



# *Kodiak Island Borough*

## *Office of the Borough Mayor*

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December 2, 2014

RC 027

Alaska Board of Fisheries  
Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
P.O. Box 115526  
Juneau, Alaska 99811-5526

**Re: Proposal 26 (Pollock Vessel Trip Limit)**

Dear Chair Johnstone and Board Members,

The City of Kodiak and the Kodiak Island Borough have received input from local stakeholders who participate in the Prince William Sound (PWS) pollock fishery on the proposed trip limit modification. Both the Kodiak trawl pollock vessels and Kodiak seafood processors are concerned that changing the trip limit for the PWS pollock fishery would negatively affect their operations. They believe that reducing the trip limit from the current 300,000 pounds to the proposed limit of 200,000 pounds will affect their ability to participate in the fishery and negatively affect the community of Kodiak as a whole. Reducing the trip limit will reduce the value of each pollock trip making it likely that vessels will discontinue pollock deliveries into Kodiak.

Kodiak is dependent on the PWS pollock fishery. The majority of pollock harvests from PWS are delivered into the port of Kodiak. Based on the *PWS Registration Area E Groundfish Fisheries management report, 2009-2013*, recent ex-vessel value of the fishery is approximately one million dollars, a wholesale value of approximately 2.4 million dollars. Our community has invested heavily in infrastructure to support these landings – water, electricity, harbors, docks and transportation infrastructure. Landings across our docks provide jobs and wages to our resident processor labor force and tax revenue to support our local municipalities. Our community has benefited from the PWS pollock fishery since its inception in 1995 and has demonstrated long term historical dependency on the fishery.

As outlined in the management plan, ADF&G has many tools available to manage the pace of the fishery and keep catch and bycatch within levels allowed in the fishery. These tools include mandatory check-in and check-out procedures, inseason catch reporting, the present trip limit of 300,000 lbs. and finally the department's authority to open and close the fishery for short fishing periods as needed. The Department has demonstrated its ability to manage the fishery effectively during the recent time clip from 2010 to 2013 with actual catches ranging from 94% to 102% of pollock GHIL with bycatch amounts below the allowable bycatch caps. They have also successfully closed the fishery when either bycatch or pollock catches have reached their limits. Given this effective management authority, the most significant effect of any trip limit change would simply be a redistribution of landings away from Kodiak.

Our community is concerned that changing the PWS pollock trip limit will reallocate access to the fishery and negatively affect the overall community of Kodiak. We encourage the Board of Fish to reject the proposed reduced pollock trip limit. We appreciate your consideration of our recommendation and also want to thank you for your service to both the State of Alaska and the sustainability of Alaska's abundant fishery resources.

Sincerely,

KODIAK ISLAND BOROUGH

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jarrol Friend". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "J".

Jarrol Friend  
Borough Mayor