

Robin Samuelsen's Comments

To

Alaska Board of Fish

Naknek, Alaska 2012

First off, I would like to thank the BOF for holding its Bristol Bay Regulatory meeting in Naknek, Alaska. These meetings are need to happen in the affected areas of the State to get local input. We in Bristol Bay have had good sustainable salmon runs for over 20 years. However, in the last 10 years we have seen our food, fuel, electric costs go thru the roof. Not only are these costs going up but to be a commercial fishermen our costs are raising faster than the price of fish we all are being paid. As you the Board will work thru these proposals, please do not develop regulations that would require more capital to be spent by the fishermen of Bristol Bay. Our local watershed resident cannot afford additional costs. We have sustainable salmon runs and now we need to make sustainable communities within Bristol Bay.

Support 2,6,7,8

Oppose 3,4,5, Coho sport fish bag limits should be reviewed by-wide

Oppose 10,11,12,13

Support 14 as amended by the Nushagak Advisory Committee. Togiak is the second largest village in Bristol Bay, with some of the highest consummation of subsistence foods. This area will not affect the commercial herring fishery.

Oppose 15,16,21,22,23,24,25,30,31,32,33,34,35, these proposals have come up before the Board many times, they were always voted down. I oppose lengthing the boat length in Bristol Bay . Costs will be very high and those folks who cannot lengthen their boats will be at a serious disadvantage, many may be put out of the fishery, and these are mostly watershed residents. The social and economic impact will be felt throughout this fishery and the local fishermen would be hurt the most.

Support 17, 29

Permit Stacking: I oppose 36,37,38,39,40,44,45,46,47,48,49,50,51,52,53,54,55

Support 238,41,42,43,

Oppose permit stacking for both the setnet and drift fishery. Look at what CFEC has put together on this issue. Outside interests are the very large majority who fish duel permits. Duel permits have had very little benefit to the watershed residents. Again this is a classic case of those with the capital will step up and buy the extra permit. A person who fishing three nets does not stand a chance against a person fishing four net.

Oppose 56,58,59,60,61, I do not support opening a general district in Bristol Bay. Why create an intercept fishery. The last time they tried this in the Nushagak the Igushik river system was greatly affected, less fish showed up for the setnetters to harvest. A lot of folks would not fish in the general district because of the excessive fuel costs. We have our district boundaries and they are large enough.

Support 62, I support this proposal because it will take into consideration the effect on local fisherman.

Oppose 63,64,65,66,67, the allocation plan between the setnet and drift fleet is working. Before the BOF adopted this proposal the fishermen were fighting each other like you would not believe. Now that fight is behind us, the allocation plan is working.

Oppose 75,76,77, we developed the King Salmon Management Plan and it has been working great. I strongly oppose these regulations. I support the BOF proposal to do away with treble hooks in the King Salmon sport fishery. Commercial fishing for Kings has been shut down the past two years. Commercial fishermen should not take additional regulatory hit when they are not fishing for Kings the Sport fishery needs to take the hits to conserve kings.

Oppose 78,79,80,83,84, time is short to make a living fishing and our sockeye run is compressed like no other in the State of Alaska. When we are in the WRSSSHA fishing is not good for everyone, only the first few setnet site on the line. I oppose changing the escapement goals for all river systems in Bristol Bay. Our sockeye runs are in the downward mode and adding additional sockeye to the escapement goal is just taking money from the fishermen's pockets. Currently, our escapement goals are have provided us with sustainable runs for over 20 years, nothing is broken, why try and fix something when it is not broken.

Thank you