

Support Proposal 133

October 16, 2016

The reasons I submitted this proposal are both to reduce the amount of gear (nets) fished and to help reduce the problems occurring between two permit holders (skippers) fishing on the same boat under permit stacking.

Additionally, there is the potential for a greater economic benefit to the fisher of two entry permits who would be allowed to fish a fourth net.

If the Board adopts proposal 133 into regulation the result could eventually reduce the number of boats fishing by half, though, owing to the number of permits now actively fishing, a reduction to half is not likely any time soon. Presently, there are issued 569 drift permits. When two permits are combined on one boat the total nets fished is reduced by two nets. Each permit allows three 50 fathom nets (300ft) or 900 ft of gear fished per boat. After the passage of Proposal 127 the result would calculate to two permits per boat fishing four 50 fathom or 1200 ft per boat. Full consolidation potentially brings a net result of a 50% reduction in boats to 285, fishing two thirds of the nets presently in the water on any opening, which results in a 33% reduction of nets.

Also, when there are two skippers commercial fishing on the same boat the responsibility for how the gear is fished becomes problematic because each skipper is equally responsible for any violation but in practice only one skipper decides whether or not to make a set. This situation exists with the present regulation. Adopting Proposal 133 will relieve the necessity for two permit holders (both skippers) to have to fish together on the same vessel.

Proposal 133 will benefit the drift fishery in Cook Inlet.

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