study clearly illustrates Kodiak's reliance upon the groundfish and salmon fisheries. Kodiak, like all GOA communities, is experiencing economic challenges with an 80% reduction in Pacific cod quotas, lower halibut and pollock quotas as well as a 2016 commercial fishery disaster for pink salmon with additional low pink salmon returns in 2018.

Kodiak is home to the majority of the over-58 ft. vessels identified as participating in this fishery. These vessels have been an integral part of the fishery dating back prior to 2010 and are highly dependent on the WGOA Pollock fishery. The paper states that the WGOA Pollock fishery accounted for 47% of ex-vessel revenue for the 7 over-58 ft. vessels in 2017 and employed 36 Kodiak crew members.

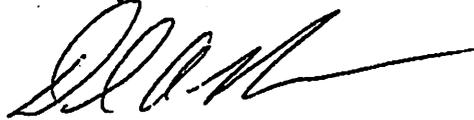
The discussion paper asks the Council to identify specifically which communities it seeks to support, protect and benefit, as well as identifying explanations for that

support. The authors conclude that a limitation on over-58 ft. vessel participation would have "negative distributional impacts on existing harvesters."¹ (p.25). This adverse impact would extend to the home port communities as well, Kodiak included.

In assessing impacts to the under-58 fleet, the paper states that WGOA communities could experience positive "distributional impacts"¹, (p.27), yet notes that in some years the TAC has not been fully harvested, the result of poor aggregation, markets, conflict with other fishing seasons and/or adverse weather. All these variables would contribute to negative impacts on the Western Gulf communities. Therefore, we believe that the results of this study and any conclusions are incomplete and reflect a problem statement not fully developed.

The KIB and the City of Kodiak deserve similar protections proposed for WGOA communities and should not be harmed in order to provide protections to other WGOA communities. The Council and the State of Alaska have typically shied away from policies pitting fishing communities against one another and we hope that this overarching policy continues. We also hope that you will consider our community of Kodiak and its residents when deliberating this action.

Sincerely,



Daniel A. Rohrer, Mayor
Kodiak Island Borough



Pat Branson, Mayor
City of Kodiak

¹North Pacific Fisheries Management Council Discussion Paper, *Western Gulf of Alaska Pollock Vessel Limitations* (Dec. 2018)

²McDowell Group, *Economic Impact of the Seafood Industry on the Kodiak Island Borough* (May 2016)
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