

Written materials from December 2006 Board of Fisheries relative to restructuring proposal #21 (Allow multiple drift gillnet permit use in Bristol Bay)

Proposal

Staff comment

AC comment

Public comment

PROPOSAL 21 - 5 AAC 06.333. Requirements and specifications for use of 200 fathoms of drift gillnet in Bristol Bay. Amend this regulation as follows:

Allow one person to own and benefit from the permit stacking privileges granted by the board in the Bristol Bay driftnet fishery as allowed by 2006 legislation.

ISSUE: Too many participants in the Bristol Bay fishery as indicated in the Commercial Fish Entry Commission's optimum number study. Present regulations allow vessels to "stack" permits provided that the permits are held by different individuals. Allowing the two permits to be held by one individual will reduce the transactional difficulties in having separately owned permits on one vessel.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The incentive to "stack" permits will not be sufficient to adequately reduce the amount of gear on the grounds contributing to continued economic distress, management difficulty and enforcement of the regulation.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. With fewer vessels, quality problems inherent in line fisheries will be reduced.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Bristol Bay drift permit holders and crews as fewer vessels and less gear per permit will give more opportunity for the remaining vessels and fishermen.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those who are satisfied with crowded fishing grounds, low returns on their commercial fishing businesses and substandard fish quality.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Additional privileges for stacking with two separate permit holders on board, however, the transactional difficulties would still not be resolved.

PROPOSED BY: Charles W. Treinen

(HQ-06F-044)

FAVOR

- Kim Rice PC116
- Howard Knutson PC2
- Michael Palmgren PC57
- Erci Hesselroth PC59
- Barabara Blanc PC63
- Shannon Ford PC91
- Mike Friccero PC92
- Gerold Gugel PC99
- Erick Stevens PC112
- Charles Treinen PC133
- Peter Thompson PC164
- Andrew Worhatch PC170
- Lake Iliamna AC4
- Lower Bristol Bay AC5

OPPOSE

- Nushagak AC2
- Naknek/Kvichak AC3
- Jared, Jay, Kesa Hakkinen PC8
- Don Alvarado PC18
- Jeanne Pleier, L. Loftus PC104
- Joseph R. Faith PC139

TO RESTRICTING COMMITTEE

FINAL ACTION: Carries Fails Tabled No Action See Prop. # _____

ABSENT _____ ABSTAIN HEYANO

DATE 12/11/06 TIME 11:24 TAPE # _____

STAFF COMMENTS

PROPOSAL 20 - 5 AAC 06.331. Gillnet Specifications and Operations.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would require permit holders to report the loss of some or all of a gillnet.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? There are no regulations requiring a lost gillnet to be reported.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? If this proposal is adopted, the department would be able to track the amount of gillnet lost and determine if gillnet loss is a significant problem.

BACKGROUND: There have been recent instances of self-reporting and third-party-reporting of lost set and drift gillnets in Bristol Bay. The extent of the problem is unknown but there is concern among some permit holders that intentional and unintentional loss of gillnets may be a problem. Lost nets can continue fishing long after they are lost. Any net can foul a propeller and disable a vessel, but a lost net may be more difficult to see. Without a requirement for reporting lost net, there is no way to track how much net is lost or how and where it is lost.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department submitted this proposal, and **SUPPORTS** it.

COST ANALYSIS: The department does not believe that approval of this proposal would result in an additional cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

PROPOSAL 21 - 5 AAC 06.333. Requirements and specifications for use of 200 fathoms of drift gillnet in Bristol Bay.

PROPOSED BY: Charles W. Treinen

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would allow the holder of two Bristol Bay drift gillnet permits to fish and operate 200 fathoms of drift gillnet gear from a single vessel except in special harvest areas.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Permit holders may own more than one permit but they may not fish them concurrently. Current regulation limits the length of drift gillnet gear to no more than 150 fathoms per vessel unless two permit holders are on board the vessel and it is marked accordingly, in which case, 200 fathoms of gear may be used.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? This proposal would allow an additional 50 fathoms of gear to be used when an individual that owns two current drift gillnet permits operates them from the same vessel.

BACKGROUND: The legal limit of gear for drift gillnet vessels was 150 fathoms for over 20 years until 2003 when a proposal was adopted that allowed for the use of 200 fathoms of gear when two permit holders were on the same vessel and the vessel was marked accordingly.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal.

COST ANALYSIS: The department does not believe that approval of this proposal would result in an additional cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

PROPOSAL 22 - 5 AAC 06.333. Requirements and specifications for use of 200 fathoms of drift gillnet in Bristol Bay.

PROPOSED BY: Bristol Bay Reserve

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would allow the holder of two Bristol Bay drift gillnet permits to fish and operate 200 fathoms of drift gillnet gear from a single vessel except in special harvest areas.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Permit holders may own more than one permit but they may not fish them concurrently. Current regulation limits the length of drift gillnet gear to no more than 150 fathoms per vessel unless two permit holders are on board the vessel and it is marked accordingly, in which case, 200 fathoms of gear may be used.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? This proposal would allow an additional 50 fathoms of gear to be used when an individual that owns two current drift gillnet permits operates them from the same vessel.

BACKGROUND: The legal limit of gear for drift gillnet vessels was 150 fathoms for over 20 years until 2003 when a proposal was adopted that allowed for the use of 200 fathoms of gear when two permit holders were on the same vessel and the vessel was marked accordingly.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal.

COST ANALYSIS: The department does not believe that approval of this proposal would result in an additional cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

Hans said that we know Vince's intent, he wants to fish more gear. We need more information on exactly what he wants to do. I'm sure it will come out during the board deliberations; he isn't in favor of the proposal as written.

Committee votes unanimously to oppose.

Hans asks the committee if we could postpone action on proposals 16, 17, and 18 until the next morning when officer Justin Rodgers could be there to answer questions and provide input. Committee agrees.

Proposal 19

Harry moves to adopt, William seconds.

Kenny points out that in certain parts of the bay, the set netters cannot get to their anchoring devices and would be unable to comply with the regulation.

Hans opposes because of the same reasons. This would be unrealistic and place an unfair burden on them. It would also prevent them from fishing in their customary manner as many would have to relocate their anchoring devices closer in to shore so that they could remove them. A lot of set netters anchor their outside ends at a very low minus tide. Also, the majority of set netters in the Nushagak use screw anchors. Using any other devices would not work in the gravel and swift currents.

Committee votes unanimously to oppose.

Proposal 20

Tim explains that 15 hours would provide enough time between fishing periods.

Ofi moves to adopt, William seconds.

Andy asks "What happens if it isn't reported after 15 hours?"

Tim would be a violation of some kind. This would encourage reporting.

Committee votes unanimously to support.

★Proposal 21

Tim explains that one commercial fisherman owning two permits could stack in accordance and authorized by 5 AAC 06.333.

Ofi moves to adopt, Harry seconds.

Harry states that only persons that are rich enough could buy another permit. Most people in the bay can't afford that. He doesn't support that.

Kenny adds that the villages couldn't afford it. Local residents in Bristol Bay are at a disadvantage. Rich get richer.

William says that this proposal would reduce the amount of gear in the water.

Tim says that this already occurs. The captain who owns two permits, stacks one in his crewmembers name.

Andy says that this would lead to others leasing permits to stack them.

Tim says that currently it is not legal to lease, but there are loopholes.

Harry doesn't like it. Outsiders will come in and clean up because they can afford it.

Hans comments that during the last cycle, this committee opposed the issue. He feels that we should be consistent. He opposes it because it would create a separation of classes, those who could afford it and those who could not. Agrees with the comments and agrees that local residents would be disenfranchised and would not be able to compete. He has been corked by a dual boat and felt overwhelmed by the amount of gear covering him.

Ofi adds that this is opposite to the intent when this was implemented.

Committee votes unanimously to oppose.

Proposal 22

Ofi moves to adopt, nick seconds.

Vic is concerned that the board might allow more gear than currently allowed to the dual permit holder.

William questions the statement "whatever the board deems appropriate". Doesn't like that, it's a wild card and too unpredictable.

Committee votes unanimously to oppose.

Proposal 23

Tim explains that currently this is not allowed in regulation.

William moves to adopt, Harry seconds.

Curt mentions that it is crazy enough right now with the current gear limits. Adding more would be insane especially in the Naknek River Special Harvest Area. There simply isn't enough room for additional gear.

P.O. Box 189
AKNEK, ALASKA 99633

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Bristol Bay Borough

September 5, 2006

Commissioner McKie Campbell
Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game
POB 115526
Juneau, AK 99802-5526

Commissioner:

Finfish Proposals for Bristol Bay will be coming up in December of this year. The Bristol Bay Borough was formed in 1962, the first borough in the state, with a plan that the Naknek/Kvichak District and the fish industry would generate revenue for the borough to provide a portion of the services to the villages of King Salmon, Naknek and South Naknek. Today we continue to count on this revenue and are home to over 1000 commercial fishing vessels laid up within the borough each year. With this revenue benefit, comes the responsibility of providing services to the large influx of people the fish industry brings.

The Borough is concerned with the burden that has been placed on the Naknek/Kvichak District for the past 21 years. The restrictions placed on this district have resulted in lost fishing time and an economic hardship for the fishermen of the Naknek/Kvichak District and the Bristol Bay Borough. I have been told that DNA samples have been taken this year and may aid in the better understanding of the salmon migration and the natal streams they are destined for. Lacking results of this information lets look at known facts. Businesses are run to make a profit. There were eight shore based processors operating in the Naknek/Kvichak District in 2006. Previously, there had been an additional three shore base plants and another company camp that operated within the Naknek/Kvichak District. Going further back there are two more abandoned canneries on the Naknek River and another six on the Kvichak River. These facilities were not built where there were so they could haul fish from Egegik and Ugashik. These facilities were built to be close to the fish!

In 1960 and 1961 reports from ADFG recommended curtailing fishing in the outside waters of Egegik and Ugashik. We are confident that DNA sampling will bear this out. This year's daily summaries, put out by ADFG, show that when fish are moving into the Egegik River the escapement ratio is about 1/4-1/3 to that of the harvest. Yet other days the catch remains high with very little escapement (example: July 14th 450,000 harvest, 6,552 escapement, Ugashik has no escapement in early season openings). The other river systems do not have this oddity.

AC. COMMENT#

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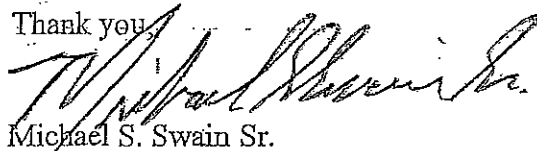
Fishermen of the Naknek/Kvichak District, especially set net fishermen, should be afforded the opportunity to fish at their regular sites; 250 to 300 set net fishermen have been displaced 12 out of the last 21 years and forced to fish in the Naknek River Special Harvest Area, a cesspool of fish guts, created by the harvest of fish in other districts, that may or may not have been bound for the Naknek/Kvichak District.

We understand the political pressure, placed by processors, to extend the season, and allow for a reduced work force to create the pack necessary for a positive bottom line, but we can no longer stand idly by and allow this mismanagement to occur. 5AAC 39.220 (b)....., the burden of conservation shall be shared among all fisheries in close proportion to their respective harvest on the stock of concern.

It is time we move the western boundaries of the Ugashik District and Egegik District shoreward and allow at least a portion of the Naknek/Kvichak District to fish. We will be glad to put a 10 year sunset clause in regulation if this does not work. The Bristol Bay Borough Assembly concurs, that we should manage with good science and not political pressure.

I would be glad to discuss this matter at length with you and you are always welcome to come out to Naknek to give your thoughts to our Assembly. The Borough Assembly meets the first Monday of each month at 7:30 PM, at the Borough Building, in Naknek.

Thank you,



Michael S. Swain Sr.
Bristol Bay Borough, Mayor

cc: Governor Frank Murkowski
Denby Lloyd, Director of Commercial Fisheries
Jeff Reñart, Regional Supervisor

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Bristol Bay Borough

RESOLUTION 2006-14

A Resolution of the Bristol Bay Borough to Increase the Naknek River Special Harvest Area (NRSHA).

WHEREAS, the Bristol Bay Borough was formed, at the request of the State of Alaska, with a plan to provide revenue generation through taxes collected from the fishing industry within the Bristol Bay Borough and the Naknek/Kvichak District and;

WHEREAS, fishers of the Naknek/Kvichak District and the Bristol Bay Borough have suffered economic loss and hardship through disproportionate reduction of area in relation to other east side districts and;

WHEREAS, 250-300 set net fishers have been displaced 12 out of the last 21 years and forced to fish in the Naknek River, (an area 1/3 of a mile wide and 4 1/2 miles long), with no end of this management practice in sight, while there is no displacement of set net fishers in other eastside districts and;

WHEREAS, past ADFG reports, indicate significant interception of Naknek/Kvichak bound sockeye, within other east side fishing districts and;


WHEREAS, 5AAC 39.220.9B) the burden of conservation shall be shared among all fisheries in close proportion to their respective harvest on the stock of concern,

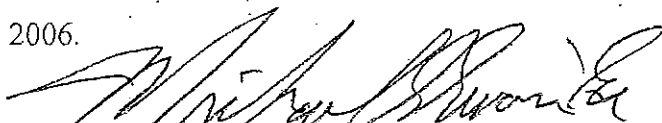
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Bristol Bay Borough Assembly request the State of Alaska Department of Fish and Game, through Board of Fish actions, expand the NRSHA to allow Naknek Section set net fishers the opportunity to fish at their normal site, within the Naknek & NRSHA Section of the Naknek/Kvichak District and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Bristol Bay Borough Assembly that fishing in the Ugashik District will not occur west of a line (described by lat. / log.) from the northwestern most tip of South Spit northward to the southwestern most tip of Smokey Point, prior to June 23rd.

ADOPTED and approved, 2nd day of October, 2006.

ATTEST:


Betty J. Bonin
Borough Clerk


Michael S. Swain, Sr.
Mayor

AC. COMMENT# 3

STATE OF ALASKA

FRANK H. MURKOWSKI
GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

P.O. BOX 115528
JUNEAU, AK 99811-5528
PHONE: (907) 465-4100
FAX: (907) 465-2332

October 11, 2006

The Honorable Michael S. Swain Sr.
Mayor of Bristol Bay Borough
P.O. Box 189
Naknek, AK 99633

Dear Mayor Swain:

Thank you for writing and conveying the concerns of the Bristol Bay Borough regarding the restrictions to Naknek-Kvichak District salmon fishery. In addition, I received a copy of the Borough's letter and resolution to Board of Fisheries (BOF) Chairman Art Nelson. I understand the importance of the salmon harvested in this district to the wellbeing of the residents and communities of the Bristol Bay Borough. I also fully appreciate your concern that the burdens of conserving and rebuilding the Kvichak River sockeye salmon stocks should be shared equitably among all users that harvest these stocks.

Sockeye salmon in the Kvichak River have exhibited poor production since 1996. This extended period of low production resulted in the designation of Kvichak River sockeye salmon as a stock of concern by the BOF. This triggered a number of management actions, including those which you have identified, intended to protect the spawning population returning to the Kvichak River. While the fishing areas closest to river received the brunt of the restrictions, the Egegik and Ugashik Districts have also taken restrictions. The Egegik and Ugashik management plans require that if the Naknek-Kvichak District is closed to fishing because of a low forecast, then the outer portions of the Egegik and Ugashik Districts may be closed. Since 2000, commercial fishing has frequently been limited in the Naknek River Special Harvest Area, as well as in the Egegik River Special Harvest Area, and a reduction in the fishing area of the Ugashik District, either for an entire season or a significant portion of the season.

These restrictions are producing positive results in the Kvichak River escapements. In 2004, 5.5 million sockeye entered Kvichak River, near the 6 million escapement goal. In 2005 and 2006, the minimum goal of 2.0 million sockeye salmon was exceeded with 2.3 and 3.0 million sockeye. The most exciting news is that the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) is seeing an increase in returns-per-spawner from a recent 10-year average of 1.1 to over 3.0 this past season. This may be an indication that the period of low productivity is giving way to a more normal level of sockeye salmon production in the Kvichak River.

You also explain some of the hardships Naknek-Kvichak District set gillnet fishermen have endured as a result of Kvichak River sockeye salmon being designated as a stock of management concern at the 2003 BOF meeting. You have asked that the Egegik and Ugashik fisheries be

AC. COMMENT#

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restricted to smaller areas and to allow some part of the Naknek-Kvichak District to be opened to commercial fishing. There are varying analyses of district harvests and escapements that suggest different conclusions regarding the level and significance of the interception of Kvichak River sockeye in the Egegik and Ugashik districts.

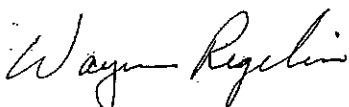
In fisheries of similar magnitude, proximity, and run time as those supported by the major Bristol Bay systems, some interception will occur regardless of where district boundaries are established. However, recent large runs to the Naknek and Alagnak rivers (with current management strategies in place) suggest that current measures are being effective in curtailing interception of Naknek/Kvichak bound sockeye salmon.

The responsibility for allocating the burdens of conservation and benefits of harvest lies with the BOF. The BOF has expressed its intent in the *Bristol Bay Commercial Set and Drift Gillnet Sockeye Salmon Fisheries Management and Allocation Plan* that Bristol Bay sockeye salmon be harvested in the traditional harvest locations (5 AAC 06.355). The BOF has also recognized in this plan the guiding principles that the Bristol Bay area salmon districts should be managed as terminal fisheries, that interception between districts is unavoidable, and that management plans and practices should be used to ensure that salmon are harvested in districts of origin. You can see the difficulties in balancing all of these guiding principles along with an over-arching priority for achieving escapement goals.

ADF&G is conducting genetic stock identification of sockeye salmon in Bristol Bay to help clarify some of the issues you raise regarding where various sockeye salmon stocks are harvested. The genetic baseline for the major drainages in Bristol Bay has been completed and fishery sampling began in 2006. ADF&G anticipates the genetic stock identification project will bring greater clarity to the determination of the contributions of the Bristol Bay sockeye salmon stocks to the various fisheries in which they are harvested. With this objective and definitive data in hand, the users, ADF&G, and the BOF can make informed decisions regarding Bristol Bay area management plans.

I share your concerns regarding the Bristol Bay fisheries. I regret the hardship caused by these management actions, but I believe they are necessary for the recovery of the Kvichak River sockeye salmon stocks. Thank you for bringing these issues to my attention and for your invitation to address the Borough Assembly. I urge you to attend the BOF meeting, December 4-12 in Dillingham. The BOF will consider several proposals that address the issues you raised in your letter.

Sincerely,



McKie Campbell
Commissioner



#16 Motion by Abe, second by Ralph to approve: the committee was split on this issue since this has been in regulation and has been hard to enforce. The theory is good but enforcement is subjective.

MOTION PASSED 4-3, minority opinion enforceability.

#17 Motion by Ralph, second by George to approve: as bad as night lights operate it is felt that they provide an aid to navigation.

MOTION FAILED 0-7.

#18 Motion by Ralph, second by George to approve: we have always supported the marking of nets.

MOTION FAILED 0-7.

#19 Motion by George, second by Fred to approve: this is impossible to do at times, would not work.

MOTION FAILED 0-7.

#20 Motion by Abe, second by George to approve: why 15 hours, what constitutes lost gear, too many variables.

MOTION FAILED 3-4, minority opinion was that it may catch those that intentionally drop gear to avoid prosecution.

* #21 Motion by Abe, second by Fred to approve: committee is opposed to permit stacking.

MOTION FAILED 0-7.

#22 Motion by Abe, second by George to approve: same as previous reasons.

MOTION FAILED 0-7.

#23 Motion by George, second by Abe to approve: does not define amount, too little area already.

MOTION FAILED 0-7.

#24 Motion by George, second by Abe to approve: for all the above reasons.

MOTION FAILED 0-7.

#25 Motion by Fred, second by George to approve: again opposed.

MOTION FAILED 1-6, minority opinion was again cost savings and takes gear out of the water.

#26 Motion by Abe, second by George to approve: present system works.

MOTION FAILED 0-7.

#27 Motion by Fred, second by Oliver to approve: committee opposed to permit stacking.

MOTION FAILED 0-7.

#28 Motion by Ralph, second by Abe to approve: opposed for many of the same reasons above.

MOTION FAILED 0-7.

#29 Motion by Abe, second by George to approve: already has extra protection through regulation.

MOTION FAILED 0-7.

#30 Motion by Ralph, second by Abe to approve: committee supports ADFG comments, allow boats to move to allow for ample harvest.

MOTION FAILED 0-7.

#31 Motion by Ralph, second by Abe to approve: this was a committee generated proposal and we are in full support.

MOTION PASSED 7-0.

2 NAK/KVI AC

AC. COMMENT

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LOWER BRISTOL BAY A.C.

LBBAC, P. 2.

Proposal 121. Dan Kingsley/ Bill Albecker moved/ seconded to adopt. Creation of such a refuge was viewed as unnecessary and another layer of bureaucracy. And the citizens advisory committee, if implemented, would degrade the hard work and effectiveness of the current local fish and game advisory committees. The minority opinion suggested an amended version such as acted on by other ACs in the area could be workable if it could be implemented as river specific. The motion failed 1-6 by roll call vote.

Proposal 7. Roland Briggs/Dan Kingsley moved/seconded to adopt. The committee agreed with the intent of the proposal. Motion carried 7-0.

Proposal 8. The committee took no action. The intent of the proposal was not clear.

Proposals 9-13. The committee by motion agreed to take no action.

Proposal 16. Roland Briggs/ Dan Kingsley moved/seconded to adopt. The committee members felt this would not be enforceable bay wide. Motion failed 0-7.

Proposal 17. Roland Briggs/ Tim Enright moved/seconded to adopt. The committee agreed the existing regulation was working well. Motion failed 0-7.

Proposal 18. Roland Briggs/ Dan Kingsley moved/seconded to adopt. The majority felt the current regulation worked well. The minority felt the corks could be marked more than 10 fathoms apart. Motion failed 1-6.

Proposal 19. Roland B./Dan K. moved/seconded to adopt. The majority agreed with the intent of the proposal. The minority thought this would add undue hardship for set netters with fixed sites with pegs that were set out in the lowest tide in the book prior to the season. Motion carried 4-3 by roll call vote.

Proposal 20. Tim E./Dan K. moved/seconded to adopt. The majority felt this would give the department a better tool. The minority thought the existing regulation was adequate. Motion carried 6-1.

Proposal 14. Tim E./Dan K. moved/seconded to adopt. The committee agreed with department comments that this would create havoc and disorder to the fishery. Motion failed 0-7.

Proposal 15. Tim E./Roland B. moved/seconded to adopt. The majority agreed this would put more gear in the water while the minority agreed with the intent of the proposal. Motion failed 1-6.

★ Proposal 21. Tim E./Nancy F. moved/seconded to adopt.

COMMENT# 5

LBBAC, P. 3.

- * The majority agreed with the intent of the proposal. The minority thought this would give more privileges to "outside" fishermen and hurt the locals. The motion carried 4-3 by roll call vote.

Proposal 22. No action per action of 21.

Proposal 23. Roland B./Tim E. moved/seconded to adopt.
The committee agreed the special harvest areas were already too congested did not need more gear. Motion failed 0-7.

Proposal 24. Roland B./Tim B. moved/seconded to adopt.
Similar to proposal 15. Motion failed 0-7.

Proposals 25-28. The committee did not object to taking no action based on previous action taken on similar proposals.

Proposal 29. Roland B./Nancy F. moved/seconded to adopt.
The committee agreed affirmative action of this was unconstitutional. Motion failed 0-7.

Proposal 30. Roland B./Tim E. moved/seconded to adopt
The majority of the committee agreed with the intent as given in the proposal. The minority felt this would prevent the buyers from planning and result in poor market for the Ugashik fishermen. It was also pointed out that this proposal was not submitted by the Lower Bristol Bay AC for the committee did not agree to do so in the last meeting. The motion carried 5-2 by roll call vote.

Proposal 31. Dan K./Tim E. moved/seconded to adopt.
The majority of the committee agreed with the department that approval of this could result in abuse by some. The minority agreed with the maker of the proposal. Motion failed 1-6.

Proposal 32. No action per 31.

Proposal 33. Roland B./Bill A. moved/seconded to adopt.
The committee agreed this would allow too much unaccounted for movement between districts. Motion failed 0-7.

Proposal 34. No action per 31.

Proposal 35. No action per 33.

Proposal 36. Roland B./Nancy F. moved/seconded to adopt.
This would add to already cumbersome administration work load.

Jared Hakkinen
Jay Hakkinen
Kesa Hakkinen
PO Box 701
Kasilof, Alaska 99610

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OCT 26 2006
BOARDS

Oct. 20, 2006

Board of Fisheries Comments
ADF&G
PO Box 25526
Juneau, Alaska 99802

Comments Bristol Bay Finfish Proposals

We submit these comments as a life long Alaskan and fisherman.

Proposal # 20 SUPPORT - loss of fishing gear is an important conservation issue and reporting is the first step to know the extent of the problem.

★ **Proposal # 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26,27,28 OPPOSE-** We strongly oppose all of these proposals that want to put more fishing gear on drift boats or to stack permits as to fish more gear. There is already more than enough gear in the bay! The drift fishery is already aggressive and very effective. If the fishery is not lucrative enough for some people they will not fish, which only makes a better fishery for the rest of us.

Proposal # 39, 40,41,42,43,44,45,46,47 OPPOSE - There is no reason to increase the length of boats fishing the Bay. The 32 foot rule keeps the quality of the product higher

COMMENT#

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RECEIVED

NOV 01 2006

BOARDS

Don Alvarado
725 Palm Haven Ave.
San Jose, Ca. 95125
(408) 293-4125
SO4T 57399
Oct. 20, 2006

~~Art Nelson
2132 Clark St.
Anchorage, AK 99504~~

Board of Fish
attn Mr. Jim Marcotte

~~Dear Mr. Nelson,~~

Please enter this letter into record:

I am Don Alvarado and I have been set netting in Bristol Bay since 1981 and a set net permit holder since 1985. Please consider the following comments during deliberations at the Fish Board Meeting in Dillingham this winter. Many of the proposals have been bundled together.

Proposal 19 - Setting up a set net site takes a huge number of hours and equipment. It would be impossible to remove the permanent gear from the water on a daily basis for a drift opening. I urge a NO vote.

★ Proposals 21-26 – This bank of proposals are all asking for the same thing.... more gear and more fishing time for those few who have been able to obtain multiple permits. The beauty of Bristol Bay is that it is and should remain a unique fishery. And one of those unique parts is that it can be a chance for the common "little" guy to earn a living. I urge a NO vote to keep the rules on permit ownership as currently written.

Proposals 31-38 – This bank of proposals are all asking to give the drift fleet complete free choice on fishing districts. The drift fleet already has many advantages with their mobility. I urge a NO vote to keep the rules on transferring as currently written.

Proposals 39-47 – This bank of proposals is asking for larger drift boats. As a set netter I deal with safety on a daily basis. Larger drift boats could cause wake and maneuvering safety concerns. Larger drift boats pack more fish. The catch numbers would change and thus the allocation percentages would be skewed. I urge a NO vote.

Proposals 51-52 – These 2 proposals are asking for the re opening of the general district. The Kvichak River cannot withstand the open district interception of Kvichak stocks. I urge a NO vote.

COMMENT#

18

November 15, 2006

Re: Written Comments for Bristol Bay Finfish

ADF&G, Boards Support Section
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

RECEIVED
NOV 16 2006
BOARDS

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Alaska Board of Fisheries:

I am writing in support of several proposals under consideration by the board this year. Permit stacking and the elimination of the 32 ft limit being the most important.

I have been a commercial fisherman for over 30 years, participating in fisheries in Hawaii and Alaska. I have been a permit holder in Bristol Bay since 1983 and have been Captain of a Bering Sea trawler since 1983. I catch, refrigerate, and deliver millions of pounds of Pollock every year and have expert knowledge in refrigerating and handling fish. I have participated in just about every fishery in Alaska. Bristol Bay salmon fishing has been a mainstay of my business interests for many years. In 1993 I had a top of the line gillnet vessel constructed that cost over \$325,000 and included one of the best RSW systems available and included the ability to individually flood the fish holds with refrigerated sea water. We have been floating our salmon catch in 32/33 degree RSW since the vessel was built. Currently we have been working with a "trampoline" system that lies underneath the gill net and is supported by bungee cords. With this system the picked fish fall onto the tarp and slide right into a fish hold and drop into water without ever touching the deck of my boat. We are working with this technique in order to improve the quality of our fish in response to market demands. Leader Creek Fisheries estimates that a greatly increased grounds price for fish is possible with a fleet that gives first consideration to quality.

One of the problems we have is the short deck space available on a 32 foot boat. The 32 ft limit has no counterpart in other fisheries in Alaska. It is an antiquated regulation that diminishes the value of the boats greatly and should be eliminated entirely. With longer lengths, the fuel economy improves, fish handling abilities improve greatly, and safety increases. The value of the vessels will increase as a longer vessel lend themselves to uses outside of salmon. Now these boats sit for 11 months of the year which is a real shame. There are lots of fisheries that a 36 or 40 foot vessel could participate in or charter or tourism work offseason to make it possible for a small boat owner to utilize the boat year around. Increased deck space will also make it possible for fishermen to start working on value added processing right on board and increase the ability of those boats to have flooded holds with real good RSW capacity, instead of the token spray systems that most of the fleet has now. The only way to really produce a top quality RSW product is the float the fish in holds filled with chilled sea water—not washing or spraying the fish with cold water.

COMMENT#

57

RECEIVED TIME NOV. 16. 9:13AM

Head and gut product may be an alternative during slower periods of fishing, increasing the revenue for the operator. Everything about the elimination of this 32 foot limit is a plus for the fishery and the crews working in Bristol Bay.

To increase revenue and make the vessels in the bay profitable we need to decrease the number of vessels or the amount of gear fishing. Stacking active permits in one operator's name is a very good way to limit the number of active permits in the fishery which is one problem highlighted in the recent studies by the BBEDC. The current system already allows for vessels to fish an extra 50 fms of gear with a second permit, but not with both permits in one name. This second permit is a cost to the operator which further diminishes profitability in this fishery, which is already marginally profitable for most fishermen some years. Studies have already shown that there are too many permits in the Bristol Bay fishery and this is a very good way to capture the latent permits and prevent them from becoming active in the fishery with 150 fms of gear on vessels. The relative result is that each permit that is stacked eliminates a potential 100 fms of gear from the fishery and it is self capitalized. This is clearly a positive in all respects. The vessels in the fishery will be more profitable and the communities and businesses associated with the salmon fishery will all benefit.

The third proposal concerns the 48 hr penalty imposed for transferring. When you consider that fishing in the bay really occurs over only about a 14 day period of time, a fisherman stuck in an unproductive river faces a potential great loss of income. There should be some mechanism for allowing transfers without a great time penalty to enhance the profitability of the fishery. The 48 hr transfer waiting period does not help the fisherman in any regard. Whereas the catch of the bay is monitored closely and information is available nearly instantaneously to biologists and processors, this waiting period is another outdated regulation. In this era of increasing fuel prices and decreasing fish prices due to a number of factors, the fishery needs to streamline itself so that the fishermen remaining as participants have the best possible chance to succeed. Even a single transfer without a time penalty would greatly increase the likelihood of the fishermen having a profitable year. The more successful fishermen there are every year, the more revenue the boroughs will receive and more funds will be spent improving vessels and taking advantage of value added possibilities.

Sincerely,

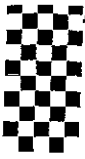


Michael Palmgren
Captain F/V Morning Star (148 ft)
Captain/Owner F/V Marissa (32ft)

COMMENT#

57

RECEIVED TIME NOV. 16. 9:13AM



November 15, 2006

Board of Fish
Bristol Bay Fin Fish

RECEIVED
NOV 16 2006
BOARDS

Dear Board Member:

I am having problems down loading the proposals so I don't know which number to refer to in this letter to you.

I support either completely throwing away the allocation or use alternating tides. Alternating tides worked great in the past. The allocation is not fair or equal. This has been a real hardship for the set net fishery. Totally unfair and I strongly suggest throwing it out all together and using alternating tides. This is the number one concern for all set net fishermen.

I support set net fishing in the Naknek River Special Harvest area. This is a much safer fishery for the set net group and the fish are so much fresher when sold. With Tenders in the river we can deliver our fish within a half hour of taking them out of the net, and they are not smashed in the boat holds. This makes for better quality fish and that is our goal. Fish caught by set net fisherman are the best quality fish in the Bay.

I support allowing fisherman to have two Limited Entry Permits in their name. Those of us who really love the fishing and intend to stay in fishing would benefit from having two permits in our name. This would be good for both gear types. I don't see any reason why this would not be allowed.

I do not support lengthening the drift boats. They are big enough for the bay. Several years ago fisherman had to cut the noses off their boats, it wouldn't make any sense to let them now have larger boats. If the drift fleet would tender their fish more often, they would have a better quality of fish.

Thanks for reading my comments.

Barbara Blanc
801-607-1917

COMMENT #

63

RECEIVED TIME NOV. 15. 6:02PM

Charles W. Treinen

2054 Arlington Drive
Anchorage, AK 99517

November 14, 2006

RECEIVED
NOV 17 2006
BOARDS

Re: Written Comments for Bristol Bay Finfish

ADF&G, Boards Support Section
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

RECEIVED
NOV 17 2006
BOARDS

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Alaska Board of Fisheries:

Thank you for the opportunity to supply written comments on proposals to be considered at the Bristol Bay Finfish meeting to be held December 4 through 12, 2006 in Dillingham Alaska. Although I submitted three proposals (21, 40 and 51), it is not possible for me to attend the meeting due to travel costs, meeting conflicts and difficulty in securing lodging—there are not enough rooms in Dillingham to accommodate Board of Fish meetings! Having fished salmon with both seine and gillnet gear from Southeast to Bristol Bay for more than twenty five years and having been involved in marketing issues as an ASMI board member and United Fishermen of Alaska Board member, I hope that my perspective can be useful in developing a better regulatory regime for the Bristol Bay area. Presently I own a Bristol Bay drift permit and 32 foot gillnet vessel and have fished salmon in all the districts except Togiak.

When considering the proposals before you, please take into account the need for the Alaska salmon industry to adapt to an ever-changing world that won't accept regulatory inefficiencies just because there is a historical precedent for doing things a certain way. I will begin with comments on proposals that I have submitted. General comments on some of the proposals submitted by others are also included.

Proposal 21—Permit Stacking

Related proposals: 14, 22, 23, 24, 25, 28, 33 and 35

Support

A permit stacking arrangement, whereby one vessel with two separate permit holders is authorized to utilize one third more gear than a single permit on one vessel (150 fathoms vs. 200 fathoms) has been allowed by BOF regulation as of the 2004 season. The intent of Proposal 21 is to allow one individual who owns two permits the opportunity to use the additional gear or other harvest privileges for the Bristol Bay driftnet fishery as set by the BOF. Since the legal prohibition on an individual's ability to utilize two permits was removed through legislative action in the 2006 session, the Board can now provide the same incentive for permit stacking as when there are two separate individual permit holders. (Although the present permit stacking arrangement is for an additional shackle of gear where not prohibited because of in-river fishing restrictions, this proposal was not intended to specifically set the amount of gear, but rather to allow whatever multi-permit privileges the Board sees fit regardless of the permit ownership).

In order to encourage the use of 'permit stacking' as a means to promote fleet consolidation and necessary market efficiencies, I support continuation of the extra gear allowance. The reasons for continuation have not changed since the Board initially approved the regulation and, if anything, the incentives to stack permits should be strengthened as suggested in **Proposal 23** (allows dual permit vessels to fish some amount of extra gear in the special harvest areas). **Proposal 28**, allowing for additional fishing time privileges also has merit as a means of creating incentives that encourage market-based consolidation, but is probably in conflict with Limited Entry Statutes. Elimination of the 48- hour transfer time is also a valid use of the permit stacking concept and warrants passage of **Proposals 33**. **Proposal 35** would allow for simultaneous registration in two districts for multiple permit vessels and deserves to be passed for the same reasons.

Reasons to pass the permit stacking proposals include:

- Fleet consolidation
 - Deemed necessary by the CFEC Optimum number study of 800 to 1200 drift permits
 - Market-based and reversible
 - Without extra privileges, an individual has little or no incentive to own two permits
- Reduced amount of web in the water
 - Assuming that 200 vessels use the option to fish two permits:
 - 22.7 miles of gear remains out of the water (200 boats X 100 ftms less/boat X 6 ft/ftm / 5280 ft/mile) if all 200 permits would be active
 - Assuming no permit stacking:
 - 5.7 more miles of gear would be in the water over what is there with the stacking if half of the [assumed] 200 dual permits were actively fished on an otherwise unused vessel and the other half latent and would remain unused. (100 permits X 150 ftms/permit X 6ft/ftm / 5280ft/mile = 17.1 miles vs. 200 permits X 50 ftm/permit X 6ft/mile / 5280ft/mile = 11.4 miles).
- Increased efficiency
 - Larger vessels able to use more gear
 - Smaller vessels benefit from fewer boats on the ground and less gear in the water
- Reduced costs
 - Fuel, insurance, provisions, crew
- Simplified transactions
 - Logistic difficulties inherent in having two 'skippers'
 - Permit transfer issues as transactions are made to have two separate permit holders

Proposal 40—Vessel Length

Related proposals: 39, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, and 47

Support

The vessel length provision is an artifact of regulation that does nothing but restrict economic opportunity under the guise of social protection. Given that the fishery is managed for short openings that encourage timely delivery of fish, the advantage of a larger fish hold that can be accommodated on a larger vessel is marginal at best. It is also unrealistic to think that larger vessels can handle the weather any better than the type of vessels that are already available.



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BOARDS

ADFG Boards Support Section

Re; Comments for Bristol Bay Finfish

I would like to encourage the AK BOF to consider and approve proposals that will encourage modernization in the Bristol Bay Fishery. I am an Alaskan that makes my entire income from fishing and have driftnetted there since 1985. It is my hope that my family would be able to participate in an economically healthy fishery in the future.

I support any changes in the Bristol Bay Fishery that move forward to deal with the realities of globalization and the lack of changes in the Bay. We must continue to adapt and modify the way we do business given the financial realities of our Bristol Bay salmon fishery.

I support PERMIT STACKING(#14,15,21,23,25,28) this is the one real opportunity to achieve the "optimum numbers goal!"

I support INCREASE BOAT LENGTH (#39,40,41,42,43,44,45,46,47) This would allow smaller vessels the opportunity to refrigerate their fish and get a better return on the fish they catch as well as lift up the quality of the Bays salmon pack.

I support the GENERAL DISTRICT(#51) Lets get the best and brightest fish before the fresh water deteriorates the quality of our product and makes it suitable only for the can.

Please do not pass on this opportunity to bring the Bristol Bay salmon industry into the modern era...for too long we have watched our economic picture in the Bay loose ground and stay stagnant. It is truly time for a change so that all participants benefit.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Peter Thompson
PO Box 3037
Kodiak, AK 99615

COMMENT# 164



RECEIVED
NOV 17 2006
BOARDS

Andrew Worhatch
607 Tango St.
Petersburg, AK 99833

November 17, 2006

ADF&G Boards Support Section
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Mr. Chairman and BOF Members,

This fisherman supports all proposals with the intent to make the Bristol Bay Fishery an economically viable fishery for generations to come. Please consider the volatile nature of a commodity market and how other industries across the globe have changed to be more efficient. We have the proposals to attain a business environment that is conducive to providing a competitive and quality product in the market.

Permit stacking, proposals 14,15,21,22,23,25,28, by an individual will support the optimal numbers study. Less gear in the water and more on your vessel makes economic sense. Our expenses will continue to rise, fishing more gear will help offset these increased expenses and help the vessels who, choose not to stack, by eliminating gear. I will look forward to maximizing my potential yield in this fishery using the above mentioned proposals.

The general district, proposal #51, would greatly enhance any efforts to fill fresh sockeye market orders. The GD would help the fleet to maximize the potential yield from the market and tax base. Earlier catches shall curb overescapment and yield tax revenue for the area. (Over escapement = lower ex-vessel value+ lower tax base) This scenario does not exemplify the intent of utilizing the resource, set forth in the Alaska Constitution. Fish and Game needs to pat themselves on the back for producing a sustained yield. The fishery needs to benefit from ADF&G's efforts. Let's be competitive and do the General District.

Eliminating the 32' limit, proposals 39,40,41,42,43,44,45,46& 47, is fine by me. Let a fisherman compete with a specialized Bristol Bay Gillnetter. The rule is nothing but a protective measure for a non-progressive ideology.

Sincerely,

Andrew Worhatch

COMMENT# 170