We, the people from the community of Aleknagik, are in opposition to **Proposal # 6 – 5AAC 27.865(b)(7)** Bristol Bay **Herring Management Plan.** Allocation of unharvested spawn on kelp quota to food and bait. This petition is in accordance with 5AAC 96.625 Joint Board Petition Policy under AS 44.62.220. Proposal by: Daniel F. Veerhusen

|                        |                    | Petition Policy under AS 44.6 | 2.220. Proposal by |                 |  |
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## Aleknagik Traditional Council P.O. Box 115 Aleknagik, AK 99555 (907) 842-2080

We, the people from the community of Aleknagik, are in opposition to **Proposal # 15 – 5AAC 06.341 Vessel Specification and operations.** Elimination of 32 foot limit on vessels in Bristol Bay drift gillnet fishery. This petition is in accordance with 5AAC 96.625 Joint Board Petition Policy under AS 44.62.220. Proposal by: Erick Sabo

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We, the people from the community of Aleknagik, are in opposition to **Proposal # 16 – 5AAC 06.341 Gillnet specifications and operations.** All multiple permit use by anyone who owns two permits (setnet/drift), to be allowed to fish them in accordance with **5AAC 06.333**. This petition is in accordance with 5AAC 96.625 Joint Board Petition Policy under AS 44.62.220. Proposal by: Vince Webster

Tra City, State & Zip Name Address Alekan Roy 192 11 11 11 11 5 BOX i Ar 19222 6×11 9952 99576 2K CHADO 5 4 7 995 7 AK 15 et 60 0.0 Ba 141 BO Ke. 4 99555 AK 11555 144  $\mathcal{L}$ **N** 

We, the people from the community of Aleknagik, are in opposition to **Proposal # 17 – 5AAC 06.331 (f) Gillnet specifications and operations.** Allowing multiple permit use of two permits in set and drift gillnet fisheries in Bristol Bay. This petition is in accordance with 5AAC 96.625 Joint Board Petition Policy under A5 44.62.220. Proposal by: Dylan Braund and Tom Rollman, Jr.

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Public Comment #

We, the people from the community of Aleknagik, are in opposition to **Proposal # 18 – 5AAC 06.331 Gillnet Specification and operations.** Allowing use of multiple permits in Bristol Bay set gillnet fisheries. This petition is in accordance with 5AAC 96.625 Joint Board Petition Policy under AS 44.62.220. Proposal by: Eric M. Beeman

Name Address City, State & Zip Smature 9.0, Box 192 99555 31 Box 153 BOY 5 11 1 151115 CHES POX 7 10 576 9 5 99555 16 11 Bo 0x SF Bacan BOX 31 Ale 99 in d 10 Cor.

We, the people from the community of Aleknagik, are in opposition to **Proposal # 19 – 5AAC 06.331 Gillnet Specification and operations.** Allowing use of multiple permits in Bristol Bay. This petition is in accordance with 5AAC 96.625 Joint Board Petition Policy under AS 44.62.220. Proposal by: Kim Rice

Name Address City, State & Zip ture klaugik Den Bax 192 BoxIS 3 11 NV5 1 > 9 m a 1) 6X 576 m c 29555 R 55 99 9 29555 Pro a 130x G ς C Can 99555 105 .0. 12 9 Creau Gordon Bo Hodaso

We, the people from the community of Aleknagik, are in opposition to Proposal # 20 – 5AAC 06.333 Requirements and Specification for use of 200 fathems of drift gillnet in Bristol Bay. Allowing use of multiple permits in Bristol Bay drift gillnet fishery. This petition is in accordance with 5AAC 96.625 Joint Board Petition Policy under AS 44.62.220. Proposal by: Charles W. Treinen

City, State & Zip Name Address Signatur 99555 DBox 192 11 Box/S 11 11 11 SI 5145 ()0 qq 9 9.57 K DY G 99555 PNP ornani 9576 Box Laath 11  $\overline{\Omega}$ 7 9 Sox gr 00 9 9 cha 1555 G -99555 99555 1.0

Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game Boards Support Section PO Box 1152 Juneau,Ak 99811-5526 November 13, 2009



#### Dear Board of Fisheries;

My name Is Katherine Carscallen, I am a third-generation Bristol Bay commercial fisherman, and lifelong Bristol Bay resident and Subsistence user. I would like to testify in support Proposal 13, asking the Alaska State Legislature to enact higher protections for Bristol Bay.

"The most fundamental pre-requisite to exercising the right to take fish, and allocate fish, is the existence of fish to be taken."

That statement was made by Washington Judge William Orrick, at the peak of allocation disputes in Puget Sound, a fishery that my mom was forced out of because of the devastated fish stocks of the Pacific North-West.

The more I see of fisheries in other parts of our country, in particular the Pacific North-West, the more I realize how lucky we are in Bristol Bay to still be managing a commercial fishery after 125 years. However, I don't believe the state of our fishery is a statement to our outstanding ability to better manage our fishery. Instead I believe we owe our good fortune to our distance from the plague of destructive development that has devastated salmon habitat elsewhere.

Recently, with large scale, extractive development projects on the horizon, that distance seems a whole lot shorter. If we are not proactive in protecting our fishery, we can view the state of fisheries in Europe, the North-American East Coast, and the Pacific Northwest, as foreshadowing of what we can expect.

I appreciate the opportunity to submit this testimony. Please support Proposal 13, and help to encourage the Alaska State Legislature do take a proactive step to create special protection for the last great salmon run we have left.

trine Carscallen

Katherine Carscallen

From: Gust Bartman The Fish & Come should not let the sport Ashencen come Sham the Lower HT take out any Sish cought Show sport Sishing the Show within Haska, Bartmant Geist NOV 1 4 2009 Public Comment #\_\_\_\_

NOV 1 4 2009 November 12, 2009 Dear Members of the Board of Fish My name is Sarah Evans, and I'm from Dillingham, Alaska where I have leved for most of my life. Currently I am working towards my degree is fisheries blology so that when I finish my dequee I can come back to the Bristol Bay Community and help protect our waters and fish. The fisheries in the Bristol Bay are our very important to me because without them I don't believe that Many of the communities within the hegion would exist without access to Subsistence and commercial salmon fishing Not only that but the Bristol Bay Salmon run is the largest natural run left on the planet. If is vital that we try hardest to protect and preserve it so that generations to certe can continue its use. For the people of our region Salmon is not just a way to earn money, or put ment in your freezer, it's a way of life! For these reasons, and many others, I am in full support of Proposal 13, and ask the Board of Fish to vote in favor of Proposal 13. Also I ask the Board to ask the Legislator to Creat higher standers of protection within the Bristed Bay negron. 1/2 Public Comment #

Thank you for your time. Sincerely, Sauch Evang - West Public Comment #\_\_\_\_35 2/2

p.1

November 15, 2009

ATTN: BOF COMMENTS Boards Support Section Alaska Department of Fish and Game P.O. Box 115526 Juneau, AK 99811-5526

RECEIVED NOV 1 6 2009 BOARDS

## Re: Proposal Comments for Bristol Bay Finfish Meeting 2009

These comments are submitted on behalf of two family setnet operations in the Nushagak district of Bristol Bay. Between the two operations, five permits are owned and operated.

#### Proposal 13 - New Section - Bristol Bay Fish Refuge - SUPPORT

The Bristol Bay watershed is in need of greater protection in light of the increased interest in mineral exploration in the area. The existing permitting process is not enough to save this world class sport and commercial fishery from certain ecological ruin. Adoption of this proposal would help to preserve the livelihoods of generations of sport, commercial, and subsistence fishermen.

#### Proposal 14 - Removal of setnet gear during drift periods - OPPOSED

This proposal would create undue hardship upon setnetters by requiring them to remove setnet anchors, pegs, buoys, and running lines before and during any driftnet-only opening. Setnetters use these devices to mark their sites and in some cases permanently anchor and operate their nets. These permanent locations are also used to help resolve site conflicts between setnetters. Many setnetters spend several days or longer deploying these devices making it impossible to remove and reset them for each opening. There is a long established historical precedent involving the use of said devices. This proposal would effectively eliminate many setnetters from participation in the Bristol Bay fishery.

#### Proposal 15 - Elimination of 32ft rule - OPPOSED

This proposal would force many smaller, locally owned drift fishers out of the fishery. It highly favors existing "highliners" who can afford to build larger boats. It will make an already very effective drift fleet even more efficient by allowing boats to fish longer without delivering. Setnetters who most times find themselves behind on the allocation in their districts, will be further behind as the drifters catch more fish.

#### Proposals 17,18,19 - Setnet Permit stacking - SUPPORT.

This proposal helps family setnet operations that fish more than one permit. The Board should consider the same arguments that allowed a similar proposal to pass that involved Kodiak setnetters.

Public Comment #\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

p.2

## Proposal 31 - General District - OPPOSED.

This proposal is highly allocative in that it favors the drift fleet and their ability to catch fish early in the season. Although these fish that are caught by the drift fleet early on are assessed to their allocation, it forces the setnet fleet to begin the season behind on their percentage. The only way we would consider supporting this proposal would be if setnetters be allowed to fish in the General District along with the drift fleet as well as concurrently fish in their normal locations.

## Proposals 40,41 - Dude Fishing - SUPPORT

This proposal would provide fishermen with increased economic opportunities while having a minimal effect upon the fishery.

## Proposal 42 – Allow fishing in the WRSHA after projected escapement in the Wood River has been met – SUPPORT

Adoption of this proposal would allow a surplus of salmon to be harvested in-river while having no effect upon the existing fishery. It would spread out the fishing effort, allowing all fishermen to benefit.

## Proposal 43 - Allow June drift openings in the WRSHA - SUPPORT AS AMENDED

We would support this proposal if setnetters were included in it.

## Proposal 47 - Makes traveling through Snake River Section illegal if fish onboard - OPPOSED

This proposal could have negative implications for setnetters who fish in the Coffee Point and Igushik subdistricts of the Nushagak District. During the peak of the run tenders often get plugged which forces setnet skiffs to travel to find an available tender. This creates a needless safely issue. We would support this proposal if the Board would include an exclusion for setnetters.

Sincerely,

Tom Rollman Jr. 19541 Cicutta Way Eagle River, AK 99577 S04T65855 Tom Rollman Sr. P.O.Box 770778 Eagle River, AK 99577 S04T59716

Trevor Rollman - S04T59608 Levi Rollman - S04T65847 Jake Ruiz - S04T59966

Public Comment #\_\_\_\_

No. 4007 P. 1

BOARDS



1400 E. 1st Avenue - Anchorage Alaska 99501 Phone: (907) 522-7806 - (888) 622-1197 - Fax: (907) 222-0348 www.copperriverseafood.com

via fax # 907-465-6094

November 13, 2009

BOF COMMENTS Boards Support Section Alaska Department of Fish & Game P.O. Box 115526 Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Re: Bristol Bay Proposal # 26 "Eliminate super exclusive status of Togiak District"

To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept this letter in opposition to the above proposal.

The Togiak District super-exclusive status was put in place for several good reasons:

- Traditionally this is a smaller run than other areas of Bristol Bay and as such is more susceptible to over-fishing, particularly if a large number of boats were allowed to transfer in at the peak of the run
- The fishing district is a considerable distance from the rest of Bristol Bay and the travel can be challenging
- This run is normally fished by local residents who do not wish to travel to other areas of Bristol Bay to fish and who are very dependent upon this economic base
- Limiting by access the number of permits in any one district at any one time has proven to be a workable management strategy; this is simply a refinement specific to a smaller run and unique geographic status

We believe the current management works and should not be changed without valid reasons. This proposal simply states that it should be changed to match the rest of Bristol Bay. We don't feel this is a satisfactory reason to change a regulation that seems to be working fine.

Please let us know if you have any questions or would like to discuss this matter further. Thank you for your consideration.

Regards, COPPER RIVER SEAFOODS

Joe Egemo

Chief Operating Officer

No. 4007 P. 2



1400 E. 1st Avenue - Anchorage Alaska 99501 Phone: (907) 522-7806 - (888) 622-1197 - Fax: (907) 222-0348 www.copperriverseafood.com

November 13, 2009

via fax # 907-465-6094

BOF COMMENTS Boards Support Section Alaska Department of Fish & Game P.O. Box 115526 Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Re: Bristol Bay Proposal # 23 "Eliminate use of 200 fathom gillnets / dual permits in Togiak District"

To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept this letter in support of the above proposal. We feel the use of 200 fathom nets is excessive for the geographic size of the Togiak district. In addition, the run size in the Togiak district does not warrant more gear in the water. We feel it would increase the possibility of over-fishing and the potential for lost nets. It also creates an unfair benefit to those fishermen who have a second permit fishing on their boat, as that is an expenditure that not all fishermen are capable of.

The salmon run in Togiak must continue to be managed for the protection of the stock and to maximize the economic benefit. The use of a 200 fathom net is simply not necessary in this area.

Please let us know if you have any questions or would like to discuss this matter further. Thank you for your consideration.

Regards, COPPER RIVER SEAFOODS

Joe Egemo

Chief Operating Officer

No. 4007 P. 3



1400 E. 1st Avenue - Anchorage Alaska 99501 Phone: (907) 522-7806 - (888) 622-1197 - Fax: (907) 222-0348 www.copperriverseafood.com

via fax # 907-465-6094

November 14, 2009

BOF COMMENTS Boards Support Section Alaska Department of Fish & Game P.O. Box 115526 Juneau, AK 99811-5526

1-5526

Re: Bristol Bay Proposal # 15 "Eliminate 32' limit on vessels in Bristol Bay"

To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept this letter in opposition to the above proposal. The majority of our fishing fleet in the Bristol Bay region are local watershed residents. Unfortunately, most of these individuals do not have access to the capital to purchase a new vessel or do a major upgrade on existing vessels. In many cases, simple maintenance to existing vessels is challenging.

We do understand the rationale of allowing larger vessels from a quality standpoint. Our company has implemented and mandated very high quality standards for all our fleets statewide. We are a major buyer on the Copper River flats, where most of the boats are smaller than the 32' Bristol Bay limit, and those fishermen deliver excellent quality fish. It is not an apples to apples comparison due to different run sizes and timing, but our point is that smaller vessels can be quality oriented.

We assist our fleets with education, ice, and in some cases, financial backing for upgrades, but we are a fish processing company and not a bank, so that option is limited.

We respectfully request your support in maintaining the 32' limit. Please let us know if you have any questions or would like to discuss this matter further. Thank you for your consideration.

Regards, COPPER RIVER SEAFOODS

Joe Egemo

Chief Operating Officer

Becky Savo P.O. Box 109 Naknek, Alaska 99633

RECEIVED

1/09/07

I support the protection of the waterways, spawning grounds and the environment surrounding Bristol Bay and the Bering Sea. I am asking the Board of fish to further protect this resource. The following tale of my life illustrates my interest in the preservation of this vast resource, Bristol Bay, and the Bering Sea.

In 1962 my father Walt Cothran went to work as a quality control inspector for Alaska Packers Association. I was six years old then. My father traveled throughout the state but primarily spent his summers immersed in the world's largest salmon fishery, Bristol Bay. As a child I was unaware of where these places were, Egegik, Diamond E, Naknek, NN, Diamond J, Diamond O, Diamond M, Ugashik, Clarks Point, the list goes on. The dinner table conversation was always about the size of the run, the price of fish, the arrival of scows and the quality of the pack. As a child it was a delight. We roller-skated in the large warehouses amongst pallets of shinny cans of salmon. We rode on flat cars behind the forklifts as they ran back empty from the warehouse to the scow for another load of salmon. Soon the semi trucks would rumble by my house for days as the labeled cans of salmon went to market. This was Blaine Washington, a town that was employed by Alaska Packers and Bristol Bay Salmon.

When I turned 18, I went to Chignik, Alaska to process salmon. I then continued in South Naknek and Egegik working my way from patching table (snipping salmon bones off the tops of cans before the lid goes on) to the can shop, egg house, store and finally the warm kitchen. I put myself through college. I left school with no student loan debt, as the Bristol Bay Fishery again supported me.

The knowledge of the fishing industry landed me a job with Dakota Fisheries in Washington where I managed a fleet of fishing vessels that fished in the Bering Sea. For 8 years this water way again supported my needs. I continued on in life and guess what, I married a fisherman. He began fishing with his family as a young child and our children began fishing with him. We have four children, four now in college. The Bristol Bay fishery continues to support my family. As small children my kid's subsistence fished, a great family activity. My sons are now commercial fishermen. My son's also make extra money stripping and hanging nets used in the fishery. My oldest son works as a welder repairing the fleet. My two daughters have worked for the Port of Bristol Bay, which handles the "pack" as it leaves Bristol Bay. Is it ironic that those shinny cans are also supporting my daughters?

What is my point? Three generations have had good lives because of this resource. We are proof that this is a renewable resource. I now have grandchildren that will be subsistence fishing with me. That makes generation four. I really cannot imagine how any other industry could have sustained a family for three generations soon to be four. I am told that we need jobs in our region, we have jobs, we work in the fishing industry! Please help us protect and sustain this renewable resource. Protect our watersheds.

Sincerely

Becky Savo

Public Comment #

p.1

November 12, 2009

Vince Webster, Chair & Members of the Board of Fish Alaska Boards Section: Board of Fish PO Box 115526 Juneau, AK 99811-5526 RECEIVED NOV 1 6 2009 BOARDS

RE: Proposal 20-Allow one person to own two permits

Hello, my name is Scott Cheledinas and I have been a Commercial fisherman in Alaska for 25 plus years and have participated in the Bristol Bay fishery for over 20 of those years. I am writing today in support of Proposal 20. I strongly believe it is a win-win situation for all parties involved. I can remembe in the years past of some talk of a buy back program to address the need to reduce the fleet and fishing efforts in the Bay. I believe the biggest hurdle in the talk was who would fund such a program. Allowing one fisherman to own and fish two permits would accomplish the goals of a buyback program which the fisherman ourselves would be funding. A fisherman willing to invest the capital to purchase an additional permit would be making his operation more efficient and hopefully more profitable for him as well as other Bay fisherman by the elimination of one boat and 100 fathoms of gear that would otherwise would be in the water.

The last few years we have seen strong salmon returns to the Bay and I have been able to show a profit, I wonder when the next down cycle in run strength will occur. I can remember not too many years ago when my catch was above average for the season but not sure if after expenses I was going to have to use credit for a plane ticket. Even with the strong runs of the past years I see the majority of the season being way too much fishing effort for too few fish. I have been privileged a couple of the last seasons to fish 200 fathoms. I found with the extra 50 fathoms I burned less fuel by being able to position and shape my net in such a way to eliminate the need to run my gear near as often as with a shorter net.

In most cases the Bristol Bay fisheries bottom line dose not warrant the cost of building a new boat which has resulted in our extremley aged fleet. With propostion 20, less boats would be needed, not more which would help address the current shortage of reliable seaworthy boats in our aging fleet. Less boats would mean less extremely high priced fuel consumed, more efficient operations resulting in a more environmentally friendly fishery as well. In the last decade I have also seen my permit decrease in value to a fraction of what I originally paid for it, I believe with Proposal 20 we would see permit values increase and be more stable which would be an additional bonus for all permit holders. I encourage you to please vote yes on Proposal 20 seeing it as a move in the right direction as well as one of the biggest improvements in the fishery in several decades resulting in a win-win situation for all. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely, Scott Cheledinas.

p.2

Best regards, Scott Cheledinas P.O. Box 6424 Bozeman, MT. 59771 406 570-8975

Public Comment #\_\_\_\_\_

2/2

Ralph J. Mancuso FV Uncle Fritz P.O. Box 181 Naknek, AK 99633 11/9/09 RECEIVED NOV 1 6 2009 BOARDS

Dear Board of Fish Members,

I am writing to request that the Board does everything within its power to protect the Bristol Bay Fishery and the greater Bering Sea Watersheds. I am opposed to mining in the region as a major industry as it will impact the clean pure waters of the Bristol Bay Watersheds. Let us focus our energies on promoting wild salmon from our pristine environment.

I am a commercial fisherman as is my son. It has been my pleasure to be involved in this fishery for some 30+ years. I am encouraging you to protect this resource to the fullest of your abilities for future generations to enjoy as I have.

I am not sure if the board is still considering changing the size of the Bristol Bay Fleet to a 42 ft. limit. If so, I am adamantly opposed to the prospect of the elimination of the 32 foot boat size limit as it would be devastating to the local economy. I feel it would cause the fishery to become exclusive to those that can afford the larger boats and allow the processors to hire fewer boats to process the catch, thus less jobs for our local economy.

Sincerely. Ralph J. Mancuso



RECEIVE NOV 162009 BOARD

Cecil Ranney 11240 Womens Bay Drive Kodiak, AK 99615

Alaska Board of Fisheries Alaska Department of Fish and Game P.O. Box 115526 Juneau, AK 99811-5526

I have been involved with the Bristol Bay fishery since 1974. I have been a tender operator, driftnet fisher and I am now part of a family four-setnet operation in the Egegik district. I would like to comment on Proposals 37, 38 and 39.

I oppose Proposal 37. Our sites are up on the flats at the north end of the district and most often do not get water until well after the opening. If the manager is restricted to 15 to 30 minute earlier openings for setnets, it will not aid us in anyway. Early openings tend to allocate the fish to a group of setnets in the middle of the district and managers are supposed to attempt to distribute fish throughout the district. The management of last year's fishery was very good. The manager used a number of different opening timings to get a close allocation and reach escapement as well as spread the catch throughout the district. He should continue to have that flexibility. Every year is different.

While I oppose Proposal 38, I again support giving the manager flexibility in his management. Many factors can impact the allocation. One year there were fewer than 400 boats in the district and they fished every tide while the setnets fished only one tide a day. The allocation was meant to protect setnets. Last year there were times where one or the other gear type was on put on limit. When this happens it becomes impossible for the management to control the allocation. On one tide he gave us a setnet only opening to help us catch up but both of the buyers on the beach were plugged and not buying. Again, give the managers the flexibility to adjust with the conditions. If a gear type goes on limit, the ability to manage for allocation goes out the window.

And finally I oppose Proposal 39. As I've stated, I have fished for years both as a drifter and a setnetter. Setnet buoys and anchors have always been left in the water for the season. We have all lived with the situation and I see no reason to change.

Thank you for working hard to keep the greatest salmon fishery in the world sustainable and equitable for the participants.

Cecil Ranney Cerl Reen J

Comment #\_

November 16, 2009

RECEIVED NOV 1 5 2009 BOARDS

Alaska Department of Fish and Game Board Support Section. Board of Fish P.O. Box 115526 Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Fax (907) 465-6094

We, Joel A. Ludwig, Clayton S. Ludwig and Peter M. Ludwig strongly urge the Board of Fish to vote for Proposal 20.

We have a family fishing operation in which my two sons have participated since they were ages 10-12 years old. When they reached the ages of 16 years, Bristol Bay Permits were purchased and placed in my 2 sons' possession for their compensation of services to the family fishing operation. Now they have reached college age and the education paths they have chosen interferes with the fishing season. Because of this situation, we are faced with the choice of having to sell the permits which is very undesirable, or letting the permit sit idle for 4 years and lose income, which affects our funding of education. Another option is to transfer the permit outside of family circle (i.e. hired crewmember). This has undesirable risk and complication of executing a transfer because of Tax and Entry Commission issues involved in this type of transfer. There are many Bristol Bay fishermen faced with this type of situation. Permit stacking helps increase profit, removes gear from the water and makes fishing less crowded, which helps increase the quality of catch so that our prices can increase. Permit values may increase in value, which can benefit fishermen reaching retirement.

Some years ago, ADF&G and the CFEC recommended that the optimum number of permits be between 600-1,200. By passing Proposal 20, we can achieve this goal without having to do an expensive Buy Back. This is a very good proposal. Please pass.

Thank you,

Joel A. Ludwig Clayton S. Ludwig Peter M. Ludwig

della Comment #\_\_\_\_\_

p.2

November 16, 2009

Alaska Department of Fish and Game Board Support Section. Board of Fish P.O. Box 115526 Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Fax (907) 465-6094

I, Joel Ludwig, urge the board to vote in favor of Proposal 15.

The increase in vessel length has many positives for the Bristol Bay fishery. I fish for a company that is embracing the quality issues that will increase profits and image of Bristol Bay Sockeye. But to implement these practices, it is apparent that we need longer vessels. With an increase in length, our vessels will be more equipped to float our fish in refrigerated sea water, as opposed to just spraying the fish. This is a big difference in quality, (more room to facilitate bleeding of fish). Just these two factors will increase profits for all Bristol Bay fishermen. Our vessels will become more fuel efficient, which we need because it takes more fuel for quality. It also makes our vessels safer and more seaworthy. Please consider these points and vote YES on Proposal 15.

Thank you,

Joel A. Ludwig

Public Comment #

#### Dear Alaska Board Of Fish

RECEIVEL NOV **1 6 2009** BOARDS

The Bristol Bay watershed is without doubt, the most valuable Salmon habitat left on earth. We as Alaska Commercial Fishers, we are greatly aware of this treasure. We find it inconceivable, that this amazing resources is being threatened buy dirty Industries, such a mining or oil extraction.

As a 37 year Bristol Bay Fisherman, and seafood processor, I have learned that, the "The Bristol Bay Watershed" is our greatest strength in promotional marketing, Representing the purest habitat left on the planet. This knowledge is highly valued by our customers.

Unpolluted, protected, consistently reliable, and sustainable. These are the highest ratings one can equate with habitat. This is not only a quality assurance to our customers, it's a food safety assurance as well.

The very notice of entities such as Big Mining or Big Oil, threatens our creditability and undermines our years of progress, promoting Bristol Bay Salmon.

It's absolutely essential that the Board adopt proposal 13 It's absolutely essential that the board do everything in it power to stop "dirty industry" cancer causing industries like mining and oil, to gain any rights of extraction in the Bristol Bay watershed.

Thank you for your time and consideration regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Gene Maltzeff

11-12-09

President: Northwest Natural Foods 3805 56<sup>th</sup> Ave NE Olympia Wa, 98506 360-866-9661 Berringsea@yahoo.com

<sup>D</sup>ublic Comment #\_\_\_\_

November 10, 2009

RECEIVED NOV **162009** BOARDS

ATTN: BOF COMMENTS Boards Support Section Alaska Department of Fish and Game P.O. Box 115526 Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Dear Alaska Board of Fisheries Members:

As a resident of the Bristol Bay area, fishery business owner, subsistence user, and commercial salmon fisherman, I offer the following comments. I hope that my comments, as well as other comments being submitted by residents of the Bristol Bay region, will be considered in your deliberations of these important issues.

## Proposal 13

The Alaska Board of Fisheries has authority to establish a fish refuge. By deferring this issue to the Alaska State Legislature, via resolution, the BOF is simply making a recommendation to the governmental body to protect the resource that they are charged with governing.

Our salmon fishery is abundant because of our pristine watershed. If this Board does not take steps to protect this area from large-scale hard-rock metallic sulfide mining, then we will most likely see a serious loss of habitat and decrease in water quality that our salmon depend on.

Therefore, I strongly support proposal 13.

## Proposal 14

This diatribe of a proposal requiring removal of all setnet gear during drift openings is not only verbose, it's downright idiotic. The proposal cites a number of criminal statutes (that area clearly not applicable) and states that "[b]oth gear groups would benefit from this proposal." That is clearly erroneous, as set net fishermen will not only be inconvenienced by having to pull their gear each drift opening, they will be precluded from fishing for many openings if they are not allowed to keep their gear out. This is due to the fact that outside screw anchors and other gear have to be installed during very low tides in order to access the points where they need to be installed. Because many of these areas do not have low enough tides to permit the removal and installation of the screw anchors, many setnet fishermen will be in continuous violation of such a law, or be precluded from fishing openings because of their inability to get their gear installed where it needs to be.

Aside from that, if a drift boat needs to come that close to shore to fish, they are practically "setnetting" themselves, which is a violation of law to allow a boat to pull up to the shore and set their net. Additionally, drift boats will be in danger of running aground if they are permitted to come that close to shore, as the water is very shallow in many parts of the bay, and a drift boat that is high and dry on a set net site would certainly interfere with a setnet fishermen's right to

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use their leasehold property. This is clearly a violation of property rights. There have been times in the past when we couldn't set our net due to hold over tides. The water was already covering our outside screw anchor. I strongly oppose Proposal 14 since it will hinder the setnetter.

## Proposal 15

I strongly oppose Proposal 15 because this type of restructuring is inappropriate for the Bristol Bay region. The inequity of adoption of this proposal lies in the fact that Bristol Bay residents do not have the capital to invest thousands of dollars into improved or new vessels. The only ones who would benefit from this proposal are those few fishermen who are fortunate enough to come to Bristol Bay for a few months of the year, and then go back to their respective states or regions that do not have the same economic conditions that we face in Bristol Bay (i.e. high fuel prices, high cost of living, high levels of unemployment). So, in essence, I strongly feel that Bristol Bay area residents who are currently involved in the fishery will be forced to sell out to non-Alaskans who can afford to purchase multiple permits and make the investments in bigger boats. I feel that Alaskan resources should primarily benefit residents of Alaska, and not be used to further enrich affluent fishermen who are lawyers, doctors and other professional career types during the other 10 months of the year.

## Proposal 32

I support allowing 35 fathom set gillnet in the NRSHA. As a setnet fisherman from the age of nine years old, my family has been severely circumscribed in their ability to achieve economic gain during periods when ADF&G has moved the setnetters into the special harvest area. Allowing that additional 10 fathoms will still protect the resource, but will allow setnetters to achieve more economic gain during low return years.

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Thank you for listening and please consider my comments.

Sincerely,

Betty J. Bonin Naknek Commercial setnetter for 50 years

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Tommy Evon POBOX 50 Manokotak AK 99628 907-289-1089

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ATT: BOF Comments Boards Support Section AK Dept. of Fish & Game POBOX 115526 Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Support Letter-Proposal 15

In consideration for the restructing of the Bristol Bay Finfish Regulations and the call for proposals that may institute changes within the regulations, I would like to express my support for Proposal 15, for the following reason(s), although not necessarily limited to them.

1.- SAFETY - Safety is an issue that must always be considered realistically, a priority as first (1st), with logic, Known and or reported incidents and considered, professionally and if necessary, with actual persons who may have experienced a loss-Many factors are such that may surface by other presentations, views or opinions.

2.- Quality - Know this! Fish is Food - therefore, stricter regulations are warranted.

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## Tommy Evon

Quality means expansion, innovation, more expense, professional, bigger, just to name a few. Still, it summarizes to one word... CONTROL. Takes the above to initiate.

3. - Equipment - there was a day when PEWS worked, then brailers, just for off-loading speed, it was said. Effective, but no quality. Now it is RSW (Refrigerated Sea Water), or consistently pumping fresh sea water into the fish hold. With this highly effective system, weight increases drastically, therefore altering the balance of the Uessel. Water shifts (moves) easily, causing a change in stability, unsafe, dangerous & many Guvrent vessels may not be constructed aceurately for a specification of type. Therefore, increase of length for vessels is mandatory for quality control of catch.

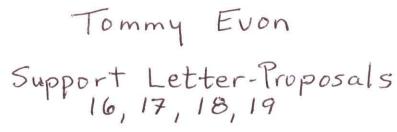
Summary - In this day and age, need for the 'safe for consumption' food from the sea takes financial expenses, work and true realistic consideration of reality. Whether or not many or less may agree, times are changing, for better or worse.

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Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully - Tommy Evon - Tommy Ewon

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During these times, specifically from the past when financial instability occurred due to changes in perhaps regulations internally, by foresight, study and evaluations, changes in Bristol Bay Finfish availability due to reasons that have yet to be actual, although forecasts are determined, and going so far as mismanagement, underestimation, yet to be considered.

Expenses occur, multiply, overwhelm, equipment fallure, engine breakdown, insurance cost, permit loss or boat loss. Those with permits are there and available for work and may partner with others until such time, if feasible, to work on their own. For the above reasons, I therefore indicate to you, my <u>SUPPORT</u> for Proposals 16, 17, 18, and 19.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully - Tommy Evon-





# Support Letter-Proposal 20

Life is such that seemingly to the eyes and understanding by some, that it is unfair-truly said, in a sense, although to another's understanding, a deep desire to improve one's financial management, gain or 1055- Learning from the past, others are out there who may be willing to sacrifice time, energy and will, to venture into fanancial gain or loss, by the acquisition of additional permits-an unknown-Realizing that other reasons exist, for time-constriction, I therefore state my <u>SUPPORT</u> for Proposal 20. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully - Tommy Evon Stum Bur

Support Letter - Proposal 21

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Each has a right to express one's feelings, views and/or opinion. I exercise my right. A permit means the authorization to hold and fish gear for commercial / subsistence purposes. A holder exercises his right to fish the equal amount of gear on a versel in addition to another permit holder who is licensed to fish the same vessel. The consideration of reality cannot be violated

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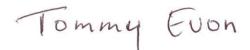
even by authorities for the allowance of and use of gear, such as in the stacked permits- Holders should know the capability, limitations of, and continued safety in the vessel they are fishing, with the additional length of gear authorized to each permit holder. Therefore, I <u>SUPPORT</u> Proposal 21. Thank you for your consideration. Respectfully - Tommy Evon Jormy Ewon

Support Letter - Proposal 26

A permit holder for fishing in the waters of Bristol Bay has the right to fish in a district of their choosing - When certain rules/regulations/laws exist, they may be understood by some as discriminatory, allenation of inherent rights to many, due to language implimented at a time found necessary for that time period - Times change, and unfornately economic status financially is affected. The times of too many boats' registered in a district, causing drastic changes, purchase of fish ave cut short by limiting, a financial loss that perhaps may be eliminated with the allowance to transfer to the district specified in this proposal. Therefore, I state my SUP-PORT for Proposal 26.

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one can go back to it. What worked then, may not apply to our time. Necessity for change is now mandatory tor Safety, Quality, Equipment, Permit Stacking, multiple Ownership of Permits, the Right to fish authorized gear in a vessel that may be licensed to fish using year in addition. Lastly, but not the least, the right to choose to fish in any district and transfer in/out at will. Thank you Kindly for your consideration. Respectly submitted: Tommy Evon - Jamy Erm



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