

7910 56th Ave Ct NW
Gig Harbor, WA 98335

November 15, 2009

Alaska Department of Fish & Game
Board Support Section-Board of Fish
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

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Distinguished Board Members:

My name is Todd Overby, and I have been fishing in Bristol Bay for 30 years. Thank you for allowing me to address this board. My winter job (Middle School Teacher) keeps me from attending the board meetings in person, so I feel fortunate to have a virtual voice in this way.

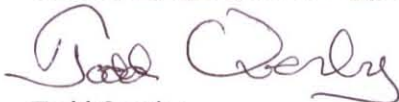
Permit stacking in Bristol Bay has improved the fishery in a number of ways:

- We've reduced the number of boats participating in the fishery. It has been determined that too many boats were crowded into too little a space, and the quality suffers when we all pack our nets into a small area.
- We've reduced the amount of gear in the water. For every boat that has two permits there is 100 fathoms less gillnet in the water.
- We've increased the quality of the product. Those skippers that can afford a second permit are generally those that can afford better equipment as well. They represent that part of the fleet that reinvests in their fishery. I haven't seen the data yet, but I'm willing to bet that a substantial percentage of the fleet that has two permits on board has also invested in RSW systems. It's about the bottom line and investing in our future.
- Even those that do not have a second permit on board reap the benefits of permit stacking. They have fewer boats to compete with, and less gear in the water.

What we have done in Bristol Bay, basically, is a fisherman funded buy-back to make our fishery viable once again. The only hurdle is that we have to juggle the second permit with a crew member. Wonderful as they are, crew members come and they go. Arranging for one to have a permit is a major pain in the part that we sit on. We are not allowed to own a second permit so we are forced to do this song and dance in order to see that a deck hand (often broke) has the means of purchasing a permit...often for only one year! It is an unnecessary logistical nightmare that serves no purpose.

Please allow progress to proceed in Bristol Bay by removing this last hurdle.

Thank you, again, for the opportunity to voice my opinion.



Todd Overby
F/V Shodan
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11-15 2009

PERMIT STACKING
BRISTOL BAY
PROP 20

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DEAR SIRS

THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO VISIT
THIS IMPORTANT ISSUE. PLEASE ACCEPT THIS
NOTE AS SUPPORT FOR THE PERMIT STACKING.

IN THESE ECONOMIC TIMES, IT WOULD BENEFIT
THE FLEET, THRU LESS BOATS ON THE GROUND.

I BELIEVE IT WOULD STABILIZE PERMIT VALUES.

I ALSO BELIEVE WITH STATE AK. DIV. INVEST.
THERE IS MONEY AVAILBLE FOR ALL ALASKANS
TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS OPTION.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME

SINCERELY

BRUCE MARIFER
PETERSBURG AK

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To Vince Webster, Chair & Members of the Board of Fish:

I'm writing in concern of Proposal 20-Allow one person to own two permits. I started fishing in Bristol Bay in 1987, I partnered with a friend for the first two years then got some loans and we bought a second operation. It wasn't easy but it was doable. I think that allowing one person to own two permits will make it increasingly hard for new younger people to get into the fishery. I've watched since the implication of boats using double permits and am seeing a lot of abuse which will only get worse when people are allowed to have two permits in one name. The ability of one boat having a double permit has made it so a chosen few are getting a larger take of the resource. I know of people that are buying permits and getting medical transfers and leasing them out, people who don't even fish in the fishery anymore. The idea in the beginning may have been good, Alaskan natives could work as a family and get people working that couldn't get an operation together for the fishery. Being in the fishery, I don't see much of that going on. We had over 250 double permits last season and it seems to have evolved into a resource grab by the people who can afford another permit and put it into a crewmember's name.

One of the ideas of the double permit was to get people working. What it has done is taken permits out of Alaskans hands. Allowing people to own two permits will just take it a step further and put Alaskans out of work for good. It will help put the resource into fewer hands; those who can afford the extra permit.

I personally would like to see the whole double permit idea thrown out completely and have it go back to the way it used to be. The idea of Limited entry was for everybody involved to get an even opportunity at the resource. Bristol Bay is becoming a fishery of the haves and the have-nots. The Alaskan natives are the main group of people who are going to suffer if this is allowed.

Sincerely,

Dennis Gudmundson,



241 Beach Road, Haines, AK (907-723-2702)

Public Comment #

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