

My name is Justin Wilson and I'm the owner/captain of the 58' F/V Just In Case. I'm writing this letter to express my support for PORTIONS of proposal 170. I support the 500 Dungeness crab pot limit, but not the 10,000-pot cap.

I started fishing when I was 13 years old. I learned everything from my dad, who learned it from his. Fishing isn't just a job to me, its my culture. Sales tax generated from my boat fund my city, King Cove, and my borough, Aleutians East Borough, which directly funds the local school where my three children attend. I have lived in King Cove my whole life and I intend to continue to raise my children cultural immersed within the fishing industry.

I support the 500 pot limit in an effort to preserve the longevity of the fishery. A 500-pot limit is not a new standard. It is practiced in multiple states that fish Dungeness crab including Washington, Oregon and California. My first-year fishing Dungeness crab was on the south peninsula in 2021. Due to the large influx of new boats and abundance of gear in the area it was quickly overfished. The area has not recovered and was my main motivation to move to the north peninsula the following year.

A 500-pot limit will help preserve the area for future fishermen like my children. The north peninsula area is large in concept, but there is not crab everywhere.

The max cap only eliminates the opportunity to local fisherman who might not be able to invest in gear at this time. With more boats and less gear no one could make a profit slowly working out the local fishermen, who are not backed by wealthy investors. Expenses for getting into a new fishery are very expensive, especially following the setbacks associated with covid-19.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my comments. I hope you will consider amending proposal 170 to remove the 10,000-pot cap and accept the 500 Dungeness crab pot limit per vessel so it can be in affect and practiced this year.

I'd be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Justin Wilson