

Agenda Item F.6.E.
Supplemental Public Comment 3
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PROCESSOR SHARES

NO!

These shares should be given to only the boats doing the fishing. The Processor Boats are owned by corporations. If allowed to receive a "Share" of the assigned quota then this will in affect limit the price paid to the average fishing vessels who are not owned by the Corporation or Processor Boats.

This will create a monopoly which eventually will exclude the little guy, the owner operators of the small fishing vessels who have for the many years maintained, worked sweat equity for the eventual delivery of the fish to the tables of your family and ours.

When you allow the Corporation or the Processor to have a piece of the Fair Market Value then the pie become crumbs. This would create a playing field not equal to all, the supply and demand has shifted and the market structure has changed, so the harvester who take the most risk need to have the flexibility to sell to the highest bidder.

The processor has always had control over the price of getting fish from other countries, buying farmed fish which severely softens the market for us the United States Fisherman. What happens to the small fishing family owned boats they would not have a chance to compete. The industry then like many other conglomerates' for instance, the oil industry which has excluded and eliminated the small service stations. This has created a monopoly that controls the outrageous price for a gallon of gas and the "bonuses" for the corporation executives at the cost of us the general population. The low income, the hard working etc are paying the price at the expense of losing their homes, and lively hood.

How will the family owned businesses survive and not become a dependant of the state. The unemployed with no other options but to become "Wards of the state" so to speak. I am afraid as are many others we will lose our business or livelihood being an independent I want to highlight independent.

The Processors will be in complete control and with the limitations instilled by them will dictate the supply and demand that will cause price increases, price gouging which will cause them to control the value for the same fish and the same season to be affected. My self and many others have invested in the owner/operator fishing vessels and this is what we are trying rationalize to explain the ripple affect to so many owners, to your families and any who want or need to have fish on their dinner table.

The processors must anti up and offer a fair market price to buy our fish and not be allowed to be added into our shares already given from this small piece of the pie.

Another issue of concern that needs to be considered would be the dilution of our well maintained fishing industry off the Washington Coast. When allowances are given to other states fisherman and vessels, it will tap into the resources in which we have worked so hard reasonably manage for the sake of the industry and our futures as Washington State Fisherman. This will limit or possibly eliminate what we have worked so hard to maintain and balance for Washington state fisheries.

Sincerely,

Steve Aarvik
Windjammer Fish Northwest Inc