

The Importance of Small Scale Fisheries in Alaska's Diversified Coastal Communities

Small Coastal Community

Income Streams/Diversity Examples

Then: Ed Ophiem, Sr, c.1925, Wooded Island, Kodiak

- Primarily subsistence economy
- Cod fisherman
- Fox farmer
- Subsistence salmon fisher
- Moon shiner
- Dory builder
- Cattle and gardens



Now: Tim Tripp, 2012, Bells Flats, Kodiak

- Primarily cash economy
- Cod jigger
- Trapper
- Sport fish charter guide
- Welder
- Skiff builder
- Transporter



TABLE 3—ESTIMATED NUMBER OF FIXED GEAR PACIFIC COD ENDORSEMENTS TO BE ISSUED

| Regulatory area | Operational type | MLOA of LLP license | Current number of endorsements | Estimated number of qualifying endorsements |
|-----------------|-------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| CG | Catcher vessel | < 60 feet | 702 | 193 |
| | | ≥ 60 feet | 181 | 34 |
| | Catcher/Processor | All | 49 | 27 |
| WG | Catcher vessel | < 60 feet | 154 | 77 |
| | | ≥ 60 feet | 110 | 24 |
| | Catcher/Processor | All | 31 | 21 |

In 2010, NPFMC eliminated the cod LLP option from 586 small boat fishermen. LLP value went from <\$2000 per LLP to >\$30,000. The NPFMC does not recognize small boat diversification as a valid economic engine for small communities. While many of these permits were truly latent, some were small operators who had small deliveries, which supplemented winter incomes.

Since LLP Elimination:

- Cod prices have fallen to \$0.28
 - CQE communities received some of those LLPs
 - Competition has intensified
 - An important small boat option closed forever
-
- But...



**Alaska Marine Conservation Council's
Kodiak Jig Initiative has given cod back to
the small boat fleet.**





**In Partnership with Alaska Jig
Association (AJA)**

**Kodiak Jig Initiative is enhancing value
and community-based opportunity.**

- Kodiak jig fishermen in partnership with the Kodiak Jig Association and the Alaska Marine Conservation Council secured regulatory measures that led to the jig sector as an entry level opportunity within the evolving catch share programs for Pacific cod and rockfish.
- This included a non-historic allocation of up to 6% of cod and 2.5% of rockfish.
- Conservation and social qualities of jig fishery: hand tended lines, minimal bycatch and habitat impact, and a small boat community based fleet.



2012: Six Million Pound Jig Cod Set Aside



Ed Ophiem dory

Fished by 130 jig boats

- Three + month fishing period
 - Employing 2.5 crew each
- = 325 employed

Compare if:

Fished by 20 large trawlers

- One day fishing period
 - Employing 4 crew each
- = 80 employed

When looking at the economics, consider community benefits of small boat jig fisheries.



- Far more community fishers employed (400%)
- Mostly owner/operator or new entrants
- Recovery is 5 to 8 % higher with jig caught cod
- Less resource waste
- Very low bycatch
- Low benthic impact
- Higher value to processor
- Higher quality to consumer

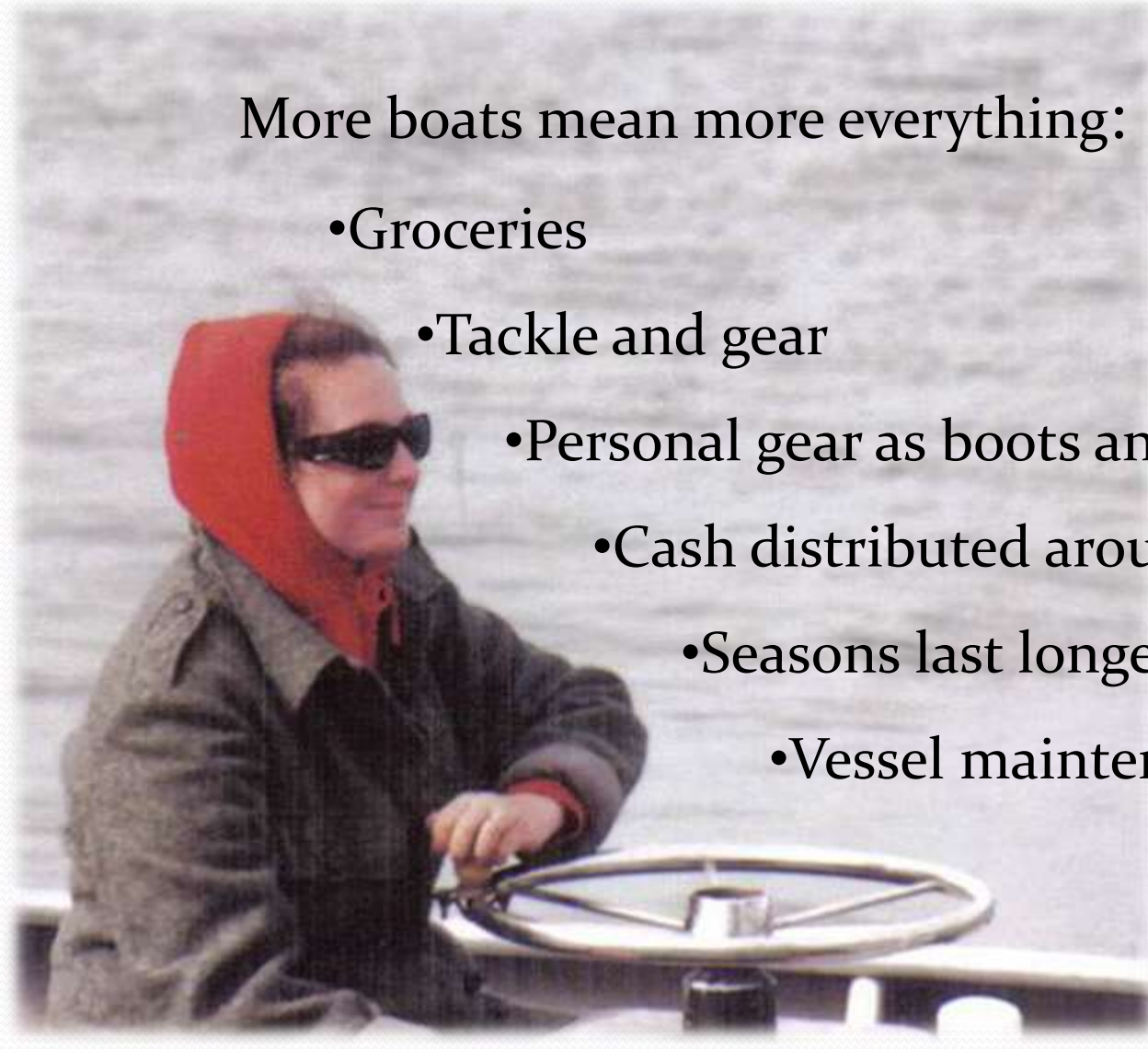
However

- Same ex-vessel prices received upon delivery

Community Business Benefits Beyond Employment

More boats mean more everything:

- Groceries
- Tackle and gear
- Personal gear as boots and raingear
- Cash distributed around the community
- Seasons last longer
- Vessel maintenance and repair



Challenges Ahead for Kodiak

- Fuel prices up
- Ex-vessel prices down
- Processor demands for linkage
- Processor buy-up of trawl fleet
- Rationalization of entire GOA groundfish stocks
- Getting traction at Council
- Graying of the fleet
- Capital flight from our communities
- High cost of low quota
- High cost of entry for youth
- No waterfront real estate available



The Importance of Community Building and Engagement



As small boat owner/operators in American fisheries, our future depends upon engagement with the Councils and agencies in cooperation with groups like the Alaska Marine Conservation Council, the Community Fish Network, the Marine Fish Conservation Network and others in order to secure our right and access to the fish swimming right off our shores.

In this way, our communities will survive and thrive.