

IPHC Regulations Proposal Submission Form

Proposal Title: EARLIER START DATE FOR OPEN ACCESS HAL. off Wash.

Oregon - Cal.

Year Proposed For: 2008

Submission Information (Please print or type)

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Signature: _____		

1. What is the definition and objective of the proposal?

OUR Cannery, Bell Buoy CRAB Co has several fishers that hope the hal start date could be moved ahead 1 month to the last part of May. There are several reasons for this - the 1st is biological by nature. Many of our fishers fish the open access Black Cod fishery. We would all like to couple these two fisheries together - The Black Cod fishery RUNS (cont.)

2. Impacts: Describe who you think this proposed change might affect (include fishers, processors, agencies, and the public).

2a. Who might benefit from the proposed change? - Both black cod - halibut - yellow eye handling would benefit - fishermen would benefit by being able to double up on both fisheries - The halibut price is also better earlier.

2b. Who might suffer hardships or be worse off? - this shouldn't be a concern to the sport fishery - It can fish at any depth and starts about the 1st of May - We would still only fish a 10hr. period once every 2 weeks.

3. Are there other solutions to the problem described above? If so, why were they rejected?

We believe management concerns - yellow eye - 100 fath limit - Black cod open access limits - IFQ programs in AK, and Canada - ALL create opportunities for us to adjust this fishery without impacting anyone. The IFQ window is

Please attach any other supporting materials. All items submitted by November 15, 2007 will be considered at the IPHC Annual Meeting. *Remember to include contact information and signature.*

LARGE enough that those fishers have plenty of time to catch their limits. We think the rest of the management plans like - two weeks between openings, boat size limits, fish size limits (32 in.) are all good tools. The earlier opening into holes adjust to handling & better coupling of two fisheries.

Page 1

Additional Comments -

Item 1, (cont.) - in two month blocks - May & June being one of those blocks. Most of us prefer not to wait until the last couple of days in any two month block to finish our black cod limit. The weather becomes a factor now that we have to fish beyond the 100 fath. curve. This creates a situation where we handle halibut without retention. Then if we can get out on the halibut opener we handle black cod without retention.

Another major concern is the price of fuel. It becomes more imperative that we couple these two fishery opportunities together.

A start date from the middle of May to the end of May would give everyone a chance to work these two fisheries together. There is no question this would create less handling of both target species. This would also create less handling of all species of concern - yellow eye - thornyheads -

When we started using the end of June as a start date we didn't have the 100 fathom line as an inner boundary

Page 2

We also didn't have so many fishers involved in the open access black cod fishery.

The offshore whiting (Hake) fishery is getting in full swing as May goes on, with all the hake gutting going on it creates a giant smorgasboard for halibut & black cod. We are noticing these stocks moving in side the 100 fath. curve and out of our reach. A great amount of this hake is being caught + processed from 80-40 fath.

An earlier start date would provide us a chance to do a better job of catching our quotas thus again handling less species of low can.

We have noticed at our cannery there are more chunky halibut as the season drags on later.

— general comment — We don't believe that this would create a problem for the sport fishery. We are only there for 10 hours out of two weeks, and we have to be outside of 100 fathoms

Page 3

The sport fishery can go anywhere.
This also doesn't bother the processor
and the demand and price for
halibut has always been better
earlier.

It is so hard to explain all
of this by writing if anyone
would like to call my phone No.
is 360-642-2408.

Thank you for a chance
to improve the situation.

Steve GRAY

Pres. Bell Bouy Crab Co.