

November 29, 2012

To The Board of Fish Regarding Prop 18,

I recently learned of the proposed amendment to shorten the set net fishing limit from 1000 ft to 600 ft for the 11 sites in the village of Ugashik. I would like to voice my opinion on this matter.

I have been fishing commercially in Alaska since 1983. Kodiak has been my main port of call but as my children have come of age I decided I wanted to include them in the life of a fisherman. Three years ago my daughter and I fished the Bristol Bay salmon run out of Egigik. This past year I leased a permit and fished a site in the village of Ugashik. I brought my 21 year old daughter, my 19 year old son and my 13 year old daughter. When or if a site and permit become available in Ugashik we wish to buy one and continue this as a family venture

**That being said, I believe that shortening the fishing limit would be a mistake.** As far as safety is concerned I do not see any valid argument in this area. We passed the sites that had their running line out to the limit every day and we never gave it a second thought. I never saw any fishermen have a problem navigating the river. Even the drift boats that came up the river had plenty of room to maneuver and anchor up. I don't believe there is any history of any fishermen running into a net because of the length of the running line.

**Practically speaking this proposal does not make any sense.** The 1000 ft limit is so the fishermen can keep fishing even in the extreme tides and also as time and tides change the river. The future needs to be thought of and what would happen if the river changes. I am certain that the 1000ft limit was well thought out when it was first implemented. This 1000 ft limit also allows each fisherman to catch more fish. I noticed this year that some nets were fished near shore, some part- way out and some out to the limit. Logically this allowed everyone to catch more fish as each net was not directly in front of everyone else's net. I have one more observation. This year the fish ran down the middle of the river. The sites that put their nets out to the limit caught more fish. This needs to be taken into consideration because a shortening of the length limit could greatly reduce someone's income.

**I sincerely hope you do not change the existing length limit.** I would most definitely reconsider trying to acquire a permit for this area if it is changed.

Thank you for letting me express my thoughts. Looking forward to hearing your decision.

Sincerely,

Ted Wolfson