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Unites States Commission on Ocean Policy  
Public Comment for the Record  
1120 20<sup>th</sup> Street NW Suite 200N  
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Commission,

I have enclosed several letters I have written over the years regarding the North Pacific Fisheries that, I hope, will show my concerns.

I feel that the biggest threat to the fisheries is the commercial fisheries itself. I have been a logger, I have worked in the oil industry and as a Sport Charter Operator I am considered a commercial fisherman, although as a sport charter I do not get the same advantages of the commercial fisherman, such as all of the perks including IRS tax breaks and having control of a federal government agency known as the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council (NPFMC).

We make jokes about the fisheries like "commercial fishermen are like loggers, if you didn't put some control on them they would cut every tree until there were no trees left and then blame it on some one else". The difference between loggers and commercial fishermen is that you can not see what is happening until it is too late and when the management of the fishery is being managed by the commercial fisherman themselves through their government agency called the NPFMC, you end up with nothing short of a mess.

One major problem we have with the fishery is the Warren/ Stevens act. I think Ted Stevens is a wonderful man and has been a god sent for Alaska, "But", both men were and are in the pockets of the big Commercial Fishing interests, this is no secret and it is a situation that has plagued the management of the North Pacific fishery for years.

The sport charter fishery is the cleanest and provides more money per pound to the Alaska economy then any other commercial fishery in Alaska and probably the nation, however it is under constant bombardment from the commercial fishing industry and in Alaska's case "their" agency the NPFMC.

The Alaska sport charter industry:

- 1) Has Not reduced the Sea Lion population in the North Pacific from 250,000 to 25,000 in 20 years.
- 2) Does Not continue to slaughter in our trawls and Shoot from our seine boats Sea Lions at an unprecedented rate.

- 3) Does Not throw over board, DEAD, millions of pounds of By Catch, every thing from the lowest on the food chain to nearly the top, an absolute outrage.
- 4) Has NOT began a practice of mid and surface water trawling for salmon past the 200 mile limit with out any regulation or scrutiny. A practice that has and may have devastating impacts on Alaska, Canada, and Pacific Northwest salmon returns, not to mention the slaughter and discarding of millions of pounds of non target fish.
- 5) Does Not intercept entire salmon runs, destine for the Yukon River, in False Pass Alaska and deliver them to Japanese packers waiting outside the 200 mile limit.

We have a real problem here in the North Pacific and the common denominator is the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council, its management, and its being controlled by the commercial fishing interest. In my opinion the NPFMC needs to be scrapped or totally overhauled and have some guidelines set up to deter gross mismanagement and the apparent corruption that is taking place.

Placing yet another IFQ program into effect in Alaska will only serve the big commercial fishermen's pockets, have a dramatic negative effect on the Alaska sport fishing industry and be a detriment to the Alaska economy, all for what? The Commercial Fishing Industry. There is NO scientific data to support a sport charter IFQ program, it is purely greed from the Commercial Fishing industry.

The sport charter IFQ proposal from the NPFMC adds proof of the illegal and/or corrupt activities as a US Government agency. They added wordage to the proposal (behind closed doors) after 3 years of public comment and input and public agreement to the proposal. They knowingly consider an incredibly flawed log book program as scientific data, they knowingly are taking a sport fish industry (the sport fisherman's fish) and are giving it to a commercial entity with the intent to take control (own) of the sport fisherman's fish in 2007, they added verbiage to the proposal that would eliminate individuals from the program that had openly/publicly fought against them and the IFQ proposal.

To reiterate, the large commercial fishing industry in the North Pacific get what they want for two reasons, "They own the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council" and "They have Senator Ted Stevens in their pock. I guess that pretty well sums it up.

Regards



Gregg W. Parsley

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