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Michael D. Pettis
310 SE Yaquina View Dr.
Newport, Or 97365

PFMC

To: NMFS
Attention: William Robinson, Director

November 13, 2001

Dear Bill,

As you know, I have been in the fishing business for quite a while now, twenty six years to be exact. I have tried to invest in the facets of the fishing business that I thought would likely be the most viable in the future. This effort resulted in my wife and I being "Grandfathered" with 4 & 2/3 fixed gear (Sablefish endorsed) fishing permits.

After two years of college, and having completed his general education credits, my son Tony came home from school and said he wished to try fishing for a career. He has fished with me in the summers since he was twelve years old.

I wanted him to have a safe platform to work from, and with the plan of eventually being partners with my son, I bought the 60 ft. fishing vessel "HEIDI SUE".

Tony has also invested in two Sablefish fishing permits. He has worked very hard and is ready financially to buy into the "HEIDI SUE". But there is a problem....

If my son buys an interest in the "HEIDI SUE", he will not be able to fish his Sablefish fishing permits on his own boat, as long as his mother and I still own an interest in the boat and our name appears on the Federal Document Papers. A quote from an August 6th letter from Kevin Ford in the NMFS permit office to me states, "Vessel owners are considered permit holders"... Since his mother and I still have our fishing permits and since we will still have an interest in the boat, he will not be able to fish his permits on "his" boat.

It seems the term "Hold" is the key to all of this.

I took my concerns on this issue to Bob Alverson, PFMC voting member who was on the Council when this issue was discussed. It is Bob's view that owning a vessel that a permit is fished on should not constitute "holding" the permit. He feels that the permit OWNER who decides which boat his permit is fished on, actually controls or "HOLDS" the permit. Mr. Alverson suggested that I write you this letter, and that I request NMFS ask for "Clarification" from the PFMC on the term "HOLD". Specifically, should the ownership of a vessel be considered when determining "HOLDING" of a permit.

Mr. Alverson also said I should request this subject be put on the agenda for an upcoming council meeting so that clarification on the term "HOLD" could be discussed, perhaps by the Groundfish Advisory Panel first, and then by the Council, with the GAP recommendations.

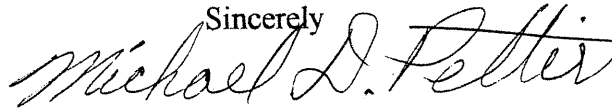
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The NMFS current interpretation would prevent me from helping my son get a start in his desired career choice. Was this the intent of the council?

Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael D. Pettis". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely".

Michael D. Pettis

cc: Bob Alverson
✓ Don McIsaac