

My name is Greg Rutzer. I have been fishing crab for 36yrs every year fish nothing else but crab from California to Alaska. I am opposed to proposal 170 for a few reasons 1) All this proposal does is a small fleet of boats trying to keep out anymore Alaska fisherman the right to fish the Northern Peninsula District. 2) The Dungeness fishing in Alaska has been on the rise now for around 7yrs. There is not reason for a pot limit or at least yet. We have record landings in this District for a small fleet fishing there. Last year when I was fishing there, I found crab where Dungeness have never been recorded. Fish and Game has also in there King Crab survey have also seen Dungeness where the have never seen them in the King Crab survey spots. Area J when you get out of the small traditional spots where this small fleet fishes in vast with good crab bottom and there is Dungeness crab on it. I didn't look around as much as I would have liked to because of fuel prices but I looked more than these boats that are pushing this proposal. Another reason why was because I had good crab that held up for me all season. 3) Dungeness crab has always been an allusive crab in Alaska. On years we don't have much crab isn't due to over fishing, it is caused by water temperature and predication do to fish stocks. And I have personally fished Dungeness crab in the Eastern Gulf, Kodiak and the Northern Penninsula during the last 36yrs. 4) when it comes to the pot limit that we should not have or yet anyway. The Dungeness pot is only 42inches around that is because this crab doesn't school up like King, Tanner, Opilio Crab there for we use a smaller pot to cover more ground. 10,000 pot cap is like a needle in a haystack in this District. If anyone says any different they are wrong and the reason being because they are staying in the traditional fishing spots and not looking in the others or at least not saying. I have looked outside the traditional spots and have found crab which shows on my landing reports with Fish and Game. 4) This is also very bad for Industry, by regulating it down when catch records show it is at a all time high with the most boats fishing the area that has ever been. All the proposal does is exclude other Alaskan Fisherman who all willing to invest the money and the time. This is a very expensive fishery to get into because of pot cost and fuel to travel to the Northern District. Also, the revenue the Sate collects from this Area. In these times the Fisherman and I think the Sate could use more revenue. My personal opinion is a hand full of Fisherman are trying eventually to have this area to themselves. I have seen this before in other state.

I thank the board for their time,

Greg Rutzer