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PFMC

Dear Don,

I have fished for over 35 years and own a part in a crab processing cannery. This is the oldest continuously operating cannery on the Col. River. In the last year we began purchasing block ice, I have been out on the open access part with one of my sons. We have a \$2500 electronic scale on the boat - we weigh our garbage can at a time - as the boat rolls - 99 - 102 - 101 - 99 - 100 - and so on - looks like a 100 lbs - dump them into the slush ice - do it again - 10 times = 1000 lbs - everyone usually has some extra to throw over - hopefully they're alive. Any way we get to the cannery - up the hoist - and the weight is 1011 lbs - now what - was it slush ice they're suspended in - taking on a little water - or the almost impossible chance to hit 100 each time?

Some guys draw a line around the garbage can, also one around the tote - but again a guess - if they are smaller they pack more and you're over a little.

Believe me we're trying to be honest - we're facing this dilemma at our cannery right now.

How can we improve this program?

I know you guys are on the enforcement review - at your next meeting - so let me try some thoughts from the fishermen and cannery

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point of view — what if you created a relatively small range of overages — lets say 5% - 6% — or 50 Lbs. — something not very large — just enough to help make it possible to be close. There shouldn't be any incentive for the fisher to go over — so buyer would make out a state ticket and send the overage check to the state or Nat. mar. fish —

Then the next part for no incentive is the obvious fact that what ever the overage add up to would come off the final biomass that is allocated to the open access. You would get a pretty good picture of how the small overages add up — by mid season you would have a pretty good scientific picture of what the final adjustment would be — As you put a couple of years into this method I believe you would have a good picture how it works —

It is very hard to "hit" the number — and most fishermen don't want to throw them back — esp. at the cost of fuel — I would hope you wouldn't just drop the weekly level by 50 Lbs. for every delivery, because I believe in most cases guys will get pretty close either just below or a little above. With negative incentives — Pay the state (no wants to do that) and the adjusted loss from the total! Please think about this — only trying to keep us legal —

Sincerely — Steve Gray — 360 642-2408 —