

Proposal 170

Hello my name is John Evich and I am part of the Bering Sea dungeness crab fishery in which proposal 170 addresses. I am present here at the meeting but thought I could address my concerns better in this email than trying my talents as a live speaker. I'm available in person or by phone to anyone on the board with questions about the fishery. 360-220-0949

My vessel the 58' St. Zita crabs dungeness in the Bering Sea. I'm here to support most of proposal 170. Although I'm not a local resident, my family has long history and heritage to the fisheries, state and community as far back as 1940. I myself have been fishing this area since 1982 starting at the age of 12 and would like to see this fishery last for generations to come.

I support the 500 pot cap per vessel. With my history and knowledge of commercial fishing I worry about the immediate and long term effects that a wide open no pot limit fishery will cause. We just recently saw the south peninsula go from 1,753,230 lbs in 2019 to 580,000 lbs in 2020 after a huge increase of gear and effort. We noticed that most areas where we found good crab, would last only a while before we would need to find new ground. This proved my thoughts of no massive biomass in 2022 when the harvest numbers dropped to about 1/3 of prior the prior season. This is what I hope we can avoid in the last non restricted area for the future.

My previous vessel crabbed 800 pots on the south side in 2021 and had over 1,000 pots registered in 2022 on the Bering sea side. Reducing to a 500 pot limit per boat will make a big reduction to my operation but my concerns are not for today but for tomorrow and future generations to come for myself, others and especially the local communities who completely depend on these natural resources and their long term sustainability. The 500 pot max per boat is a standard for WA, OR & CA which has proven viability to the fleet and sustainability to the recourse. I could write 100 pages on how important a 500 pot cap is but hope that in short helps you with your decision.

I am not in favor of the 10,000 pot max limit. There is no history, or biological/ scientific evidence to back or support this number. It was just a number that one crab fisherman suggested. One of the worst outcomes of this could be the non viability to the local fleet who is commonly around 58'. If 40 boats registered, that sets limits of 250 pots per vessel which is not a viable number of pots to support a avg. local vessel, it's crew & expenses.

Another thing to note is that any boat can register so they have the option to crab and not show up which can and will result in a management and enforcement nightmare with no formula in place to adjust the pot limit for actual vessels that show up to actually crab. I strongly oppose a 10,000 pot maximum cap.

Also I want to ask and bring to attention that if this is not put into effect this season, that it could be too late. I can't stress the urgency to put the 500 pot cap into effect for this coming 2023 season.

I am also in support of the application deadline.

Thank you for your time,
John Evich

PS: If you have any questions please feel free to contact me during a break, or by phone.