

RC# 117

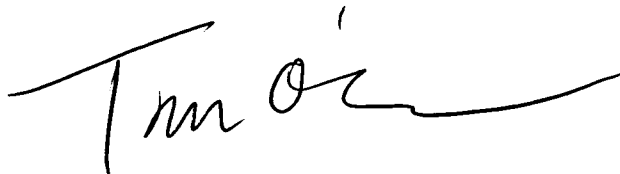
December 9, 2012

Tom O'Connor
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My comments are in regard to RC 92, which is substitute language for Proposal 79 – Separation of gear types in the Wood River Special Harvest Area. I would like to point out that the 3 drift, 1 set ratio is a ratio of time, but 25% of fishing time does not equal 25% of catch, there are many variable pulses of fish and other factors have a major influence over catch. For instance, the drift fleet maybe allowed to rotate gear in the future. This would significantly up the efficiency of the drift fleet. Up until this meeting, set netters had 26% of the allocation. If the department adopts the 3:1 policy, there would be no mandate for them to manage toward the allocation. In reality, there would be no allocation just an arbitrary time. Please ensure that the department would continue to manage for allocation. To do this, I believe the department would need the ability to adjust fishing time. In conclusion, please don't hold the department to the 3:1 ratio and mandate they manage for the 74:26 allocation.

Thank you.

Tom O'Connor

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom O'Connor". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.