

Thank you Mr. Chairman and Board Members,

My name is Hattie Albecker. Ugashik Village is my home. I have participated in the set net fishery since age 9. I have a set net permit and a site in Ugashik Village.

I am one of the sponsors of Proposal 18, which would shorten the distance that set gill net can be deployed from the shoreline from 1000 to 600 feet – but only in a very specific section of the Ugashik River in front of the village of Ugashik.

The 11 setnet sites that would be effected are unique in Bristol Bay, in that they were issued by an act of the U.S. Congress more than 70 years ago, and are located 7 miles above the Ugashik fishing district's upper boundary.

The 1000-foot rule works fine in most areas of Bristol Bay. But not in this particular location. Because of the width of the river and the sandbar running parallel to the far bank, a net that is set 1000 feet from the village side of the river effectively blocks the navigable channel, making it impossible to travel upstream or down to deliver fish in the lower stages of the tide. , and making for extremely dangerous conditions when the tide is running hard.

I'd call your attention to page 3 of RC 16, a letter dated July 18, 2011 from U.S. Coast Guard Captain J.A. Fosdick that states in the first paragraph: "Based on a Coast Guard investigation, I find this set net operation completely blocks the navigable channel at low stages of the tide and interferes with safe navigation at nearly every other tidal stage."

A second letter in RC 16 dated June 20, 2012 from Army Corp of Engineers' Glen E. Justis to setnetters operating in this location reminds them of the Coast Guard's finding and of the potential for fines of up to \$2500 a day and jail time for not shortening their nets in this area.

Despite these warnings from the Coast Guard, the outermost markers of the set nets in question were never pulled to allow for safe navigation. It is my (our) belief that unless the Board of Fish adopts this Proposal 18, the operators of these set nets will not voluntarily comply with the Coast Guard directive.

As a result, skiff fishermen will be exposed to the danger of loss of life, fouling their props or snagging on the gear and possibly overturning in the current. Skiff and boat traffic will be needlessly restricted

Thank you.

RI

STATION  
4000  
Point - Uqakvik

SHORE BSH  
ADL 25340  
ISSUED

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King Salmon AK 99613

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22628 38th Ave NW  
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Hecker, Hattie C  
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Feb. 15, 2012

Alaska Board of Fisheries

P.O. Box 25526

Juneau, Alaska 99802-5526

To Whom It May Concern:

I have setnetted on the Ugashik River upstream in front of the village of Ugashik for many years. I see no need to have a net out beyond 600 feet. I support this proposal to not allow the outer most point of a set net to be not more than 600 feet from the 18 foot high tide mark along the east bank of the Ugashik River from a point at 57°30.74' lat., 157.24.10 W long to 57°32.27 N Lat., 157°24.36 W Long.

Maurice K. Enright

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Maurice Enright". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.