

James S. Kearns 2017 Proposal Attachment

Attachment #1

Currently commercial fishing interests are sharing the TAC with the unguided sportfishing public. It has always been stated that the CSP is with commercial fishermen and charterboat operators, but that cannot really be true since charterboat operators don't fish for and retain halibut commercially. They carry passengers for hire who are sport fishing. Two different industries all together.

Additionally the charterboat operators have been limited to help reduce the amount of resource that one group of sports fishermen can harvest. Charterboat operators may not carry passengers for hire who want to sportfish for and retain halibut unless the operator has a limited entry CTP. That helps!! However, the guided sportfishing public has additional restrictions that other sports fishermen, using the same gear and techniques and carrying the same sportfishing license, do not have. This is discriminatory and needs to change.

The whole sportfishing public sector, including commercial fishermen who sportfish, charterboat operators who sportfish, guided Alaskans and non-residents who sportfish, and unguided persons who sportfish should have the same responsibility to maintain the health of the resource.