

# MEMORANDUM


# STATE OF ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME Boards Support Section

TO: Robert Ruffner  
Committee chair  
Nushagak-Mulchatna King Salmon  
Management Plan Committee

DATE: February 22, 2019

THRU:

PHONE: 907-465-6095

FROM: Glenn Haight, Executive Director   
Alaska Board of Fisheries

SUBJECT: Revised public applicants for  
the committee

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Boards Support developed a solicitation for committee members for the Nushagak-Mulchatna King Salmon Management Plan committee. In total we received fourteen applicants. The applicants' letters of interest are attached for:

1. Bob Klontz, including a letter of support
2. Brian Kraft
3. Bud Hodson
4. Gene Sandone
5. George Wilson, including a letter of support
6. John Wise
7. Dan Michels
8. Nanci Lyon
9. Heath Lyon (same letter as Ms. Lyon)
10. Peter Christopher, Sr.
11. Randy Triplett
12. Robert Heyano
13. Tom O'Connor
14. Dave Bendinger (received 2/19/19)

**From:** Bob Klontz  
**To:** [Haight, Glenn E \(DFG\)](#)  
**Subject:** Letter of interest for Special NMKS committee  
**Date:** Friday, February 1, 2019 9:45:43 AM  
**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)  
[image005.png](#)

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My name is Bob Klontz.

I have been involved in the Nushagak King salmon sport fishery since 1984 and a property owner on the river since 1999.

A passion is the survival of the fish and continued recreational and commercial opportunities surrounding them. Subsistence, recreational and commercial fisheries have to work together in order to Achieve the solution of fair allocation and still sustain the resource. Flexibility in season and sharing by all in reduction or extension of harvest guidelines are paramount to sustainability.

Our families on river experience for over 30 years and networking with other camps and fisherman tells me the current data being provided to determine Fish numbers is inaccurate and inconsistent. A better solution must exist.

Background:

An owner of an insurance agency ( 4 locations 80 employees) I have been deeply involved in risk management Of large commercial risks for many years. Risk management has been and now about the Salmon.

As a fisherman I have promoted a barbless fishery, retention of 2 fish vs 4 fish, retention of male fish vs female fish, release of trophy fish and alternatively targeting Chum and sockeye vs 100% targeting of Kings. My belief is even small steps can enhance the fishery.

A business and Science background helps me understand both the biology and the data gathered to help the biology work.

Serve on a Variety of Civic Boards for the direction of non -profits and City Government.

I am very interested in working to better the fishery for all.

Thanks  
Bob Klontz

 **Robert C Klontz**  
**Managing Partner**

Leavitt Group Northwest **HBT Insurance**

201 Auburn Way N, Suite C Auburn, WA 98002 | PO Box 833 Auburn, WA 98071  
Toll Free: 800-395-0144 | Direct: 253-929-4646 | Mobile: 253-315-0530

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**From:** David Steggell  
**To:** [Haight, Glenn E \(DFG\)](#)  
**Subject:** Committee on Nushagak-Mulchatna King Salmon Fishery Management Plan  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 12, 2019 2:54:07 PM

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To Whom it may concern,

I am sending this email in support of Bob Klontz request to be considered for the nomination to the Alaska Board of Fisheries Special Committee on Nushagak- Mulchatna King Salmon Fishery Management Plan. Bob has been fishing this region for over 30+ years. He has keen insight into what has happened on the river with regard to fish management and effects on sports fishing. He has always believed in the long range subsistence plan for all species of salmon. Creating overall healthy runs of the fish that will support sport and commercial fisherman alike. With his knowledge in business and ability to understand the science he would be a great member of this committee.

Thank you for considering Bob for this selection.

David J Steggell

Sports Fisherman in Alaska

**From:** Brian Kraft  
**To:** [Haight, Glenn E \(DFG\)](#)  
**Subject:** Nush-Mulchatna King Special Committee  
**Date:** Friday, February 8, 2019 10:25:28 AM

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Glenn,

I am officially submitting my request to be on the special committee that will review/rework the Nushagak Mulchatna King Salmon Management plan. I was the author of Prop 41 and 42 that were before the BOF in Dillingham at the 2018 meeting. I was assured at this meeting that I would be one of the members from the sport fish industry that would be on the committee, but thought that I should submit my formal request to you.

Let me know if you need a supporting statement—my history with the fishery—or any other information.

Thanks Glenn.

Brian Kraft-Owner  
Alaska Sportsman's Lodge—Kvichak River  
Bristol Bay Lodge—Wood Tikchik State park area  
[www.fishasl.com](http://www.fishasl.com)  
907.276.7605 office  
907.227.8719 cell

"We have not inherited the land and the fish from our parents, we are borrowing it from our children. We need to return it as we have found it or better."

Join Trout Unlimited – Help preserve our fisheries [www.savebristolbay.org](http://www.savebristolbay.org)



**December 14, 2018**

**Mr. Reed Morisky  
Alaska Board of Fisheries  
Charman**

**Dear Chairman Morisky,**

**During the Bristol Bay Finfish meeting in Dillingham, AK, concerning the Nushagak King Salmon Management Plan (NKMP) it is my understanding that a Board Working Committee and a stakeholder-led study team was created to study the plan and explore ideas and management tools to bring the plan up to date.**

**I would like to be considered to serve on the Board Working Group and the Stakeholder led study team.**

**I have been fishing King Salmon on the Nushagak River for 40+ years with 2 different camps for guided angling for Kings.**

**I served on the Board of Fisheries from 1986 through 1990 and served as Chairman for over 2 years.**

**I was deeply involved with the original drafting of the NKMP and the allocation considerations in the creation of the plan. I can provide a historical perspective.**

**Although I did not attend the Bristol Bay Board meeting in Dillingham, I am very interested in moving forward with more understanding of the resource and possible improvements to the plan.**

**Thank you for your consideration.**

**Bud Hodson  
Owner/Operator  
Tikchik Narrows Lodge**

Winter Address - October through May  
P.O. Box 220507  
Anchorage, AK 99522  
(907) 243-8450 Anchorage office  
E-mail [info@tikchik.com](mailto:info@tikchik.com) year round

Summer Address – June through September  
P.O. Box 220507  
Anchorage, AK 99522  
(907) 644-3961 or 644-3971 Lodge Phone  
E-mail [info@tikchik.com](mailto:info@tikchik.com) year round

# Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation

P.O. Box 1464 • Dillingham, Alaska 99576 • (907) 842-4370 • Fax (907) 842-4336 • 1-800-478-4370



December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Dear Chairman Morisky:

Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation (BBEDC) nominates Mr. Gene Sandone to the Board Working Committee (BWC) regarding the Nushagak-Mulchatna King Salmon Management plan, as reference in RC 84 from the recent Bristol Bay (BB) finfish Board of Fisheries (Board) meeting. Mr. Sandone currently provides expert analysis and recommendations to the BBEDC Fisheries Committee regarding Board proposals. He also provides support to BBEDC staff and watershed residents at the Board meetings. Mr. Sandone has an excellent ability to translate technical information into layman's terms. He has very good relationships with watershed fishermen in our CDQ villages. Many watershed resident fishermen look to Mr. Sandone for clarification on numerous issues, as well as advice and ideas for proposals and regulations.

Mr. Sandone worked for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game for 26 years, most recently as the Commercial Fisheries Division Regional Supervisor for the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim (AYK) Region. He has written and commented on numerous salmon management plans and has conducted numerous salmon escapement goal analyses. Additionally, he has extensive experience in large river sonar operations. He indirectly supervised the mainstem Yukon River sonar projects near Pilot Station, in the lower Yukon Area, and near Eagle, at the U.S./Canada Border. Further, he has been an active participant in the Board meeting process since 1983, participating in AYK, BB, Area M, Cook Inlet, Statewide meetings, as well as Board work group meetings. He has written numerous proposals, Agenda Change Requests, and Emergency Petitions. Mr. Sandone represented BBEDC in the most recent stake-holder working group, which presented recommendations to the Board regarding the BB sockeye salmon escapement goals. It is apparent that Mr. Sandone has the expertise in the areas that are critical to the development of a sound Nushagak-Mulchatna King salmon management plan. I believe that Mr. Sandone will be a hard-working, much needed addition to the stake-holder's Board Working Committee.

I highly support Mr. Sandone's nomination to the BWC. Thank you very much for considering Gene for this role. Again, I'd like to express our appreciation to the Board for holding the meetings last week in our Region. Our communities are very appreciative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N Van Vactor', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Norman Van Vactor

**From:** George Wilson  
**To:** [Haight, Glenn E \(DFG\)](#)  
**Subject:** Nushagak-Mulchatna King Salmon fishery management plan  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 5, 2019 10:00:56 AM

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Good Morning Glenn,

My name is George Wilson Jr. I reside in Naknek and have commercial fished since 1980 when I was 9 years old with my dad. I own and operated my own vessel and permit since 1999. I am a father of three girls, 14-11 and 4. My 11 year old will and has been fishing with me full time since she was 8. She is my future fisher in the family.

I teach my family and friends how to commercial fish but just as important subsistence fish and game within our region. I am a believer of maintaining what we have and trying to leave this land better than when we got it for our kids and grandkids some day.

I look forward to serving on the committee if I am accepted and I think I would be fair and open minded.

Thanks for your time and consideration George Wilson Jr

## **Bristol Bay Fishermen's Association**

P.O. Box 60131

Seattle, WA 98160

Phone/Fax (206) 542-3930



Date: February 16, 2019

To: Glenn Haight

From: David Harsila, BBFA President

Re: Appointment to the Special Board of Fisheries Committee for Nushagak Mulchatna King Salmon Fisheries Management Plan

The Bristol Bay Fishermen's Association would like to take this opportunity to endorse **George Wilson, Jr. from Naknek, Alaska** to serve on this Board of Fisheries Special Committee.

George is very well acquainted with these fisheries in Bristol Bay. He serves on the Naknek Advisory Committee. He also serves on the board of the Bristol Bay Fishermen's Association.

We think he is well qualified and would serve the interests of the community, as well as the commercial fisheries.

Thank you for considering George to serve on this committee



Mr. Glenn Haight

February 5, 2019

Executive Director

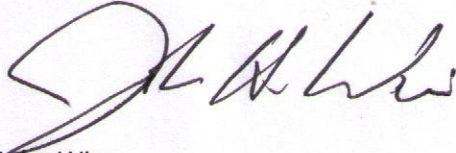
Boards Support Section / ADFG

PO Box 115526

Juneau, AK 99811

My name is John Wise. I'm a member of the Naknek-Kvichak Advisory Committee. I have been a commercial fisherman since 1986, participating in fisheries all over Alaska. I have been a Bristol Bay driftnetter since 1990. I have also tendered salmon throughout Bristol Bay and for many seasons in the Kuskokwim area, where declining king runs have caused great hardship. The health and management of the Nushagak River salmon returns are critical to my business and to the overall well-being of the region. For these reasons I am interested in serving on the Nushagak-Mulchatna King Salmon Management Plan Committee.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Wise', written in a cursive style.

John Wise

PO Box 32

Naknek, AK 99633

907-469-0403

swatrans@yahoo.com

February 1, 2019

Glenn Haight, Executive Director  
Boards Support Section/ADF&G  
Email: [glenn.haight@alaska.gov](mailto:glenn.haight@alaska.gov)

Dear Director Haight,

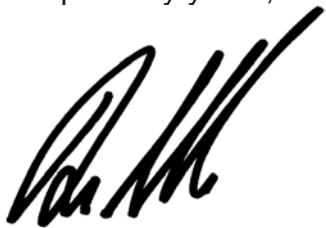
Pursuant to the January 31 email Request for Committee Nominations Alaska Board of Fisheries Special Committee on Nushagak-Mulchatna King Salmon Fishery Management Plan, I write to offer my service towards participation in the process. I offer the following perspectives to the committee process:

- Sport fishing guide in the Bristol Bay area, including the Nushagak River, since 1988.
- Commercial pilot with vast knowledge of the watershed dynamics of the Bristol Bay area and the Alaska Peninsula, since 1992.
- Business owner of Crystal Creek Lodge, a sport fishing lodge based in the Dillingham area from 1988 until 2005 and then moving to and operating in the King Salmon area 2006 through present.
- Personal and professional interest in observing and understanding the commercial and subsistence fisheries of the Bristol Bay area, and their impact upon the local communities, for 30 + years.
- I played an active part, albeit small, in the creation of the original Nushagak-Mulchatna King Salmon Fishery Management Plan in the early 1990s when it was conceived at a Naknek BOF event.

The Nushagak River run of King Salmon is one of Alaska's if not the worlds, last great remaining King runs. Participation in this process would be a way to "give back" to something that has rewarded my life immensely while working with others to contribute to the long-term protection of that amazing resource.

Thank you for your consideration. If you feel I may provide further information or perspective towards this or any other Board of Fish topic, please call upon me.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dan Michels', written in a cursive style.

Dan Michels  
PO Box 872729  
Wasilla, Alaska 99687  
(907) 232.2661  
[dan@crystalcreeklodge.com](mailto:dan@crystalcreeklodge.com)



**PO Box 221, King Salmon, AK 99613**

**[gofish@beartrailodge.com](mailto:gofish@beartrailodge.com)**

**(907) 246-2327 or (907) 469-0622**

Glenn Haight, Executive Director  
Boards Support Section/ADF&G  
Email: [glenn.haight@alaska.gov](mailto:glenn.haight@alaska.gov)  
Fax: 907-465-6094  
Address: PO Box 115526  
Juneau, Alaska 99811

February 5, 2019

Director Haight and Chairman Ruffner;

I would like to formally submit our names for consideration for the Nushagak king salmon committee that is being formed in the near future by Board of Fish members, Ruffner, Peyton and Morisky.

Nanci Morris Lyon has been guiding in the Bristol Bay region since 1985 and has been a user of the Nushagak river since 1986. She was involved in the board of fish meetings that constructed and approved the original Nushagak king salmon management plan and has been actively involved in the fishery and the management plan ever since.

Heath Lyon has been guiding in the region since 1992 and has been a user of the Nushagak river since 1999 and has been instrumental in assisting in the development of the Bear Trail Lodge camp and fishing program on the Nushagak river since 2009.

Not only are both of us tenured users of the resource, we are both local residents of the area, with more local knowledge than most and a unique perspective on the social and subsistence impacts of the resource as it pertains to our neighbors on the west side of the bay.

Please take us into consideration for participation on your committee and feel free to contact us by any of the options listed above. We will be happy to answer questions and assist in any way you feel we could be of most value to you as you move forward with potential changes to the Nushagak king salmon management plan.

Sincerely,

Nanci Morris Lyon, Owner Operator Bear Trail Lodge

Heath Lyon, Owner Operator Bear Trail Lodge

**From:** Peter Christopher Sr.  
**To:** [Haight, Glenn E \(DFG\)](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Test email  
**Date:** Monday, February 11, 2019 9:46:50 PM

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Hello Glenn, this is Peter Christopher Sr. and I'm from New Stuyahok, Alaska right along side of Nushagak river and down river from Mulchatna river. I'm on the Nushagak Advisory Committee Units 17 A, B, and C I've active voice for our region for the Bristol Bay renewable resource of salmons as King Salmon, Chum Salmon, Red Salmon, Pink Salmon, and Silver Salmon and our concern for King Salmons is that we have reasonable escapements are met before open for commercial fishing and sport fishery, I started commercial fishing since 1965 to 1971 and I got drafted and enlisted to military from Sept. 1971 to Sept 1975 and receive honorable discharge and back to commercial fishing 1976 to present of 2018 season. I'd like to include that I'm active Subsistence fisher for King Salmon since child hood with my parents and now with my own family and we just catch enough for our winter food and share with family members. I forgot to include chum and red salmons with kings. Also, take my family on the Nushagak and mulchatna river with rod and reel for silver salmon for subsistence fishing usually after commercial fishing in August month. My term for Nushagak Advisory Committee will expire June 30, 2019. Have a happy New Year and safe one.

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 11, 2019, at 12:14 PM, Haight, Glenn E (DFG) <[glenn.haight@alaska.gov](mailto:glenn.haight@alaska.gov)> wrote:

Hi Peter,

Hopefully this shows up. Appreciate any info you might provide me that I can share with the committee.

Thank you,  
Glenn

Glenn Haight, Executive Director  
Alaska Department of Fish & Game  
Boards Support Section  
PO Box 115526  
Juneau, Alaska 99811-5526  
(907) 465-6095 (w)  
(907) 321-8982 (c)  
(907) 465-6094 (f)  
[glenn.haight@alaska.gov](mailto:glenn.haight@alaska.gov)

**From:** Randy  
**To:** [Haight, Glenn E \(DFG\)](#)  
**Subject:** Special Committee- NMKSMP  
**Date:** Thursday, February 7, 2019 7:36:04 AM

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Mr. Haight

My name is Randy Triplett and dba Nushagak Outfitters/Nushagak River Lodge. We were residents of Dillingham from 1986 to 2010

We started our first tent camp on the Nushagak for sport fishing in 1991. We operated this camp for 9 years then sold and purchased land 8 miles downriver where we built a lodge in 2000 thru 2002. We are in our 19th year of operation with the lodge and combined with the tent camp I have pretty much seen every scenario as far as King Salmon returns.

What happened in 2017 with reduced bag limits was as we all know not necessary. This was the 3rd time that I can remember that we had a low water year resulting in the Kings running up the middle of the river and not getting counted. The 2 other times resulted in total closure which just about resulted in our business going under. Many did. Don't get me wrong their were times when the run was very weak and I for one was very happy the Nushagak/Mulchatna Management Plan was in place.

I was on the local advisory board as an alternate for a number of years but every time I brought up tweeking NMMP to allow for low water years and such I was met with an enormous amount of opposition from the commercial and subsistence fisheries. As hard as I tried I could not convince them it would benefit all user groups.

You cannot live in a town the size Dillingham for 25 years and not know just about all of the local people and what user group they are connected to.

In my opinion the NMMP is a great plan 90% of the time but for those few times that it doesn't work the fishery managers need to be able to think outside of the box and be able to take steps to keep our businesses operating to avoid reduced limits or closures completely.

I have some suggestions.

Not sure it is even possible that I could be on your committee but doesn't hurt to look into it.

Thank You

Randy Triplett

408 Hidden Valley Rd South

Florence Montana 59833

406-207-9779

[https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A\\_www.nushagakoutfitters.com&d=DwIFaQ&c=teXCf5DW4bHgLDm-H5\\_GmQ&r=wBT44i25QbwVceDAuLaRUd0jYbZKZylFDIYXe9dUjqw&m=GXjtLkDs-uDKsW3-ZZnKdaQMggtOocCR-JeZSl0XeeM&s=rVOBiT9Sbl08oNiCSnbM3iQHmri\\_HOBYDgB1DjLZ3M&e=](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A_www.nushagakoutfitters.com&d=DwIFaQ&c=teXCf5DW4bHgLDm-H5_GmQ&r=wBT44i25QbwVceDAuLaRUd0jYbZKZylFDIYXe9dUjqw&m=GXjtLkDs-uDKsW3-ZZnKdaQMggtOocCR-JeZSl0XeeM&s=rVOBiT9Sbl08oNiCSnbM3iQHmri_HOBYDgB1DjLZ3M&e=)

Robert Heyano  
Box 1409  
Dillingham, Alaska 99576

February 13, 2019

Glenn Haight, Executive Director  
Boards Support Section/ADF&G  
Box 115526  
Juneau, Alaska 99811  
*Sent via email*

Re: My interest in serving on the committee to examine the Nushagak-Mulchatna King Salmon Fishery Management Plan

Dear Mr. Haight:

Please accept this as a letter of interest to serve on the Special Committee on the Nushagak-Mulchatna King Salmon Fishery Management Plan. My familiarity with the history, management, and prosecution of the Nushagak subsistence, commercial, and sport fisheries would be an asset for the committee. I have a long history of providing constructive input to Board of Fisheries process. Several sport fishery operators know me, including Brian Kraft and Bud Hodson, who can provide a reference as to my qualifications to serve on the Special Committee.

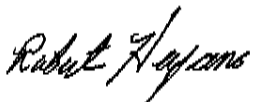
I'm a life-long resident of the Nushagak Bay area. I started commercial fishing in the Nushagak Bay on a family-owned set net operation with my mother and brothers in the 1960s. In 1972, I started drift gillnetting in Bristol Bay as an owner/operator, which I am currently still doing. I focus my salmon fishing effort in the Nushagak District. I also seine for Togiak herring, which I have done since 1979.

I have been active in the Board of Fisheries process since 1978 and served on the Board from 2004 to 2007. I served on the Nushagak AC both as a member and as its Chair. It was during this time on the AC that I was a participant in the drafting of the current Nushagak-Mulchatna King Salmon Plan in 1991. I understood the issues facing the Board then and I appreciate how they have evolved since.

During the early 2000s I owned a small sport fish camp on the Nushagak River targeting kings and cohos. Because of personal issues I am no longer involved with that business.

Given my past and current involvement with Nushagak-Mulchatna King salmon, I believe I could provide helpful input to the Special Committee. Thanks for the consideration.

Sincerely,



Robert Heyano

**From:** Tom and Rene O'Connor  
**To:** [Haight, Glenn E \(DFG\)](#)  
**Subject:** Hi Glen Tom O'Connor here intrested in being a member of comittee Nushigak Kingsalmon  
**Date:** Saturday, February 9, 2019 8:40:05 AM

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Hi Glen, Tom O'Connor here I'm intrested in participating on the Nushigak Kingsalmon Management plan committee. I know you know me but for those who don't. I'm a fairly long time member of the Nushigak AC and Nushigak Set net fisherman at Ekuk. I live in Dillingham.

I would like to Nominate Robert Heyano of Dillingham as well as well as he had more history and has more knowledge of the plan than most.

Thanks Tom  
Sent from my GCI smartphone.

Dave Bendinger  
Bristol Bay fleet coordinator  
Icicle Seafoods  
[daveb@icicleseafoods.com](mailto:daveb@icicleseafoods.com)  
907-843-0832

Glenn Haight, Executive Director  
Boards Support Section/ADF&G  
[glenn.haight@alaska.gov](mailto:glenn.haight@alaska.gov)  
PO Box 115526, Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Mr. Haight,

Thank you for considering me for the Board-appointed special committee to address possible changes to the Nushagak-Mulchatna King Salmon Management Plan.

Before taking my current job with Icicle Seafoods, I spent most of six years as a reporter at Bristol Bay's public radio station KDLG in Dillingham, including three as the news director. In that latter role I expanded our fisheries coverage, developing our Bristol Bay Fisheries Report into a nightly broadcast tracking all the day's developments. Hosting and producing that show involved having numerous conversations daily with managers, fishermen, and anybody else who had the scoop. In June 2017, I vividly recall the interviews with sport lodges upriver who weren't seeing any kings at the same ADF&G felt the sockeye run was about to explode and needed to open the commercial fleet. At the end of the season, I interviewed the sport fish biologists who flew king mortality surveys and found there was probably significantly more Nushagak king escapement than the sonar had counted.

As a reporter and news director, I had the privilege of interviewing (or dispatching reporters to interview) all the stakeholders at one time or another, from Koliganek subsistence fishermen to sports anglers, from ADF&G to commercial drifters, to tower, sonar, and weir technicians, and members of the Board of Fisheries. Some who had a hand in developing the original plan and others who've had a hand in managing by it I count as friends. I covered the Board of Fish "live" in 2015, attended in 2018, and have attended and extensively reported on every Nushagak AC meeting since 2014.

Additionally, I leased and fished a Bristol Bay commercial set net permit in the Nushagak District in 2014, and have thrown my 25-fathom subsistence net out for kings, reds, and silvers in the sloughs of the lower Wood and Nushagak Rivers every year since 2013. In my current job in Icicle's Bristol Bay fleet management team, I coordinate tender deliveries and help our fleet along in the Egegik and Ugashik Districts. I've also worked this winter during the cod and pollock A Seasons out of Dutch Harbor.

I believe I have a good grasp of the issues, the stakeholders, and the effects potential changes will have on different groups and the local community. I intend to bring the objectivity of a newsman to be fair and impartial and take into account all sides. I believe the Board made a good choice in pushing the issues and proposals involved into this working committee, which should maximize public participation, rather than attempt solutions at the last meeting, and I'd be honored to be a part of the process.

Thank you,

Dave Bendinger