

From: ochse@optonline.net [mailto:ochse@optonline.net]

Sent: Monday, March 16, 2009 2:36 PM

To: Deirdre Boelke

Cc: webmaster@doc.gov

Subject: Permit Stacking and Leasing

Dear Council members and Staff,

I am a single sea-scallop limited access permit holder and am writing you because I am displeased that permit stacking and leasing are being discussed. Permit stacking and leasing will ultimately lead to consolidation of our industry which will mean less jobs and many independent businesses being swallowed up by larger businesses. In light of the present state of our economy it's almost unpatriotic to even be discussing a plan that will lead to loss of jobs and business opportunity, both fishing businesses and shore-side support businesses. I think that one or more council members should stand up and do the right thing and demand discontinuance of discussion of these options. The word rationalization has been bandied about. We don't need rationalization. Every single one of the small businesses directly involved in scallop fishing is successful. Our industry is already rationalized. The discussion of permit stacking and leasing has lead to a tremendous rift in our industry with many close friends disagreeing on the issue. There are more important things to be discussing, such as management of areas closed to us at present.

Sincerely,

Arthur A. Ochse

F/V Christian & Alexa