

**Board of Fisheries Bristol Bay Finfish meeting of December 1 - 8, 2009 at the Anchorage Hilton Hotel**  
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**RC 119**

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RC 4



November 17, 2009

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

via fax # 907-465-6094

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,  
TOGIAK SEAFOODS

Moses Kritz  
Shareholder / Fisherman

Togiak Seafoods  
1400 E. 1st Avenue  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501



November 17, 2009

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

via fax # 907-465-6094

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. Our fishing fleet in Togiak is local watershed residents with limited 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 view is that smaller vessels can be quality oriented, which we proved in the 2009 season. Our local fleet bled and iced most of their catch with no major issues.

We respectfully request your support in retaining 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,  
TOGIAK SEAFOODS

Moses Kritz  
Shareholder / Fisherman

Togiak Seafoods  
1400 E. 1st Avenue  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

2/3

November 17, 2009

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

via fax # 907-465-6094

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

To Whom It May Concern:

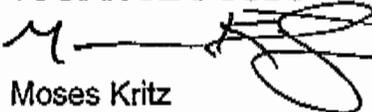
Please accept this letter in opposition to the above proposal. The Togiak District super-exclusive status was put in place for several good reasons:

- 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 for the local residents
- 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
- The Togiak run historically peaks later than the rest of Bristol Bay. The current status prevents a massive influx of boats and gear into one area and allows prudent management of the fishery.
- 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,  
TOGIK SEAFOODS



Moses Kritz  
Shareholder / Fisherman

Vince Webster, Chair  
Alaska Board Support - Board of Fish  
P.O. Box 115526  
Juneau AK 99811

Dear VINCE,

I have fished in Bristol Bay for 22 years. When fishing the past few years it actually looks funny for most big & medium sized boats to have only three schackles of gear in the water. Three schackles of gear was ok for sailboats but all boats now can handle 4 schackles.

I purchased another permit to become more efficient two years ago. This permit is in my crewman's name which makes me very nervous!! This past season he left early for a wedding. This hurt my investment as I could only fish 3 schackles even though I have actually bought 2 permits.

PLEASE! PLEASE! allow me to put both  
permits into my name and fish them!!

I don't know what I will do this coming  
season as the crewman with the permit might  
not even want to fish this year.

Sincerely yours,  
Dennis Albert  
FV cowboy

Dear Board of Fish,

I predict that you the BOF will vote no or take no action on proposal 13. I feel this is a wink and nod to the Bristol Bay mining interests. Please be a Fish Board and vote yes on proposal 13.

As for restructuring Bristol Bay.

- ① Longer boats
- ② more net
- ③ larger district
- ④ 48 hr transfer, ect.

Theres always someone who wants to own it all. I urge you to vote no on these proposals.

Solution, sell Bristol Bay operation and Guy into area "m" North Peninsula fishery.

Sincerely,

MATT O'CONNELL

F/V Kathy ANN

This comment was ON TIME - But got overlooked so is being submitted as:

NOV. 17. 2009 4:35PM

SOUND BUSINESS CENTER

NO. 506

P. 2

RC7

TO: ADFG BOF Bristol Bay Finfish Meeting, December 1-8, 2009

FROM: Larry Christensen, author, Proposal #39

I have read the ADFG comments on proposal 39, and those of the other similar proposals. I appreciate that The Department position is neutral; however, I believe that with further understanding of the situation in the field, the ADFG and the BOF would recognize the need for a continuation of the development of the management of this fishery, in order to foster a more orderly harvest, and less dangerous environment.

Prior to the recent Bristol Bay allocation plans, (developed, ratified, and implemented by the BOF), the setnet and driftnet gear groups fished concurrently. Since then, the ADFG has utilized staggered and alternating openers to attempt to achieve the desired allocations and overall harvest levels. Inadvertently, setnet running lines, buoys, and anchors have been allowed to remain in the waters during a closure for the setnet fleet, creating obstructions during a driftnet fishing period. This has created a situation where many times the driftnet fleet is excluded from harvesting the necessary in river fish in order to achieve the desired allocation goals, and has allowed surges of fish to over escape. The beaches are an extremely important harvest management tool that needs to be available to all parties involved, setnetters, management, and yes, even drifters.

Next is the issue of safety and an orderly fishing environment. If you think this is not applicable, then you have not tried to navigate those waters at night or during stormy weather. Unattended Obstructions to Navigations (and fishing) are serious threats to vessels, property, and life. A few years ago, I searched the waters of Egegik River for a young man whose boat sunk due to being caught against a setnet running line during storm conditions. His body was found several days later. I have seen, and heard of countless more dangerous and costly situations involving these unattended lines and buoys that clutter the waterways of The Bay and the rivers now. The large tidal swings, limited visibility, stormy weather, and concentrated terminal fisheries all contribute to the unpredictability of vessel operations. Try as they might, prudent mariners are still jeopardized when conditions are against them. ADFG opinion seems to be that the responsibility is with the drift fleet. When in fact, federal law protects mariners from obstructions of navigable waters. The setnet buoy and lines have a reasonable and regulated right to be 100 feet from the ends of the setnet when actively deployed. Anything beyond that is an arbitrary hindrance that has been allowed to progress to the point that it is now destroying hundreds of thousands of dollars of fishing gear, and more importantly, causing bodily harm and even costing lives. I have conferred with Coast Guard personnel about this and they concur. **Now is the time to deal with this aspect of the evolution of the setnet fishery, not after another tragedy.**

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Christensen SO3T55746J 11/17/09

# **NUSHAGAK ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**9 a.m. October 30, 2009**  
**Bristol Inn Conference Room**  
**DILLINGHAM, ALASKA**

**DRAFT MEETING MINUTES**  
**Recording Secretary: Hans Nicholson**

## **1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Hans Nicholson called the meeting to order at 9:17 a.m.

## **2. ROLL CALL/ESTABLISH QUORUM**

Members present at roll call were: Curt Armstrong, Dan Dunaway, Hans Nicholson, Amelia Christensen, Frank Woods, alternate William A. Johnson, Wassillie Andrew-New Stuyahok, Glen Wysocki-Koliganek, John Bavilla-Togiak. Chairman Nicholson excused Victor Sifsof, who was traveling. Robin Samuelson arrived at 10:08 am from Anchorage.

## **3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

After amendments, Amelia Christensen moved to adopt and William A. Johnson seconded. Unanimous approval.

## **4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Since copies of the March 27, 2009 meeting minutes were unavailable, the committee will review and approve at their next scheduled meeting.

## **5. INTRODUCE STAFF AND GUESTS**

The ADF&G staff present for all or part of the meeting included: Andrew Devalpine, Boards Support; Tim Sands and Matt Jones, Area Biologists Commercial Fish; Jason Dye, Craig Schwanke, Ian Fo, Biologists Sport Fish; Theodore Krieg, ADF&G Subsistence; Andy Aderman, and Paul Liedberg, TNWR; Izeta Chambers, University of Alaska Marine Advisory. Members of the public, Rod Williams, William Hemshoot, Edward Heyano, Matt O'Connell, Patricia Carscallen, Hjalmar Olson, Joe Chythlook, sport fish guide Mike Adiago.

## **6. New Business**

### **a. Staff Reports**

Tim Sands handed out post-season salmon and herring information and gave an update on the 2009 Nushagak salmon season. He reports that the Nushagak District had it's 3<sup>rd</sup> largest harvest in history. The Nushagak, Igushik, and Wood River all met or exceeded their escapement goals. Overall, he thought the season went well as most fishermen had

ample opportunity to harvest with many openings and lots of fishing time. Drift and set allocation ratio's were fairly close to the 74/26 % mark, ending with 76% drift and 24% set. The set gear type had to fish continually to keep the percentage ratio's in-line with the recommended allocation ratios.

Tim would like to incorporate Coho/Pink management discussion into the Nushagak Chinook Preseason Meeting in the spring. There is increasing interest by processors in taking Coho's and Pinks after the sockeye run.

The 2009 Togiak Herring season started later than usual with the very late spring and ran long, ending the last day of May. The seiners caught 86% of their quota while the gillnetters harvested 60%.

Matt Jones talked a little on the Togiak Salmon season. There were two new processors in Togiak salmon this year. This is good because in prior years there is usually only one processor. In the past, periodic issues at Togiak Fisheries ranging from shutdowns due to lack of processing capacity, breakdowns, and other reasons have prevented harvest opportunity to fishermen there. Now with three processors buying, fishermen have more options. This year Togiak had it's 10<sup>th</sup> largest harvest.

Public comment during our meeting talked some on prior years lack of processing capacity in Togiak, shutdowns due to processor breakdowns, competition from non-local fishermen after the 24<sup>th</sup> (super-exclusive clause). Some thought that 2009 was an exceptional year as fishermen were happy that they didn't have any processor capacity issues.

Tim felt that the overall health of the herring biomass was ok with acceptable returns every year. The average age of herring harvested is younger than 10 years ago as we are focusing more primarily on 7 and 8 year old herring. We used to harvest more 10+ age herring.

Hans is concerned and comments that his personal perspective is that he feels that the herring are not coming back in strength as in prior years as he doesn't see as much returning to the Kulukak as in the 80's and 90's. Even with only 25-30 gillnet fishermen now fishing in Kulukak, it's more difficult to harvest in quantities than 10-15 years ago. He feels that with his 30-year participation in the fishery, his observation is that the overall biomass is shrinking. He is also concerned about the trawl by-catch during the near-shore trawl fishery along the Nushagak Peninsula when the herring are migrating out along the shore. He's not aware of any concrete numbers on herring by-catch and is wondering if there are any other than what the trawlers themselves are reporting. He feels that the potential for herring by-catch could be high.

One public commenter thinks that the department monitoring abundance isn't as important as it used to be and feels that more emphasis needs to be put into monitoring overall total biomass. He says that the Togiak residents themselves say that the herring are not as plentiful as they used to be.

Ted Krieg, ADF&G Subsistence indicated that there's been good participation this year on returns for the Subsistence Salmon Permit Reports. For summer 2010, they are planning a project in New Stuyahok and will be talking with and working with subsistence fishermen gathering information.

Craig Schwanke, ADF&G Sport Fish reports that they will be working on projects including working at Talarik Creek in Lake Iliamna to count Rainbow Trout and to do radio tracking of trout migration in the Lower Kvichak. This spring, they will be doing more research on Dolly Varden in Lake Iliamna. They will be doing a project on King Salmon in the upper Nushagak. He reports that sport fishermen effort declined on the Nushagak, probably a direct reflection on the state of the economy. This years Chinook escapement was 81,000 fish from a preseason forecast run of 145,000 Kings.

Robin arrives at 10:08 am.

There was quite a bit of discussion on Nushagak Kings. Of issue were preseason forecasts, run strength, timing, lack of a directed commercial fishery, sport fish effort on the Nushagak River, subsistence fishery, trends for weak runs even with adequate escapement, trawl by-catch, and others.

Andy Aderman USFWS Togiak Refuge gave an update on the Nushagak Peninsula Caribou Herd. Populations are the same as lasts year, 547 animals but 1 more than 3 years ago.

Robin Samuelson, BBEDC. Robin indicated that he just got back from a meeting in Anchorage. The outcome was to initiate a 60,000 chinook cap during the trawl fishery with penalties for going over. Not everyone was happy with the number but he felt that it was a good compromise. Going over the "cap" 3 years in succession would result in fishery penalties lowering the cap to 45,000. They are concerned about Bristol Bay Chinook stocks in trawler by-catch. The Nushagak is the biggest producer but other systems are important too.

Staff commented that the Department is doing their best to keep track of Chinook escapement in the Togiak drainages. They will come out with the population estimate in the spring, the last two years were poor in Togiak. The Nushagak has been worse than forecast the past few years.

A member of the public is concerned on king abundance and run timing because subsistence fishermen are now having to fish longer to meet their household needs. The peak of the run lasts only for a few days and if you miss them, it's difficult to get what you need.

Robin continues with the BBEDC report and says that they are working with Gunnar Knap. They will be submitting a report to the BOF on the 32' limit and what potential impact there would be to the local fleet if restructuring proposals were adopted.

He attended the last BOF workshop, there are approximately 15-20 restructuring proposals. The BOF is coming to Dillingham on November 13 to talk about them. If the restructuring proposals were to pass, the outcome would have a very negative impact on our local watershed fishermen. He encourages all to provide written or oral testimony to the BOF at the town meeting or at the BOF meeting in Anchorage.

**Break at 10:43 am.**

**Back to order at 10:50 am.**

### **b. Sport fish proposals**

Hans asks Jason Dye, ADF&G Sport Fish to introduce the sport fish proposals for the committee.

**Proposal #9 Robin moves to adopt, Amelia seconds.**

Dan says he's talked to Luki Akelkok and that Ekwok supports the proposal.

A Sport Fish Guide in attendance is concerned about its impact but supports it because it is conservation based. He is interested in initiating discussion for support to allow catch and release in the specified area because he feels that these spots are well known snagging holes.

Hans is concerned about enforceability if catch/release were allowed, he feels that it is cleaner if we support the proposal as-is.

Jason Dye agrees that enforcement would be more difficult if catch/release were allowed.

A member of the public mentions that closing the river mouths would only a small adjustment to the sport fish industry and is reasonable to help carrying the burden of conservation because of the increased sport fish activity in all of Bristol Bay. Harvest at river mouths are critical because kings congregate there and are very vulnerable to over-harvesting. It could have a negative impact on spawning populations.

Hans mentions that the way the proposal is written, it would close sport fishing within ¼ mile of the whole drainage. Our intent was to close ¼ mile from the entrance.

**Dan move to amend, to insert mouth after Koggiling creeks. Frank seconds.**

**\*Vote on the amendment is unanimous in favor.**

**\*Vote on amended proposal #9 is unanimous in favor**

**Proposal #12 Robin moves to adopt, William seconds.**

Jason mentions that this proposal would correct an error in current regulation.

Everyone is in approval.

**\* Vote on proposal #12 is unanimous in favor.**

**Proposal #13 Robin moves to adopt, Frank seconds.**

Hans is in favor of the concept in proposal 13. His dependency on fishing is 100% and feels that his livelihood, as well as others, would be jeopardized if we did not have the protections that the refuge would provide. A spill from the mine would affect not only our drainage, but also the Kvichaks. A spill would be catastrophic to the world's largest natural salmon run. We've got too much at stake here and is in favor of the proposal.

Robin states that the Board could adopt it and it would pass on to the legislature. It definitely would offer a greater level of protection. The mining industry as a whole has a very poor track record.

John Bavilla tells a story of the Platinum Mine near Goodnews Bay. There used to be salmon that spawned in the drainages around the mine, but no longer do because of the impact the mine has had to the environment.

**\* Vote on proposal #13 is unanimous in favor.**

### **c. Bristol Bay Finfish Proposals**

Chairman Nicholson's asks Tim Sands to introduce the proposals and explain it's intent, purpose, and effect if adopted.

**Proposal #1 Robin moves to adopt, Frank seconds.**

Hans explains his reasoning for submitting the proposal. Competition for fishing sites continues to increase and is now more difficult to get enough kings when they are running. There is not enough beach area to provide everyone a place to anchor their nets. Drifting allows greater control in harvesting only what you would need, fish would be of better quality, harvesting would be done in a more efficient manner instead of fishing for days or weeks to meet household needs.

John Bavilla says they drift in the Togiak River and that drifting is only for a short time. They only get what they need and that their net is not always out like a set net. There is less waste and the fish are fresher.

A member of the public questions limiting to 24 foot vessels?

Hans responds that it would discourage use of commercial fishing boats and the potential of cheating to sell subsistence caught fish.

Another member of the public supports the proposal because he is forced to use a boat to fish away from congested areas. He has to go out multiple times to get enough fish for his needs. He believes that not everyone will drift, fishermen will be able to control what they harvest and only get what they need.

Robin is opposed because he is concerned about king escapement. He is concerned about the increased catching power and efficiency of drift nets. Currently we have “young Turks” drifting up in the clear water. He doesn’t think we would be sending a good message to the BOF because of current conservation issues. He foresees the potential and cause for a lot of abuse. He feels that the upriver folks are getting adequate fish.

Dan mentions, “what if someone drifts down in front of the sonar and takes it out?” He mentions that drifting areas would have to be defined and suggests “drifting areas” to limit where fishermen could fish.

Wassillie Andrew from New Stuyahok supports the proposal because around his community, there are only limited spots for good fishing.

Glen Wysocki from Koliganek says that increasing numbers of brown bears are picking their nets up-river and feels that it would be safer drifting. The bears eat and “spoil” a lot of fish that they could have otherwise use. He feels that this proposal would help. They’ve been doing it for years anyway, it would help to make it legal. He sees more and more waste from brown bears every year.

Another member of the public mentioned that years ago, there was no limitation on subsistence nets. Up until a few years ago they were allowed to use 25 fathom nets across Wood River but now are regulated to 10 fathoms. He sees more of a chance up-river for waste and abuse is longer nets were used.

Another member of the public says that he “hears” the concerns for abuse. On behalf of the Aleknagik folks, he says that they don’t let their nets go dry. They travel down, set their nets, tend them until they pull their nets and go home. It costs too much to run back and forth all the time so they take their nets back home with them. They don’t abuse subsistence and abide by the rules and regulations”. He supports the concept to increase subsistence opportunity but questions the difference between subsistence and personal use.

Robin states that real subsistence users control what they get. Inexperienced fishermen don’t know how to harvest fish and the potential for over-harvesting would lead to waste. The Nushagak AC has a long history of being conservative. Dillingham is a large town, we’d be looking for trouble.

Frank indicates that he is concerned about the commercial abuse potential. He supports the proposal and he only catches what he needs. Right now all of the beaches are congested and there is not enough room. He mentions that the “drifting” practice is authorized in other parts of the state.

John Bavilla comments that we all need to be good stewards of our resources and that subsistence users should monitor their nets.

William says that he supports the proposal. Right now many up-river residents travel a long way to get the kings they need and fish at Lewis Point,. Their own beaches are full and some of them already drift for kings.

**\*Vote on proposal 1 is 7 in favor and 3 opposed.**

**Proposal #2 Robin moves to adopt, Dan Dunaway seconds.**

Hans supports the proposal, basically similar to proposal #1 but farther upriver. Koliganek had asked us to sponsor the proposal.

Dan mentions the need to identify “drifting areas”; he thinks it would work if nets were shorter than 25 fathoms.

Robin is opposed. We’ve already adopted #1 that allows drifting. He recommends taking no action.

**\*By consensus the committee agrees to take no action with preference for #1.**

**Proposal #3 Robin moves to adopt, Frank seconds.**

Hans supports because he feels that subsistence fishermen’s effectiveness was reduced when allowable net length was cut from 25 fathoms down to 10 fathoms a couple board cycles ago. Fishermen travel across Wood River with the intent of catching what they need because local beaches are congested. Having to make multiple trips daily only adds to the risk when the weather is bad. He references earlier discussion during staff reports on behalf of Aleknagik and Dillingham fishermen who fish the Wood and Nuahagak Rivers by boat.

Robin is opposed and reminds everyone of why the restrictions were implemented in the first place. Waste and over-harvesting are issues. The Nushagak AC has a track record of being conservative when it comes to resources. He feels that the time isn’t right especially the last couple years weak return and king escapements.

**\*Action on proposal #3 is 7 in favor and 3 opposed.**

**Break for lunch at 12:05 pm.**

**Back to order at 1:03 pm.**

**Proposal #4 Robin moves to adopt, William A. Johnson seconds.**

Hans is in favor because each year the fishery biologist has to grant an extra 50 fathoms of set gillnet gear by emergency order. Current regulation only allows 50 fathoms of gear. If adopted, this would eliminate the annual need for the emergency order. With the consistent low participation rates dictated by limited markets, foreseeable gillnet participation in the fishery will continue to remain low. Each year, Tim grants the extra 50 fathoms to increase the fishermen's effectiveness to balance the allocation ratios between the seine/gillnet fleet.

**\*Action on proposal #4 is unanimous in favor.**

**Proposal #5 Robin moves to adopt, William A. Johnson seconds.**

Tim is concerned that the fish would be stressed in a pound fishery. It would be expensive to bring in substance for the pound. The commercial Togiak fishing district has no sheltered coves, etc. where one or more could operate.

Robin is opposed. It would be a new fishery. The Togiak Herring is fully allocated and unless the department is willing to grant a separate allocation, fishermen aren't willing to give up their share.

Hans is opposed as it would be economically unfeasible for local participation. It doesn't make sense especially if it wouldn't work geographically.

**\*Action on proposal #5 is unanimous to oppose.**

**Proposal #6 Robin moves to adopt, William A. Johnson seconds.**

Robin is opposed. Western Alaska herring stocks are fully allocated and utilized including Togiak. In the event that there is not a spawn on kelp fishery, it is reallocated to the seine/gillnet fisheries at the corresponding 70/30% allocation ratios.

**\*Action on proposal #6 is unanimous to oppose.**

**Proposal #7 Robin moves to adopt, Dan seconds.**

Tim mentions that this is housekeeping and would allow a clarification in regulatory language. Currently GPS coordinates are not listed in current regulation and each year he has to announce the Egg Island Section by emergency order.

Robin is in favor as all fishermen know how to program their GPS's.

**\*Action on proposal #7 is unanimous in favor.**

**Proposal #14 Robin moves to adopt, Frank seconds.**

Robin is opposed. Common practice in Bristol Bay is that set net fishermen set their anchors at extreme minus tides. If this proposal were allowed to pass, many fishermen would not be able to effectively reset their anchors effectively. It would be a hardship for many mom and pop operations that set their anchors early in the spring prior to the season. In the Nushagak, we have identified areas with minimum distances offshore. This would reduce the effectiveness of the set net fishermen and reduce their ability to keep with the allocation ratios. They already fish 24/7 and if adopted, would shut the drift fishery down.

Hans asks Ed Heyano who is an Ekuk set netter if he would be able to comply with this regulation if adopted?

Ed's response was that if he, as well as many others on Ekuk Beach, couldn't get their anchors out far enough they wouldn't have enough room to get their full 50-fathom nets out. It would reduce their catch and greatly reduce their annual income.

Hans is concerned that if this proposal were allowed to pass that it would greatly reduce their catching power and place an unfair burden on them. Resetting anchors is a complicated affair and many wouldn't be able to do it on a daily basis or even every tide.

**\*Action on proposal #14 is unanimous to oppose.**

**Proposal #15 Robin moves to adopt, Frank seconds.**

Hans is opposed to this and any restructuring proposal. The average Bristol Bay local fisherman cannot economically compete at the same level as other fishermen who have other resources. He is a 3<sup>rd</sup> generation fisherman and depends 100% on the fishery for his annual income. His grandpa fished in the late 1800's in the bay and operated one of the first processing canneries in the Nushagak. His family has a long history in the fishery and wants his kids and grandchildren to continue to have an opportunity to fish. He would like to reference earlier meeting action during the last BOF cycle when the restructuring proposals came out. He feels that our fishery is already overcapitalized and that our local fishermen cannot afford change. If change is forced, then there will be two classes of fishermen; those who have and those who have not. It will put them out of business.

Robin is in full agreement. The BOF has not done due diligence on the restructuring proposals. There is no data. The committee held one meeting, 7 hours isn't due diligence. They haven't done any studies to measure economic benefit. BBEDC estimates that it would cost an average aluminum boat between \$80-90,000 to extend. Fiberglass would cost more. We don't have the facilities here, boats would have to be sent to Seattle further increasing the price. The author of the proposal is a Seattle fisherman who can afford a longer boat. Robin believes that this is an effort from non-local, non-resident effort to take over our fishery. Our fishery is already over-capitalized.

We have insufficient processing capacity. With the projected 33 million Bay forecast for 2010, it's a certainty that we will either be on limits or be shutdown waiting for processors to catch up. There are no interested foreign processors willing to take the risk to come into the Bay. We can't fill a 32-foot boat right now with the short openings and limits. He stresses the need to focus on quality.

Curt supports the proposal. He doesn't know why the 32-foot limit was implemented. We have 4 classes right now; Jet, Russian, Wood, and Skiff. Longer boats would allow breaking into other fisheries. Currently, he's aware of affordable 36-foot boats on the market.

Dan asks about the BBEDC restructuring study.

Robin said that the result of the study shows that 83% of drift and 86% of set net fishermen favor keeping the current limit. The resulting information shows that owners of longer boats wouldn't necessarily increase carrying capacity. Non-local fishermen utilizing longer boats would increase and local wouldn't because of capital funding reasons and can't afford it. The permit study shows that watershed residents don't have the capital or resources to invest. Negative consequences to watershed residents will speed up the out-migration of local fishing permits.

Frank mentions that up-river villages have boats that are un-maintainable, broke down and don't have the resources to fix up. Local fishermen are overcapitalized, can't afford it, and can't compete at the same level. The big difference is in catch records, every dollar that leaves here gets spread out 10-fold. Industry wants a smaller fleet that could meet their production needs. It definitely wouldn't be our local fishermen that cannot compete at the same aggressive level. It's already happened in our herring fishery.

A member of the public says that processors are taking over and want to control the fishery. From a historical perspective, fishermen are losing control.

Hans agrees and comments on the last strike in 1991 when processors got all the production they needed from the boats that were willing to break the strike. The strike of 1991 proved one thing, that the fishermen did not have unity any more, they lost their voice and bargaining power. Since then it's been everyone for themselves.

Another member mentions that these proposals pass, longer and deeper nets are on the horizon; this is what the processors want. Too drastic measures of change will hurt our fishery. He gives the example of Puget Sound salmon, San Francisco herring overfishing and losing their fisheries.

William would like to see longer boats that would afford extra room to process fish for direct marketing. A better quality fish will bring a higher price. He doesn't want to be tied to a processor and wants to ship his own fish out. This issue keeps coming back. His goal is to eliminate processors.

Dan has mixed feelings. He advises to use caution because of how it would effect the local economies. He would support innovation. Considering everything, he opposes the proposal.

Robin says that he has processed his own fish on board his 32x15 ½ foot boat. His experience is that he could only process a maximum of 3500 pounds of fish per day on his boat. This is the limiting factor. It is a lot of work besides just catching fish. There is processing, boxing, logistics, and taking the product to the airport for shipping. It requires a lot of additional work, time, expense, more crew, and knowledge keeping abreast of regulations.

**\*Action on proposal #15 is 1 in favor and 8 opposed.**

**Proposal #16 Robin moves to adopt, Frank seconds.**

This is another restructuring proposal

Robin says that he is a current dual permit operator. He opposes the proposal for the following reasons: 1)The majority of dual permits are non-resident fishermen (outsiders), 2)Processors want to change the fishery, 3)The General District will be next, 4)longer boats will want longer and deeper nets, 5)He feels that allocation should be based on historical percentages, 6) The BOF hasn't spent the time and research to measure the impact.

Tim mentions that if adopted, the set netters would be able to fish two compliments of gear and that the drifters would just add one net, or 25% more.

Frank says that the original intent of the dual permit was to help those fishermen to lower their cost of operation. As soon as the BOF legalizes operating 2 permits, there will be a buying frenzy as outside fishermen are lining up to buy. Locals will sell out just because they can't compete.

A set net member of the public mentions that proposals 16, 17, 18 are basically the same proposal. He has experienced competing with the likes of Dylan Braund. Dylan is an extreme fishing machine who has the resources to take advantage of something like this. If adopted, this would grease his skids. He himself opposes because small operators cannot compete.

Another member of the public opposes the proposal because it would reallocate resources to a few. Restructuring should help sustain communities.

A member of the public asks what is the difference in effectiveness of a dual permit vs. a single. The response is that a dual permit totally shuts down a corked single permit; it's like the difference between night and day. It's like a wall, nothing gets passed. If a single permit gets corked on the line by a dual, the single permit catches nothing.

Another member of the public who fishes a "D" mentions that they like the current setup and acknowledges that the proposal addresses a different class of people.

**\*Action on proposal #16 is unanimous to oppose.**

The committee decides to take up the following proposals simultaneously because of their similarity.

**Proposals # 17, 18, 19. Frank moves to adopt, Robin seconds.**

Robin refers to his earlier comments. Three years ago he talked to one processor who mentioned that if he had his way he would get rid of 90% of his fishermen and keep 10%, he can get all the production with his top notch 10%. When Robin asks what fishermen he would get rid of, the answer was local Bristol Bay fishermen. Robin warns that in the future, we will likely see more proposals from this group. The interim Governor will be making new appointments. He feels that the current BOF will be replaced because they do not represent the processing component. He feels that the restructuring proposals will demand more capital than what our local fishermen can afford. We've made major changes to quality in Bristol Bay and he feels that icing and RSW fish matches Copper River in quality.

John says that the Togiak locals are against the D's that come over after the 24<sup>th</sup>. They are opposed to larger boats. He foresees more closures and is concerned about escapement if more fish are caught. Their smaller boats can't compete with the 32-foot boats that show up after the 24<sup>th</sup>.

**\*Action on proposals #17, 18, 19 are unanimous to oppose.**

**Proposal #20 Robin moves to adopt, Frank seconds.**

Robin is a current D and is opposed. The proposal is out of context with the original intent of dual permits. Dual permit stacking was authorized despite uniform AC opposition. This is what the outside fishermen wish. This is an attempt to rationalize the fishery. Permit prices will go up. There has been no economic analysis by the BOF.

Frank asks if the State or IRS can seize permits?

Tim responds that individuals, not corporations, can only own permits.

Robin states that current stacking allows benefits such as increased limits x 25% , longer nets, and is collectively a big advantage.

A member of the public supports the original intent of stacking which was to help those who couldn't fix boats or to lower operating expense. The BOF hasn't addressed quality. The locals are learning to increase quality and seek better marketing.

**\*Action on proposal #20 is unanimous to oppose.**

**Break at 2:25 pm.**

**Back to order at 2:32 pm.**

**Proposal #42 Robin moves to adopt, William seconds.**

Tim mentions that the Wood River catch would still count toward the allocation ratios.

Robin says that if there is a biological concern in the Nushagak, it would authorize openings in the Wood River. He opposes.

Hans reads into the intent of the proposal. Ever since allocation was authorized, the set netters have been behind in the allocation ratio and have had to fish 24/7 just to keep the ratios in line. If adopted, this would give them an exclusive fishery. He is opposed.

Dan asks how will it shut itself off? He is concerned about subsistence fishing.

Tim mentions that a trigger of 1.1 million would be acceptable. This could address the foregone harvest issue in the Wood River.

A member of the public states that this proposal would help an unbalanced few. (Refers to Dylan) She is concerned about the damage to the king run up the Wood and Muklung Rivers and says that we all know from previous experience what happens when we fish there.

**\*Action on proposal 42 is unanimous to oppose.**

**Proposal #43 Robin moves to adopt, frank seconds.**

Hans invites the author of the proposal to introduce.

Rod testifies that we are running out of kings, there are not enough to go around. He thinks that this will most likely be our last good year. The new sonar is counting more fish (actually counting more with the same amount.) This would give Tim additional tools to harvest early sockeye.

A sport fish guide supports the proposal because he feels that it would help prevent the Chinook population decline.

Another member of the public thought the proposal is a bad idea. It's tough fishing in the Wood River and the fishery would catch a lot of kings that go up the WR.

Robin is opposed because sport fish advocates getting kings up the Nushagak. The demise of the kings is due to the by-catch in the Trawl Fisheries. The Nushagak AC

initiated allocation to benefit everyone and he feels that it worked until the trawlers affected the returns. He feels that it will be a step backward if we go in-river.

Another member of the public views the sport fishery as commercial. The sport fish industry roars over waters that kings are swimming up and feels that they are affecting the spawning component.

Tim's admits that the new sonar is counting more fish. The techs are crunching numbers. They are concerned about the possibility of having counted about 30% more fish. The new sonar was calibrated using the old bendix sonar for accuracy but the new sonar is more effective, so it counts more fish. Also, once 100,000 sockeye escapes into the Wood River, his job switches from Chinook management to sockeye management.

Robin wants to make adjustments to user groups in the Chinook Management Plan. To bring it up to date, we need to reexamine current issues, trends, etc., and come up with new recommendations. If the sonar is off, we need to go back and take a look, everyone will have to compromise.

Rod responds that he isn't against any fishing groups, the kings need help.

Robin replies that commercial fishermen made sacrifices and cut themselves out in the rebuilding mode.

Tim says that June 24-26 is the traditional peak of king escapement. By the 25-30<sup>th</sup> of June, traditionally the harvest is around 30,000 kings. He would like to see a trigger. Right now he doesn't have the tools to address low king escapement when the sockeye escapement is building.

Robin mentions that whenever the new trawler Chinook cap of 60,000 catch is reached in 3 consecutive years, the resulting penalty will reduce the cap down to 45,000 kings. The formula has not been adopted by NPFMC yet. Hopefully we will see a slow rebuilding of king stocks over the next few years once the new caps are in place. He feels that we are headed in the right direction. Global warming may change things. We need to reexamine the management plan, it will take 3 years to change.

Frank opposes because he says that it is a rodeo whenever we fish in the Wood River.

**\*Action on proposal #43 is unanimous to oppose.**

**Proposal #21 Robin moves to adopt, Frank seconds.**

Hans opposes because it is ludicrous to allow that much gear on a boat. They'd just get themselves into trouble because they wouldn't be able to handle that much gear or fish they'd catch. It would be totally unfair to a single permit operator to fish behind one of those boats. It's bad enough with the present dual permit system in place. We're

overcapitalized already, we face enough limits and shutdowns whenever processing capacity slows our fishery down.

**\*Action on proposal #21 is unanimous to oppose.**

**Proposal #22 Robin moves to adopt, Frank seconds.**

Hans supports as this would be beneficial to the Nushagak as dual permit operation would not be authorized whenever the east side goes into their special harvest areas. Virtually all of the dual permits end up in the Nushagak whenever this happens. Adoption of the proposal would help those who fish in the Nushagak because one benefit would be to reduce allowable gear. This proposal would in effect encourage more equal distribution of fishermen in all districts. We all know that whenever the Nushagak has more fishing boats and more gear, everyone catches less fish. This would help out our local single permit operators. The department has no way of tracking dual permits, he feels that the department needs to come up with a way to track the permits so that the managers can make better judgments based on fleet size.

A member of the public who is a dual permit operator says that there is no biological reason to adopt the proposal, it is a denial of rights and doesn't think that the effect of the proposal will gain much.

Another member of the public questions the denial of rights statement. The Nushagak is the only place to fish dual permits whenever the NRSHA is in effect. He doesn't know if the BOF will weigh in heavily. Fishermen have become to rely more on the Nushagak because it's been consistent and that's why we still have an influx of boats. It's encouraging that the other districts are now beginning to do better and spreading out the fleet a little more. He feels that if adopted, this regulation wouldn't have to be used unless the Kvichak fails again. He is concerned about the domino effect once one system fails the majority goes where the fishing is better, that's what happened to the Nushagak when the Kvichak was down. This proposal would give everyone in the Nushagak equal rights. He supports the proposal.

**\*Action on proposal #22 is 8 in favor and 1 opposed.**

**Proposal #23 Robin moves to adopt, Frank seconds.**

Frank says that he's fished Togiak salmon every year since the 1980's. The locals refer the influx of boats as "the aluminums are back". As soon as Togiak opens up, the locals quit because of the competition. Some of the dual permit boats are merciless, they cork off the set nets and the local boat fleet cannot compete. "It's insanity when they cork off the set nets, it's like a feeding frenzy."

John says that Togiak supports. They used to have a hard time meeting escapement goals prior to the super-exclusive clause.

**\*Action on proposal #23 is unanimous to support.**

**Proposal #24 Robin moves to adopt, William seconds.**

A member of the public points out that the math is tremendously bad. She objects about the misstatements in fact. The current D's benefit participants. Her family has invested in, owns and operates two permits and feels that it has worked out very well for them.

Hans mentions again that the State doesn't track D's and although the current system is working, he doesn't want to see it liberalized. He recommends stressing the need for a tracking system.

Tim agrees and says that the Board is coming up with a tracking mechanism.

**\*Action on proposal #24 is unanimous to oppose.**

**Proposal #25 Robin moves to adopt, Frank seconds**

Tim indicates that the proposal, as written, would be disastrous to management, especially kings.

**\*Action on proposal #25 is unanimous to oppose.**

**Proposal #26 Frank moves to adopt, Robin seconds.**

Robin opposes as more fishermen will be doing direct marketing and will need protection.

Tim says that the peak occurs later, on July 17.

**\*Action on proposal #26 is unanimous to oppose.**

**Proposal #27 Frank moves to adopt, William seconds.**

Robin is opposed. This was passed 3 years ago, then rescinded because of the implication.

Dan asks how it would affect Tim's management?

Tim's response is that the issue is waste. There is a loophole, fishermen would be able to do both and they wouldn't have the resources to monitor gear usage.

Robin mentions that it could mess up the allocation ratio.

**\*Action on proposal #27 is unanimous to oppose.**

**Proposal #28 Frank moves to adopt, Robin seconds.**

Hans mentions that this would mess up allocation. Everyone agrees.

**\*Action on proposal #28 is unanimous to oppose.**

Committee decides to take up 29 and 30 because of similarity.

**Proposal #29, 30 Frank moves to adopt, William seconds.**

Robin states that at the last Area M meeting. Roland submitted a proposal and Area M rewrote the proposal and moved into Bristol Bay, they now fish north of Port Heiden. The effect of the proposal will allow Area T into Area M.

Tim mentions that the Board will be taking this up at the Area M meeting.

**Robin moves to amend to close the area mentioned in the proposal to both Area T and M fishing and to be used as a buffer zone. Frank seconds.**

**\*Action on the amendment for proposals #29 and 30 is unanimous in favor.**

**\*Action on amended #29 and 30 is unanimous in favor.**

**Proposal #31 Robin moves to adopt, Frank seconds.**

Robin is opposed because this only benefits those drifters who want to fish outside. It has the potential of affecting escapement. The last General District negatively affected the Igushik escapement. This is a well-known mixed stock area. We still have issues with the Kvichak River system. The General District will affect Kvichak escapement and consequently will put fishermen into their special harvest areas. The proposal was built around the Bristol Bay Economic Foregone Harvest model. He doesn't support mixed stock fisheries.

Dan wants to know that he department's opinion is.

Tim responds that the department is opposed to the General District.

**\*Action on proposal #31 is unanimous to oppose.**

**Proposal #40 Frank moves to adopt, Dan seconds.**

Hans asks Fritz, the author, to comment.

Fritz is in favor of continuance. The dude provision hasn't been used much but it still provides an opportunity for a fisherman to supplement his income by taking clients out. He's had two customers and believes that he may be the only person that participated.

Dan says that he was one of Fritz's customers and thinks that it is a good idea to let it continue.

**\*Action on proposal #40 is unanimous in favor.**

**Proposal #41 Robin moves to adopt, Frank seconds.**

The committee discussed this proposal in length. Some of the issues ranged from changing the dates, reducing trip limits, etc. All committee members are concerned about maintaining king escapement. There hasn't been a directed commercial king fishery the last two seasons. Tim is concerned about the potential for abuse after June 1.

**\*Action on proposal #41 is 5 support and 4 opposed.**

**Proposal #45 Robin moves to adopt, William seconds.**

After discussion, everyone is in agreement that this is housekeeping and is a good thing to reduce confusion.

**\*Action on proposal #45 is unanimous in favor**

**Proposal #47 Robin moves, to adopt, Frank seconds.**

Hans mentions that we sponsored this proposal because of past abuse and inability for enforcement to issue citations because of inadequate regulation.

Robin supports and is in favor of giving enforcement tools to enforce the law.

**\*Action on proposal #47 is unanimous in favor.**

**Proposal #48 Robin moves to adopt, William seconds.**

Robin is opposed to the intent of Roland's intentions. Roland wants to reduce competition when he is fishing in Ugashik or Cinder River.

**\*Action on proposal #48 is unanimous to oppose.**

## **7. Old business**

None

## **8. TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING**

Call of the chair. Hans mentions that he would like to call for another meeting sometime in January to address BOF Area M proposals and any game issues.

**9. Adjourn.**

Meeting adjourned at 4:45 pm.

**THESE MEETING MINUTES PROVIDED COURTESY OF THE BRISTOL BAY  
NATIVE ASSOCIATION**

RC 9

October 28, 2009  
Lower Bristol Bay Advisory Committee  
Pilot Point City Board Room

1. **Call to Order 12:5pm**

2. **Committee Participants**

Danlei Kingsley, Chairperson  
Tim Enright, Treasurer  
William Albecker  
Myra Olsen  
Eddie Clark  
Roland Briggs

Pilot Point  
Ugashik  
Ugashik  
Egegik  
Naknek  
Ugashik

**Absent:**

Bobby Christensen  
Nancy Flensberg  
Robert Dresszen

Port Heiden  
Ugashik  
Ugashik Lakes

**Guest:**

Art Woinowsky  
Victoria Briggs  
Chuck McCallum

Ugashik  
Ugashik  
Lake & Peninsula Borough

3. **Approve Agenda:**

Motion to Approve-Myra Olsen Second Roland Briggs

4. **Approval of Minutes from April 1, 2009 Meeting.**

Motion to Approve-Roland Briggs Second Tim Enright

5. **Introductions:**

Craig Schwankle, ADF&G Assistant Area Sport Fish Biologist  
Lem Butler, ADF&G Game Biologist GU9  
Paul Salomone, ADF&G Commercial Fisheries Biologist  
Andrew Devalpine, ADF&G Board Support

6. **New Business:**

Art Woinowsky and Eddie Clark asked Mr. Devalpine if he could give a brief overview of what was discussed at the Naknek-Kvichak Advisory Committee meeting. Mr. Devalpine was unaware that previous Board support personnel always gave a brief synopsis of the highlights of the other advisory committee meetings. Mr. Devalpine said he would come prepared to do so at the next scheduled advisory meeting.

**A. Predator Control:**  
Lem Butler, ADF&G Game Biologist.

Mr. Butler informed the advisory committee members the ADF&G in King Salmon would be hiring an assistant area biologist to help Mr. Butler with managing game unit 9.

The department has been working on a predator control plan for the North Peninsula caribou herd and the plan is basically in "Phase Two". This predator plan is being developed under a directive from the Board of Game. Mr. Butler stated that a draft of this predator control plan would be available for public comment in about two weeks. This predator plan will be presented to Game Board for rejection or adoption in the statewide meeting scheduled for January 2010.

Mr. Butler reiterated that the biggest obstacle in implementation of a predator control plan in game unit 9 was that the caribou are mostly and predominantly die on Federal lands. Hence, the state has to convince the US Fish & Wildlife to cooperate with the predator plans objectives and permit aerial wolf hunting to occur on Federal lands.

Mr. Butler basically said the predator control plan was for wolves only and would allow public aerial hunting with additional State approval of wolves in key areas. Bears predation will not be addressed in the predator plan because of Legislative directives to manage game unit 9 for optimum big game brown bear hunting.

Overall, the North Peninsula caribou herd has shown several improvements in population dynamics the last couple of fall surveys. These improvements include an increase in the weight of the caribou calves and an increase in the number of large bulls in the population. For example, the number of caribou calves per 100 cows has remained fairly steady. In 2009, the ratio was 18.5 calves per 100 cows and in 2008 the ratio was 19 calves per 100 cows. The number of large bulls also remained constant but the number of calves per 100 cows has dramatically improved from a low in 2006-2007 of 7 calves per 100 cows.

Mr. Butler stated that the intent of the predator control plan was not to drastically improve the caribou herd but to slowly increase the population to test the carry capacity of the range.

Mr. Kingsley commented that moose hunting this fall was terrible around Ugashik Lakes and very few moose were taken by locals. Mr. Kingsley mentioned that he talked to a lot of guides and moose hunting was pretty good in Egagik and Port Moller but very poor for the Ugashik big game guides.

Myra Olsen asked Mr. Butler if we still needed Legislative approval to change the management strategy in GU9 away from the current brown bear population goals. Mr. Butler said that it wasn't really a Legislative decision but a directive from the Board of Game. Currently, GU9 is not in the Board cycle and this issue will not be discussed again until the year 2010. Mr. Butler went on to explain that at the last Game Board meeting a lot of discussion was initiated about maintaining optimal bear populations and it was determined that brown bear predation was not the cause of the demise of the North Peninsula caribou herd. It was determined that dense brown bear populations were not the limiting factor to the size of the caribou herd. Mr. Butler explained that brown bear predation on juvenile caribou calves is about 35% for only the first two weeks after birth. Caribou calves eventually will grow too fast for the bears to kill. Whereas, wolf predation is also about 35% on the juvenile caribou calves but this predation percentage also remains high throughout the caribou's life cycle.

Art Wojnowski asked Mr. Butler why the Board of Game did not place more importance on bear predation given that the brown bear density currently is so high. Mr. Butler said that the department could push for more selective harvest of predatory bears but this is hard to accomplish because identifying and harvesting these bears is expensive and cumbersome. Mr. Butler went on to explain that a lot of bears would have to be harvested from the population to have any positive effects on the North Peninsula caribou herd. The Board of Game felt that such an approach would eliminate the level of current harvest because the out-of-state hunters would stop paying the big bucks for a brown bear trophy if the percentage of large bears in the population were reduced. Hence, reducing the opportunity of harvesting a trophy brown bear.

Eddie Clark asked Mr. Butler for population estimates of moose, caribou and wolves in Game Unit 9E. Mr. Butler responded with the following estimates:

Game Unit 9:	Encompasses approximately 34,000 square miles
Brown Bear	6,500 (Does not include Katmai National Park)
Caribou	
North Peninsula Herd	2,000 - 2,500
South Peninsula Herd	800
Mulchatna Herd	30,000
Game Subunit 9E:	Encompasses approximately 15,000 square miles

Brown Bear	2,000 - 2,500
Moose	2,300 - 3,000
Caribou	2,000 - 2,500
Wolves	300

Mr. Butler went on to explain that the predator/proy ratios are somewhat misleading because wolves are an opportunistic predator in that they also prey on hares, ptarmigan, otter, salmon and eat washed up marine mammals. Mr. Butler also went on to explain that the predatory wolf control measures implemented in GUSD seem to be working. The local caribou herd has seen an increase in calf survival and this area actually has a higher density of brown bear than GUSE.

Mr. Butler also explained that any predator control program implemented in GUS will always have the same obstacles and that is access to Federal land. The Federal government is the land owners. They manage the land for optimal density of animals while attempting to sustaining quality habitat. However, they are not directly involved in the management of the game resources. This is the responsibility of the State of Alaska and it comes down to the access issue. No access means no aerial wolf hunting.

Advisory committee member Tim Enright asked Mr. Butler why in the Ugashik Lakes Refuge do the federal managers only allow the harvest of 9 bears between the fall and spring hunts combined? Mr. Butler responded that the department has no restrictions on the number of brown bear that can be taken in this area by resident hunters. The feds limit the number to ensure the area guide has ample opportunity to offer clients a trophy brown bear hunt. Mr. Enright reiterated that local hunters will not increase the harvest level, they simply do not have any desire for a bear rug, and that the feds should increase the number of brown bears available for out-of-state hunters.

7.

**Board of Fish Proposals:  
Sport Fish**

Craig Schwanke, ADF&G, Assistant Sport Fish Biologist:

Mr. Schwanke stated that there were only five sport fish proposals were submitted to the Board and none of the proposals pertained to our area.

Proposal 8 - 5 AAC 67.022; Proposal 9 - 5 AAC 67.022(g); Proposal 10 - 5 AAC 67.022; Proposal 11 - 5 AAC 67.022(d)(1); & Proposal 12 - 5 AAC 67.020(2) and 5 AAC 67.022(D)(2).

The Lower Bristol Bay Advisory Committee (LBAC) voted *unanimously to table* these proposals since these proposals did not pertain to our area.

8.

**Board of Fish Proposals:  
Commercial Fisheries:**

Paul Salomone, ADF&G, Area Commercial Fisheries Biologist:

Mr. Salomone started off by presenting a brief overview of the 2009 Bristol Bay commercial salmon season. The most relevant statistics are summarized below:

**Sockeye:**

- Total In-Shore Run: 40.5 million
- Total Commercial Harvest: 30.9 million
- Run Strength Rank Since Statehood: 22th
- Catch Rank Since Statehood: 7th
- % Catch Above Historical Average: 7%
- Actual Run Versus Pre-Season Forecast: 20% Above

All districts were above pre-season forecast:

Nushagak: 12%

Egegik	33%
Ugashik	64%
Tupac	13%
Naknek/Kivichak	7%
Total Escapement Baywide	9.5 million
Ugashik Total In-Shore Run	3.97 million
Ugashik Harvest	2.8 million
Ugashik Escapement	1.34 million
Egegik Total In-Shore Run	12.8 million
Egegik Harvest	11.5 million
Egegik Escapement	1.14 million

#### Chinook:

Total Harvest	30,000
% Below 20 Year Harvest Average	29%

Well below pre-season forecast.

#### Coho:

- Total Harvest was 67% below pre-season forecast.

The Lower Bristol Bay Advisory Committee voted 5 opposed and one in favor for the adoption of Proposal 13.

- Committee members Roland Briggs & Myra Olsen encouraged the committee to oppose this proposal because the regulatory process would be too broad reaching through the Bristol Bay region, discourage non-fisheries related development and would be too restrictive for local residents/land owners attempting to develop their property.

**Proposal 14 - 5 AAC 06.335 Minimum distance between units of gear. Require removal of all set net gear during drift gillnet opening as follows:**

Add to 5 AAC 06.335(d) "All set gillnet gear, lines, anchors, stakes, bouys, kegs, etc shall be removed from any and all district waters during any district only commercial fishing openings, to enforce the Bristol Bay Allocations plans of 5 AAC 06.355."

The Lower Bristol Bay Advisory Committee voted 5 opposed and one in favor for the adoption of Proposal 14.

- Department is neutral because of the allocative nature of the proposal. Mr. Salomone explained that this proposal was targeted toward the Naknek Special Harvest Area.

#### Pros:

- Eddie Clark asked Mr. Salomone why the department would be neutral if the department announces a short notice opening at high tide and the set-netter cannot get their gear out there would be potential for allocation and over-escapement problems. Chuck McCallum, Lake & Peninsula Fishery Advisor, also asked Mr. Salomone if the department had the ability to effectively manage the fishery considering the allocative issues if the set net gear is left in the water during a drift only opening? Mr. Salomone said the only problems that the department has had was in the Naknek Special Harvest Area when the area biologist could not control escapement with the drift fleet because the fish were right on the beach surrounded by all the set net gear. Mr. Salomone reiterated that this is not the case in the Egegik Special Harvest Area because the drift fleet can control the escapement numbers when the set netters are off.

#### Cons:

- o Eddie Clark questioned the rational of the proposal because it would eventually lead to a future reformation proposal directing the drifters to pull their boats during gillnet fishery.

**Proposal 15 - 5 ACC 06.341 Vessel specifications and operations.** Eliminate 32 foot limit on vessels in the Bristol Bay gillnet fishery.

The Lower Bristol Bay Advisory Committee voted **4 in favor, 1 opposed, and one abstained** for the adoption of Proposal 16.

The Department remains neutral on this proposal. Department does not care how large the drift vessels are to harvest the surplus salmon.

**Pros:**

- o Increase the opportunity for Bristol Bay fishermen to add on-board processing equipment so they can participate in the chinook and coho fisheries which recently have very limited markets.
- o Improve the over-all safety of the fleet especially the 4-E halibut participants.
- o Adoption of this proposal would allow enough vessel room to effectively install refrigeration units in some of the smaller boats.

**Cons:**

- o Myra Olson felt that this proposal discriminated against local watershed residents because they do not have the financial capacity to purchase larger vessels.
- o Chuck McCallum felt that each individual district and surrounding villages need to let the Board of Fish know if the adoption of this proposal was a good economic fit for their area. For example, this proposal may be good for Ugashik fishermen but bad for Naknek/Kvichak.

**Proposal 16 - 5 AAC 06.331 Gillnet specifications and operations.** Allow anyone who owns two set net permits to operate them in accordance with existing regulations and anyone who owns two drift permits to be allowed to fish them in accordance with 5 AAC 06.333.

The Lower Bristol Bay Advisory Committee voted **4 opposed and 2 in favor** for the adoption of Proposal 16.

The Department is neutral on this allocative proposal. However, the department has concerns that elongating an individual's set gillnet gear could have a significant impact on the catches of adjacent set gillnet permit holders as well as drift gillnet permit holders. It should be noted that increasing the legal length of gear could negatively affect the quality of fish. Additionally, there are restrictions in place regarding the maximum distance that a set gear may be fished relative to shore. This maximum distance may be exceeded by doubling the legal amount of gear used at each site.

**Pros:**

- Allow set net families to fully utilize their permits when family members leave for education, military or job opportunities.
- Eliminate the problems associated with putting a set net permit in a crew member's name.

**Cons:**

- Adoption of this proposal might increase the amount of set nets currently being fished. Allowing the drift fleet to consolidate 300 fathoms of gear into 200 fathoms utilizing two drift permits is not consistent with increasing the number of operable set nets.

**Proposals 17, 18 & 19 - 5 AAC 08.331.10 Gillnet specifications and operations.** Allow one person to own and operate two set net permits with no single set net may be more than 50 fathoms in length with an aggregate total of 100 fathoms of set net gear.

The Lower Bristol Bay Advisory Committee remains neutral on Proposals 17-19 because of a split vote. Members voted **4 opposed and 2 in favor** for the adoption of Proposals 17, 18 and 19.

The department is neutral on this allocative proposal. "However, the department has concerns that elongating an individual's set gillnet gear could have a significant impact on the catches of adjacent set gillnet permit holders as well as drift gillnet permit holders. It should be noted that increasing the legal length of gear could negatively affect the quality of fish. Additionally, there are restrictions in place regarding the maximum distance that a set gear may be fished relative to shore. This maximum distance may be exceeded by doubling the legal amount of gear used at each site."

**Proposal 20 - 5 AAC 08.333. Requirements and specifications for use of 200 fathoms of drift gear in Bristol Bay.** Allow one person to own two permits and use 200 fathoms nets as follows: Allow one person to own and benefit from the permit stacking privileges granted by the Board of Fish in the Bristol Bay fishery as allowed by 2006 legislation.

The Lower Bristol Bay Advisory Committee voted **unanimously in favor** for the adoption of Proposal 20.

**Pros:**

- This proposal is consistent with the intent of the Board of Fish in their attempts to reduce the amount of drift gillnet boats and drift gillnet gear fishing Bristol Bay.
- Eliminate the problems with having to have one drift permit in a business partner or crew member's name.

**Cons:**

- Discriminates against watershed residents who do not have the financial capacity to purchase a second permit.
- Discriminates against those boats with only one permit when production limits are imposed.

**Proposal 21 - 5 AAC 08.333. Requirements and specifications for use of 200 fathoms of drift gillnet in Bristol Bay.** Allow use of 300 fathoms of gear with two stacked permits.

The Lower Bristol Bay Advisory Committee voted **unanimously to oppose** the adoption of Proposal 21.

Department is neutral because of the allocative nature of the proposal.

**Pros:**

- Consistent with the Alaska Supreme Court ruling that it is illegal to allocate "within a single fishery" (*Chignik Coop v. Grunert*) that the current regulation allowing two permits holders to use one vessel and to use only 200 fathoms is illegal.

Cons:

to not decrease the amount of drift gillnet gear being fished in the Bristol Bay fishery.

Proposal 22 - 5 AAC 06.333 Requirement and specifications for use of 202 fathoms of drift gillnet in Bristol Bay. Limit gear to 150 fathoms when the Naknek Special Harvest Area (NRSHA) Management plan is in effect.

The Lower Bristol Bay Advisory Committee voted *unanimously to oppose* the adoption of Proposal 22.

The department is neutral because of the allocative nature of the proposal. However requiring Nushagak and Ugashik vessels to have only 150 fathoms on board when the NRSHA was in effect would be an enforcement nightmare.

Pros:

- Prevent vessels who want to fish 200 fathoms from transferring to the Nushagak district. Since the NRSHA was in effect restrictions would also be in place in Ugashik and Egagik districts making the Nushagak the only district open for 200 fathom drift operations.

Cons:

- Reduce harvest capacity of the Nushagak drift fleet when the Area biologist might need the extra harvest capacity to control escapement
- Restricts fishing opportunities for those individuals who own two permits.

Proposal 23 - 5 AAC 06.331. Gillnet specifications and operations. Eliminate use of 200 fathom drift gillnets in Togiak District.

The Lower Bristol Bay Advisory Committee voted *2 in favor and 4 opposed* to the adoption of Proposal 23.

The Department is neutral because of the allocative nature of the proposal. However, the department wanted the advisory committee members to know only one dual permit vessel was registered for the Togiak Super Exclusive sockeye fishery in 2009.

Pros:

- Eliminate some competition for the local skiff fleet to harvest sockeye.

Cons:

- Togiak already has a Super Exclusive sockeye fishery and does not need any more allocative assistance.

Proposal 24 - 5 AAC Requirements and specifications for use of 200 fathoms of drift gillnet in Bristol Bay. Eliminate permit stacking.

The Lower Bristol Bay Advisory Committee took no action per our favorable vote on Proposal 20.

The department is neutral because of the allocative nature of the proposal.

Proposal 25 - 5 AAC Registration and re-registrations. Once registered, permit holder must remain until escapement goal is met.

The Lower Bristol Bay Advisory Committee voted *unanimously to oppose* the adoption of Proposal 25.

The Department is opposed to the proposal because it hinders the Area manager from effectively managing the fishery. One district might have a small fishery and a lot of un-forecasted fish. However the local biologist might not have enough harvest capacity to control escapement especially if catch limits are in effect.

Pros:

- Eliminates cumbersome 48 hour transfer monitoring and paperwork.
- Essentially creating Super Exclusive sockeye fisheries in all districts, until escapement goals are met.

Cons:

- Hinders ability of ADF&G to effectively control escapement.
- Places too much emphasis on pre-season forecasts.

Proposal 26 - 5 AAC 06.370(d) Registration and re-registration. Eliminate super exclusive status of Togiak District.

The Lower Bristol Bay Advisory Committee voted *unanimously to oppose* the adoption of Proposal 26.

The Department is neutral because of the allocative nature of the proposal.

Pros:

- Affords some measure of protection for the Togiak skiff fleet.

Cons:

- Reduces the opportunity for other Bristol Bay drift fishermen to transfer into the Togiak District between June 15 and July 17.

Proposal 27 - 5 AAC 06.370(d) Registration and re-registration. Eliminate the 48 hour transfer between gear types in the same district as follows:

There is no transfer between gear types as long as the fisherman stays in the same District. Before transferring to another gear type the fisherman must have all gear cleaned and fish delivered from prior gear.

The Department is neutral because of allocative nature of the proposal. However, Department may support a less amount of waiting time but is opposed to no waiting times between gear switches because it will allow open the regulation for abuse.

The Lower Bristol Bay Advisory Committee voted *5 opposed and 1 abstained* for the adoption of Proposal 27.

Pros:

- Allow a particular gear type to jump from one gear type to the other without the 48 hour waiting time.
- Help many fishermen that have both a set net/permit and a drift boat/permit.

Cons:

- Not very enforceable.
- Department feels could be problematic between set net and drift allocations.
- Many drift openings that commonly used today fishermen could be jumping back and forth without law enforcement regulations in place.

Proposal 28 – 5 AAC 03.379 Registration and re-registration. Eliminate 18 – hour transfer for gear type in the same Special Harvest as follows:

There is no transfer between fishing gear type as long as the fisherman stays in the same special harvest area. Before transferring to another gear type in the same district.

The Lower Bristol Bay Advisory Committee voted 4 opposed, 1 in favor and 1 abstained for the adoption of Proposal 28.

The Department is neutral because of allocative nature of the proposal. However, Department may support a less amount of waiting time but is opposed to no waiting times between gear switches because it will allow open the regulation for abuse. In addition, the Department wanted to clarify the difference between the Wood River and Ugashik River Special Harvest Areas versus the Naknek and Egegik Special Harvest Areas. The Wood River and Ugashik River Special Harvest Areas are designed to kill fish and the Egegik and Naknek Special Harvest Areas are designed to conserve Kvichak fish.

Pros:

- Allow some fishermen, a lot of which are probably local watershed families, to fish both set net and gillnet operations.

Cons:

- Gear change nightmare.
- If catch limits are imposed fishermen would be likely to jump back and forth between gear types in order to maximize harvest limits.

Proposal 29 – 5 AAC 39.120 Registration of Commercial Fishing Vessels. Allow Area "T" permit in Alaska Peninsula Area January 1 – June 30 and August 1 – December 31 as follows:

The Lower Bristol Bay Advisory Committee voted 4 in favor and 2 abstained for the adoption of proposal 29.

The Department notified the advisory committee that the Department is recommending moving these proposals to the February, 2010 Area M Boards. The Department's comments were composed by Bob Murphy, Area M Management Biologist, and were still in draft form and Mr. Salomone would be pre-mature to release these comments.

Pros:

- Allow Area "T" fishermen the opportunity to fish Inter Cinder River and the Inter and outer sections of Port Heiden prior to June 30 and after August 1 the Outer and Inner Cinder River, Inner Port Heiden, and the Link Section for 60 days.
- With the current market conditions only a few local boats would have fresh fly out markets limiting the fleet size.
- Consistent with historical Area "T" participation.

Cons:

- Too many Area "T" fishermen would choose to participate if markets become available.

Proposal 30 – 5 AAC 39.120 Registration of Commercial Fishing Vessels. Allow Area "T" permit in Alaska Peninsula Area: January 1 through December 31 as follows:

Lower Bristol Bay Area (5 AAC 08.100) and January 1 through December 31, the Cinder River and Inter Port Heiden Sections of the Alaska Peninsula Area and August 1 through December 31, the Cinder River and Inter Port Heiden Sections and that portion of the Ionic Section within Ionic Bay and all waters inside the Seal Islands of the Alaska Peninsula (5 AAC 09.200(a)(1),(2),(3)).

The Department notified the advisory committee that the Department is recommending making these proposals to the February 2010 Area M Boards. The Department's comments were composed by Bob Murphy, Area M Management Biologist, and were still in draft form and Mr. Salomone felt it would be pre-mature to release these comments.

**Pros:**

- Allow Area M fishermen with fresh fly out markets to harvest Chinook in the month of July.

**Cons:**

- Too many Area M fishermen would choose to participate if markets become available.

**Proposal 31 – 5 AAC 06.356 General District Salmon Management Plan. Allow fishing in the General District.**

The Lower Bristol Bay Advisory Committee voted *unanimously to oppose* the adoption of Proposal 31.

The Department is neutral because of the allocative nature of the proposal. However, the Department opposes the General District concept because basically we are harvesting fish prior to knowing actual run strength. The Bristol Bay fleet can harvest fish early and effectively. For example, in 2009 the Egegik run showed up early and strong and the fleet was on limits prior to July 1.

**Pros:**

- Allows harvest of mixed stock early and enhances early season ex-vessel prices.
- More room for drift fleet to fish.

**Cons:**

- Fishing on stock prior to department really knowing run strength.
- Kvichak is still a stock of concern and too much early pressure could put the escapement behind the desired escapement curve and hence the fleet has to fish smaller terminal areas.

**Proposals 32 – 36.**

The Lower Bristol Bay Advisory Committee took no action because these proposals deal with the Naknek River fishery.

**Proposal 37 – 5 AAC 06.365 Egegik District Commercial Set and Drift Gillnet Sockeye Salmon Fisheries Management and Allocation Plan. Allow concurrent openings for drift and set gillnet with offset start times as follows:**

Set net and drift fishermen fish concurrently with 15 to 30 minutes earlier for either gear type if needed depending on allocation numbers as intended by the Board. Fish at the inception of the Egegik Allocation Plan.

The Lower Bristol Bay Advisory Committee voted *unanimously to oppose* the adoption of Proposal 37.

The Department is neutral because of the allocative nature of the proposal. However, the author of this proposal feels the Egegik Allocation Plan is not working. Mr. Salomone stated that the Department has a pre and post allocation set net harvest data that clearly shows that since the Egegik Allocation Plan has been in effect the percentage of set net fish harvested versus the drift fleet has increased. For example, prior to the Allocation Plan 1995-1997 the percentage of set net fish harvested was 8% – 9% and since the Egegik Allocation Plan has been in effect (1998 – 2007) the set net harvest has been on the average around 15.7%. This percentage fluctuates with run size but in actuality during small runs this percentage is actually higher than the average. Also problematic is the catch limits. When strict limits are imposed the Department manages the run with stopping escapement in mind and the Allocation Plan is basically out the window.

**Pros:**

- Allows for more fishing time for the set netters

- Might help distribute the fish more evenly though out the district
- Set netter further upstream might increase their harvest.

**Cons:**

- Hinders the Department's ability to manage escapement numbers.

**Proposal 38 - 5 AAC 06.365 Egegik District Commercial Set and Drift Gillnet Sockeye Salmon Fisheries Management and Allocation Plan.** Suspend allocation when fleet is less than 400 vessels or under limits as follows:

In the Egegik District when the fleet size numbers less than 400 boats or when poundage limits are imposed the Egegik Allocation Plan should be suspended. Set net and drift fishers should fish concurrently according to the historic opening scheduling.

The Department is neutral because of the allocative nature of the proposal. However, the Department feels that as few as 250 boats in Egegik can effective in controlling escapement numbers. It should also be noted that Ugashik and Egegik Districts are complete different entities when it comes to controlling escapement. In the Egegik District it might only take 1 1/2 tides for the fish to reach the counter were as in the Ugashik District it might take up to 5-6 tides.

The Lower Bristol Bay Advisory Committee voted 4 opposed and 2 in favor for adoption of Proposal 38.

**Pros:**

- Adoption of this proposal would prevent the set net operators from waiting so long for the drift fleet to catch up on their allocations.

**Cons:**

- Skew harvest dramatically toward the set net operation. Would not be realistic with historical averages.

**Proposal 39 - 5 AAC 06.365 Egegik District Commercial Set and Gill net Sockeye Salmon Fisheries Management and Allocation Plan.** Require removal of all set net gear when closed to fishing.

The Lower Bristol Bay Advisory Committee voted to take no action per our opposition to Proposal 14.

**Proposals 40 - 47**

The Lower Bristol Bay Advisory Committee voted to take no action because these proposals have to do with Nushagak District.

**Proposal 48 - 5 AAC 06.320 Fishing Periods.** Modify fishing periods in the Ugashik District as follows:

5 AAC 06.320 (c) (2) (C)

After 9:00 am on July 17, salmon may only be taken from 9:00 am Monday until 9:00 A.M. Friday, except as specified for the Ugashik District from 9:00a.m. Thursday to 9:00 a.m. Monday. Fishermen fishing Egegik, Neknek-Kvichak and Nushagak districts, in Bristol Bay, may not fish in Ugashik or Cinder River the same week.

The Lower Bristol Bay Advisory Committee voted 3 opposed, 2 in favor and 1 abstained for the adoption of Proposal 48.

The Department was neutral on this proposal. However, they have a very small staff during this period of the year and could not monitor district registration numbers or compliance with district participation restrictions.

**Pros:**

- Fresh fly-out markets for coho could be maintained without having to transport fish on the weekends. Transporting fish on the weekends is more expensive and risky for the shipper.

**Cons:**

- Enforcement nightmare.
- The Department would like catch numbers by the end of the week to make management decisions concerning the next week's potential openings or closures.

**9. Old Business:**

Chairperson wanted to introduce a written response from Representative Bryce Edgmon's office concerning the progress of the Western Alaska Salmon Stock Management Project (WASSIP). Basically, the written response explained why sufficient genetic data would not be available for the upcoming Area T & Area N Board meetings. A copy was distributed to all attending committee members.

**10. Time and Place of Next Meeting:**

Prior to January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010  
Area M Boards - February 2 through February 6<sup>th</sup>  
Pilot Point City Conference Room  
Pilot Point, Alaska

**11. Adjournment: 3:30**

Motion to Adjourn by Daniel Kingsley, Second Roland Briggs.

Minutes Prepared by Daniel Kingsley  
Minutes Distributed by EBNA

RC10

*"Village with a Past, City with a Future"*



210 Fidalgo Avenue, Kenai, Alaska 99611-7794  
Telephone: (907) 283-7535 / Fax: (907) 283-3014  
www.ci.kenai.ak.us

November 13, 2009

RECEIVED  
NOV 13 2009  
BOARDS

The Honorable Sean Parnell  
Governor, State of Alaska  
P.O. Box 110001  
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

RE: **JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 2009-01 -- 2011 BOARD OF FISHERIES MEETING**

Enclosed is copy of Joint Resolution No. 2009-01 requesting the Board of Fisheries to reconsider its decision not to hold the 2011 Board of Fisheries meeting in the Kenai/Soldotna area.

This joint resolution was passed by the Kenai City Council at its November 4, 2009 meeting, the Kenai Peninsula Borough at its November 10, 2009 meeting, and the Soldotna City Council at its November 12, 2009.

If you have any questions, please contact any of the signers of the joint resolution.

CITY OF KENAI

Carol L. Freas  
City Clerk

Enclosure

cc: Senator Gary Stevens  
Senator Tom Wagoner  
Speaker of the House Mike Chenault  
Representative Kurt Olson  
Representative Paul Seaton  
Representative Bryce Edgmon  
Commissioner Denby Lloyd  
Jim Marcotte, Ex. Director, Board of Fisheries  
Cora Campbell, Fisheries Policy Advisor  
Jason Hooley, Director Board & Commissions

**CITY OF KENAI  
CITY OF SOLDOTNA  
KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH**

**JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 2009-01**

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCILS OF THE CITY OF KENAI AND THE CITY OF SOLDOTNA, AND THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH, REQUESTING THE BOARD OF FISHERIES RECONSIDER ITS DECISION NOT TO HOLD THE 2011 BOARD OF FISHERIES MEETING IN THE KENAI/SOLDOTNA AREA.

WHEREAS, the Kenai Peninsula Borough, the City of Kenai, and the City of Soldotna, have respectfully requested the Board of Fisheries hold its 2011 meeting in the Kenai Peninsula Borough, specifically in the Kenai/Soldotna area; and,

WHEREAS, 1999 was the last time a Board of Fisheries meeting was held in the Kenai/Soldotna area; and,

WHEREAS, over eighty percent (80%) of the proposals up for discussion will be for the Kenai and Kasilof Rivers and direct off-shore waters; and,

WHEREAS, residents of the Kenai Peninsula must incur substantial travel and lodging costs to attend a Board of Fisheries meeting in Anchorage which would prevent them from attending the 2011 Board of Fisheries meeting; and,

WHEREAS, it would be beneficial for the Board of Fisheries to hear testimony from residents of the Central Kenai Peninsula area and visit areas affected by its decisions; and,

WHEREAS, in the Kenai/Soldotna area, there are quality facilities for public meetings, lodging, restaurants and accommodations; and information on facilities, hotels, and restaurants can be obtained from the Kenai Peninsula Tourism Marketing Council, the Kenai Convention & Visitors Bureau, the Soldotna Chamber of Commerce, and the Kenai Chamber of Commerce; and,

WHEREAS, the financial benefit to businesses on the Kenai Peninsula if the Board of Fisheries meeting is held in the Kenai/Soldotna area would be substantial during a period of the year when business is slow; and,

WHEREAS, despite the requests of the three (3) local municipal governments, the hardship on the Kenai Peninsula residents, and the availability of quality public meeting facilities, hotels, and restaurants in the Kenai/Soldotna area, the Board of Fisheries voted to hold its 2011 meeting in Anchorage; and,

WHEREAS, no communication has been received from the Board of Fisheries explaining why the invitation from the Kenai Peninsula Borough and the Cities of Kenai and Soldotna was declined; and,

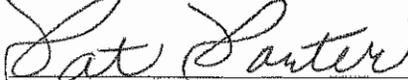
WHEREAS, no communication has been received from the Board of Fisheries explaining why the invitation from the Kenai Peninsula Borough and the Cities of Kenai and Soldotna was declined; and,

WHEREAS, the perception of Kenai Peninsula residents is that inaccurate and argumentative comments about residents of the Kenai Peninsula published in the media on October 12, 2009 influenced the Board of Fisheries to decline to hold its 2011 Upper Cook Inlet meeting in the Kenai/Soldotna area.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the City of Kenai, the City of Soldotna, and the Kenai Peninsula Borough request the Board of Fisheries reconsider its decision and hold the 2011 Upper Cook Inlet Board of Fisheries meeting in the Kenai/Soldotna area.

Dated: This 12<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2009

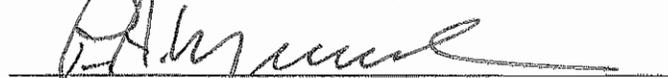
CITY OF KENAI

  
PAT PORTER, MAYOR

ATTEST:

  
Carol L. Freas, City Clerk

CITY OF SOLDOTNA

  
PETER A. MICCICHE, MAYOR

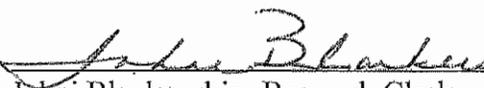
ATTEST:

  
Teresa Fahning, City Clerk

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH

  
PETE SPRAGUE, ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT

ATTEST:

  
Johni Blankenship, Borough Clerk



A Summary of the BOF Fact-Finding Trip to Bristol Bay  
November 13-14, 2009

Committee A

Dillingham

**Proposals 1, 2, 3:**

- 1) Oppose as written – need to have better defined areas and methods (shorter nets, closed areas to avoid gear conflicts) – need to return to pre-2000 subsistence areas for better enforcement and less waste using smaller nets – oppose opening Wood River – need to protect king salmon run.
- 2) Supports – easier for elders to get fish by homes (Wood River) – supports opening Nushagak River – supports longer net which would result in less fishing time and less congestion in fishing area – allows gathering fish more efficiently, reduces cost of getting fish – supports opening Nushagak because physical changes in channel necessitate using a drift net as opposed to a set net to catch fish – wants to stay with 15 fathoms of subsistence net – need to protect subsistence.

**Proposal 9:**

- 1) Oppose as written – if sport fishery is closed, need to close to drift net use also. Supports closure of Klutak.
- 2) Supports – too much activity on river, closure would reduce activity – sports fishing abuses the spawning areas for kings and coho salmon.

King Salmon

**Proposal 1, 2, 3:**

- 1) Need to protect subsistence.

**Proposal 6:**

- 1) Oppose – fish not currently being harvested can return to spawn again and protect resource if markets come back.

Committee B

Dillingham

**Proposal 14:**

- 1) Oppose – would cause real problems for set netters, infringement of property rights regarding tideland lease situation – would destroy set net fishery – unfair to set netters – many use screw anchors which can only be set a few days each year because of tides – some folks use trucks instead of skiffs to

haul nets and don't have means to pull gear easily – the logistics of regularly pulling and resetting gear are unworkable.

**Proposal 15:**

- 1) Oppose – can't afford a larger boat – bay infrastructure all designed for 32-foot boat, bigger boats would reduce quality by catching more fish and holding them longer between deliveries, quality of fish in bay is steadily improving, let current program develop with no major change to the fishery – need to empower local fishermen and not outsiders who can afford a bigger boat – this would be a defacto allocation to the rich folks – would allow the rich fishermen to get richer while making the poorer fishermen poorer – would weaken ability of local fishermen to compete in fishery – don't need bigger boats because current processor quota system doesn't allow filling current size boat's holds – 32-foot boats have served well for a long time, can produce quality fish with 32-foot length – need to allow the BBEDC quality improvement program time to show quality improvement – need to base a decision like this on solid information, not speculation – 32-foot boats are efficient – market is forcing fishermen to concentrate on quality, let BBEDC program develop for a while.

**Proposals 16-20:**

- 1) Oppose – need to maximize participation in fishery not reduce it – would weaken locals ability to compete in fishery – permit values are more than just monetary, it's a lifestyle, oppose the entire concept of permit stacking, even what's already in the regulations because it's not good for locals – does not want any expansion of permit stacking beyond what is currently allowed – don't change the status quo of the fishery with this major change – would create unfair competition because of price incentives and higher quota for larger allowed catch for boat with two permits – solution to nonexistent problem, just need more enforcement.

**Proposal 21:**

- 1) Oppose – quality issues and more drop out from net – a single permit holder would loose twice, price paid for fish (larger producers get top dollar with price adjustments) and is restricted on quota from processor compared to dual permit boat – everyone should use same length of net.

**Proposal 22:**

- 1) Support – need to keep the 150 fathom net length.

**Proposal 23:**

- 1) Oppose – let Togiak run its own program – give the Togiak folks a break and maintain the status quo.

**Proposal 24:**

- 1) Oppose – for some people the current system is working.

- 2) Support – need to eliminate all permit stacking to make fishery fair again.

**Proposal 26:**

- 1) Oppose – need economic development in Togiak – should not allow dual permits in Togiak District – larger boats from outside district would come in and hurt locals – Togiak District needs this protection – late fishery being hurt by “outside” fleet, maybe extend dates of super exclusive status.

**Proposals 27, 28:**

- 1) Oppose – current structure protects inside fishermen – need to limit gear length to 150 fathoms – current structure is good management tool – wants dual permit system to go away – would be chaotic with boats running everywhere – dual permit system may be beyond its useful life – need to keep 48-hour rule in place.

**Proposals 29, 30:**

- 1) Support – either need to allow Area T folks back in with Area M folks or should throw everybody out of area entirely.

**Proposal 31:**

- 1) Oppose – would create a real mess – is a really bad idea – would be a disaster because of unknown interception rates on various fish stocks headed to different districts – would create an intercept fishery – by creating an intercept fishery, could lead to demand for bigger boats, more gear, etc – don’t know where fish come from in general district so could hurt specific runs – rather than opening General District just allow earlier fishing within districts – creates fishery which cuts out set netters.

**King Salmon**

**Proposal 14:**

- 1) Oppose – would create major problems for set netters – would create serious logistics problems – totally impractical for screw anchors.

**Proposal 15:**

- 1) Oppose – infrastructure of bay set up for 32-foot boats, with no cap on length, who knows who will come in to fish, if limit is changed go no longer than 36-foot with a long lead time to implementation, say 6 years – if allowed would start equipment upsizing battle – fishery is already overcapitalized and infrastructure is not present to support longer boats – continued rationalization of fishery is killing local communities – not needed, no safety issues, causes hardship to make upgrade – allowing longer boats would just create demand to fish more gear – is not a quality issue – would only benefit “outsiders.”
- 2) Supports – needs upper limit of 36-foot length, not much local capital for longer boats, would probably benefit outsiders more than locals – needs to have some length limit, extra 3 to 6-foot length might not be bad but need cap.

**Proposals 16 to 20:**

- 1) Support – allows family to fish together and provides way to compete in the fishery, should be allowed to hold and fish two permits but not, say, four permits – set netters need dual permit fishing capability to survive in fishery.
- 2) Oppose – more nets cause single permit fisherman competition problems – rationalization is killing fishery – need to keep net lengths equal between boats, not fair to single permit 150-fathom net fisherman – original purpose of allowing dual permits has been spun into a way to maximize profits – would lead to “corporate” takeover of fishery, those with money would control things.

**Proposal 21:**

- 1) Oppose – 200 fathoms is a lot of net to deal with, 300 fathoms is even worse and would be unfair.

**Proposal 22:**

- 1) Oppose

**Proposal 23:**

- 1) Support

**Proposal 24:**

- 1) Oppose – the current system is working for some folks.
- 2) Support – eliminate all permit stacking entirely.

**Proposal 25:**

- 1) Oppose – fishing is a gamble and folks need room to “wobble” – unnecessary paperwork and should be eliminated.
- 2) Support – in lieu of proposal 31, would provide chance to catch earlier fish in one’s own district – might support but would create management problems.

**Proposal 27, 28:**

- 1) Oppose
- 2) Support – unnecessary paperwork and should be eliminated.

**Proposal 29, 30:**

- 1) Support – but don’t allow Area T fishermen to come up near Bristol Bay boundary.

**Proposal 31:**

- 1) Support – need to harvest early fish but must be careful how fishery is prosecuted.
- 2) Oppose – would create intercept fishery with all the associated problems – set netters excluded from this fishery so isn’t fair to all users – would benefit industry but not fishermen – allocation issues between drifters and set netters,

communities rely on fish taxes which would be lost in general district fishery  
– would have negative effect on borough tax income.

## **Committee C**

### **Dillingham**

#### **Proposals 35, 36:**

- 1) Oppose – keep existing allocation structures.

#### **Proposal 39:**

- 1) Oppose

#### **Proposals 40, 41:**

- 1) Support – provides a good economic opportunity, dates may need some adjustment – do not allow any in-river fishing in the Wood River.

#### **Proposals 42, 43:**

- 1) Oppose – oppose opening in special harvest area, commercial openings close subsistence fishery.

#### **Proposal 44:**

- 1) Oppose

### **King Salmon**

#### **Proposal 32:**

- 1) Support – improves ability to catch fish – one 35-fathom net would be better than two 25-fathom nets because of amount of gear in water (anchors, etc) – need more net to catch more fish to help control overescapement.
- 2) Oppose – don't need more nets, need more fishing time.

General comments on this proposal: processors used to come get fish but now folks are on their own, lack of processors affects ability of permits to be fished in NRSHA for set netters.

#### **Proposal 33:**

- 1) Oppose

#### **Proposals 35, 36:**

General comments: would like to see allocation percentages eliminated.

#### **Proposal 38:**

General comments: need to correct allocation with sliding scale for boat numbers or something to bring fishery back into balance.

**Proposal 39:**

- 1) Oppose

**Committee D**

**Dillingham**

**Proposal 13:**

- 1) Support – would provide habitat protection – need to maintain fishery resource – must protect Bristol Bay salmon for the area’s culture and tradition and for subsistence uses for future generations – permit requirements are inadequate to address issues of this size mine, need special requirements for Bristol Bay – mine will cause problems – loves to fish and lifestyle and wants to pass that on to his children – need to protect salmon fishery – fish are a renewable resource, copper and gold are not – area needs further protection from manmade influences because it may come under stress from natural things like climate change – sulfide mine operation causes acid to leach into ecosystem – has seen sulfide mine problems in other states – fish should come first.

**King Salmon**

**Proposal 13:**

- 1) Support – need to protect Bristol Bay fisheries, time for BOF to take action to protect fisheries, must have state control of process not federal – need to protect ecosystem.
- 2) Oppose – permitting regulations are strong enough, need jobs in local area to allow communities to survive into the future – this is just another layer of bureaucracy – don’t need any more parks, this reserve would cripple the area’s economy.

General Comments on the issues:

- 1) Icing seems to work better than RSW systems because of the reduced levels of bacteria in the ice;
- 2) The BOF needs to hold its meetings out in the affected regions of the state;
- 3) The BOF should proceed very carefully on the restructuring proposals in light of the quality improvements happening in Bristol Bay as a result of the BBEDC and others efforts;
- 4) Mining and fishing might be compatible but need to look very closely at permit standards and other factors;
- 5) Need to get Bristol Bay permits back in the hands of the local communities;
- 6) The cost of living in the Bristol Bay communities is over 300% greater than Anchorage;

- 7) The BOF is being asked to do for Bristol Bay what it has already done for other communities in the state, i.e., protect the local communities' ability to compete in the fisheries;
- 8) Need to protect the bottom half of the fishermen so they can continue to participate in the fishery;
- 9) The 30-mile stretch the BOF opened to Area M may be a problem for Kvichak fish returns – needs to be totally closed to everyone;
- 10) Oppose all restructuring proposals;
- 11) Things are really not all that great for the Bristol Bay fishery;
- 12) Don't do anything to change the status quo of the Bristol Bay fishery except to encourage the quality improvements already being made;
- 13) Bristol Bay's problems are most strongly related to lack of processor capacity;
- 14) Don't support off-shore oil development in Bristol Bay so don't support development of a mine either;
- 15) Size of the boat has no bearing on the quality of fish being delivered;
- 16) The genetics work being done in the bay has greatly improved F&G's forecasting abilities for the fishery;
- 17) Slim Morstad has done a fine job in his management of the fishery;
- 18) Most of the proposals are based on greed, not need;
- 19) The restructuring proposals are aimed at maximizing catch through capitalization, which hurts the local communities;
- 20) Some folks feel a concern for the local communities in light of what appears to be a shift toward developing a corporate structure for the fishery.
- 21) Processors are no longer buying fish on the south shore of the Naknek River.

RC 12

Alaska Dept of Fish and Game  
Board Support Section: Board of Fish  
PO Box 115526  
Juneau, AK 99811-5526  
Attn: Vince Webster, Chair and members

Re: Proposal 20 – Permit Stacking

As a 38 yr Kodiak, Alaska resident, I represent a family owned Bristol Bay operation with a 35 year history of harvesting Bristol Bay Sockeye. I have attended BOF cycle meetings and lobbied for changes to the fishery in an effort to maintain some reliable income and return on money invested in vessels, permits and equipment. I am writing this letter in support of Proposal 20 – Permit Stacking

According to the economic studies of this fishery there is a consensus that fleet reduction is essential to future economic improvement. There have been legislative changes made to allow one individual to own two salmon permits and direction to the BOF to create benefits to those who invest in additional permits. There are many of these permits (latent permits) currently going unused, as no opportunities have been created for these double permit owners. Meanwhile the "D" permit rules have allowed increased gear length for those vessels with multiple permit holders on board. There has been a reduction in fleet size due to these changes. Harvesters who have difficulties maintaining a vessel (or do not own one) have been able to join vessel owners and continue to utilize their permits. All fishers have gained opportunity from reduced vessel and gear concentration as a result of these measures.

In the absence of a government financed buyback, implementing the permit stacking is the next logical step in this process. We will then experience the continued vessel reduction and reduced overcrowding in all fishing districts. If this proposal is not approved, the latent permits will be sold and return to the fishery with new owners. Any future economic improvements in the fishery will be offset by (returning) "D" permit holders currently without vessels, who will "gear up". Potential increased profits will be met with an ever increasing vessel count, eventually resulting in 1800 vessels fishing and back to extreme overcrowding, increased intensity and loss of orderly harvest opportunities. We could easily lose our focus on fish quality and market share as we re-intensify the "race for fish" and crowd the perimeters once again. It is obvious we could easily lose what has been gained. All participants benefit as vessel and gear concentrations diminish and the effort to compete can evolve towards an effort to produce quality product in an orderly harvest. Please support proposal 20 and allow permit stacking

Respectfully Submitted:

Michael J Friccero F/V Miss Gina



907 539-1320

PAGE 1 of 2

Alaska Dept of Fish and Game  
Board Support Section: Board of Fish  
PO Box 115526  
Juneau, AK 99811-5526  
Attn: Vince Webster, Chair and members

Re: Proposal 15 – Eliminate 32 ft Rule

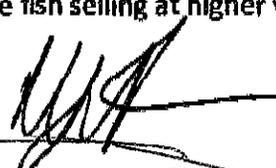
As a 38 yr Kodiak, Alaska resident , I represent a family owned Bristol Bay operation with a 35 year history of harvesting Bristol Bay Sockeye. I have attended BOF cycle meetings and lobbied for changes to the fishery in an effort to maintain some reliable income and return on money invested in vessels, permits and equipment. I am writing this letter in support of Proposal 15 – Eliminate the 32 ft limit

I have owned several Bristol Bay gillnetters and they all have one thing in common – They are too small! On our boat, we are currently refrigerating, bleeding and floating as many of our fish as we can, but this is limited to the early and late season fishing times, because when the run is at full strength, there is not enough space (on most 32 ft boats) to properly manage the fish for quality. It will take more deck space, more fish hold capacity, and another crew member to properly handle premium fish during a peak day of operation. Additionally our vessel has fish holds located aft and loses freeboard rapidly when loaded with fish and RSW water. Additional buoyancy provided by a moderate length increase would be important for added safety on our vessel. Many 32 ft gillnetters do not have the space available for refrigeration equipment. Most would not perform well with a partially flooded RSW fish hold. Those vessels that do are sacrificing draft and freeboard and handle awkwardly, compromising safety in heavy weather. Most Bristol Bay gillnetters would provide safer work platforms and better deck layouts with an increase in length. The additional space would be utilized for quality improvements as well.

We currently are receiving as much as .33/lb more for premium fish (bled, chilled, floated ) from my salmon market. If we try to deliver premium fish during the peak season, we trade off quality and premium prices for decreased production. This negates any financial benefit and limits our increased prices to the "scratch" season. There will continue to be significant "lost dollars" until the quality of our fish becomes paramount. Improving the quality of the fish we catch is the pivotal task that can be accomplished quickly, with the least change to the infrastructure of the region. Increasing the volume of the premium fish is the next level. Increased vessel length is directly relevant to these goals.

We are currently using our vessels differently than in the past, yet we are being restricted by an outdated vessel length limit. Allowing a moderate vessel length increase would allow (physical space) for quality related improvements, increased safety for tanked vessels, and minimal impact to non invested fishers. Quality improvement is the most significant change with the highest return and is also the easiest to attain. Quality fish handling requires increased vessel size. Increased vessel length will result in more fish selling at higher values. Please support Proposal 15

Respectfully Submitted  
Michael J Friccero F/V Miss Gina

 907 539-1520

PAGE 2 of 2

RC 13

To:

Attn: BOF Comments

Boards Support Section

ADF&G

P.O. Box 115526

Juneau, Alaska. 99811-5526

RECEIVED

NOV 25 2009

BOARDS

Board Members:

RE: Title 5 AAC 06.335

I have some major concerns regarding this proposal.

The proposal states that **"no one is likely to suffer"** if required to remove set net gear, pegs, screw anchors and buoys when not fishing.

There are several different ways to set net. One way is to use a skiff and set nets with anchors at each end to hold in place. The Ekuk fishermen do not have that option. This fishery is almost 100% beach operation using trucks. Occasionally we would be able to pick nets with a skiff and a few folks do on a limited basis. The water is generally too rough and the current too swift to make it practical.

Many of the set net sites on Ekuk beach have been in place since the 1950's. I know of several sites that are still using the same outer stakes and screw anchors for the last 50 plus years. They are not removable. They have been through more than 50 seasons without change. Some of the screw anchors have been attempted to be removed and are frozen in place. The only way to get them out would be to take a track hoe out there and dig them out. This would not be very practical to have to do this every closure. Anchors will not hold in the swift current. Several fishermen have attempted to fish with anchors when the outer pegs pulled out. Attempts have been made with three anchors in series but were unable to hold and would drag nearly to the adjacent site. This proposal would not only cause unbelievable suffering but would make it nearly impossible to set net on this beach.

The proposal stated that the **"set netters remove their lines, pulleys and buoys at the end of the season so therefore it would be no problem to do it after each opening"**.

The fact of the matter is that many of us on the beach have one low tide at the beginning of the season where we are able to get to the outer pegs to attach the buoys and pulleys with running lines and have to wait for another low tide at the end of the season to recover the pulleys and buoys. We are lucky to be able to have one other tide during the season to replace items if they are lost or destroyed by drift

fishermen. Some years we are required to set running lines, pulleys and buoys in May so we can start fishing the end of June. This past year we were lucky and did not have to set running lines until the later part of June. It would be absolutely impossible to retrieve gear after each opening and equally as impossible to reset it at the start of another opening. If required to remove the running lines and buoys after an opening, it would require a skiff. It would also be impossible to reattach the running lines and buoys for days if not weeks. Even then, the permanent outer pegs would certainly interfere with the drift fleet. It would cause a bigger problem because the buoys that are there indicate the location of the outer pegs. Without the buoys, the drift fleet would really be upset when they snagged on the pegs and screw anchors that were unmarked.

There are other restrictions in place on Ekuk beach that don't apply to other areas. Ekuk beach sites are limited to 500 feet from high tide near the village. Then 750 feet East and farther East 1000 feet as you get toward Flounder Flats. These restrictions were set in place so drift fishermen knew that the outer buoys were fairly consistent. In other areas, set net fishermen are able to follow the tide out to low water, keeping their nets in the water at all times. I can already hear the fussing from the drift fishermen if the Ekuk fishermen were required to remove gear after each opening. The Ekuk fishermen would also insist on fishing out with the tide as other areas are permitted. This would seriously interfere with the drift fishermen when drift and set net openings were at the same time.

Nearly all of the sites on Ekuk beach have a State of Alaska Shore Lease. This lease property should allow each fisherman to fish that area as it has been traditionally fished.

This proposal, if allowed, would virtually eliminate the Ekuk beach fisheries. I would request that any future proposals that attempt to require the removal of all set net gear should not be allowed to be brought before the Board. The Ekuk beach fishery has been a part of our family since the mid 1950's. It was fished this same way for years prior to that. This is the only way to fish a set net on Ekuk beach. Obviously, the author of this proposal is oblivious to how an Ekuk set net operation works and needs to educate himself as to what goes on outside his narrow field of vision.

Thank you for your considerations regarding this matter.

Sincerely



Fred Ball

513 SW 3<sup>rd</sup> St.

College Place, Washington 99324

Attn: BOF Comments

Board Support Section

ADF' & G

P.O. Box 115526

Juneau, Alaska 99811

RC 14

Attn: Board Members,

RE: Proposal Title 5 AAC 06.335

I started fishing on the Nushagak River in 1932 and have fished on Ekuk beach every season since 1955. I am 95 years old and last summer helped work the same set net site that I staked more than 50 years ago. The location of my outer pegs and screw anchors have never changed. I can assure you that it would be virtually impossible to remove those stakes and screw anchors from that location. I have fished with a skiff in years past and can guarantee that it would be impossible to have a viable fishing operation with a skiff and anchor arrangement from this location.

We would be unable to fish if we were required to remove all set net gear from the water after each opening. I may not be fishing for very many more years but my children, grand children, great grand children and great great grand children are on Ekuk beach each summer.

This proposal would destroy the Ekuk beach fishery. Please file this proposal in the nearest trash can.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely *Albert W Ball Sr*

Albert W Ball Sr.

540 SW 3<sup>rd</sup> St.

College Place, Washington 99324

Attn: BOF Comments  
Board Support Section  
ADF&G  
P.O. Box 115526  
Juneau, Alaska 99811

RC 15

Attn: Board Members

RE: Proposal Title 5 AAC 06.335

I have fished on Ekuk Beach since 1955 and have not missed one season since then. I started teaching my children how to fish when they were very young and now they are fishing our original set net sites. I have never picked my net from a skiff and have always used a vehicle to get to and from the site. We have used the same techniques to harvest fish from this beach that were used long before I started fishing. It is impossible to fish consistently with a skiff and impossible to hold the nets with an anchor because of the swift current. We would be unable to fish if we were required to remove our gear, running lines and buoys after each opening. We are not able to get to our outer pegs and screw anchors but for a couple times during the season.

The proposal states that no one would suffer if this proposal was adopted. I can assure that there would be an unbelievable amount of suffering if the Ekuk beach fishermen were required to remove all gear after each opening.

The statement that was made in the proposal that, "they remove their lines, pulleys and buoys at the end of the season so it would be no problem to do it after each opening " , shows the lack of knowledge of the author of this proposal.

Passing this proposal would absolutely destroy the Ekuk beach fishery. The economic impact to this group of fishermen would be devastating.

Please do not allow this proposal to be considered.

Sincerely

*Eileen M Ball*

Eileen Ball

540 SW 3<sup>rd</sup> St

College Place, Washington 99324

RC16

Nov. 17 2009

Alaska Board of Fisheries  
ADF&G Division of Boards

Mr. Chairman and Members of the  
Fish Board:

My name is Carl Flensburg and I am  
a Bristol Bay drift permit holder  
and vessel owner. I have participated  
as crew or captain in the B.B. salmon  
fishery for 37 years. I live year round  
in Dillingham and am a single parent  
of 2 teenage children. I depend on the  
commercial salmon fishery for 80% of  
my cash income and subsistence food  
for my family.

I have respectfully submitted written  
comments of several proposals before  
you for consideration. I would appreciate  
your time and understanding from a  
year-round, life long, resident fishermen's  
perspective.

Thank You for your time.

Carl Flensburg F/V Slipstream

Proposal 13

Yes

I am for the establishment of a fish Refuge in Bristol Bay. I believe we must protect the habitat from potential dangers of water quality destruction. The Kvichak and Nushagak river drainages support the local subsistence hunters and fishers.

They also support a productive commercial salmon fishery. This salmon fishery has produced a healthy, natural and nutritious source of protein for over hundreds of years. It has fed millions of people as well as supporting the region's economy.

Please help us to protect our renewable resource.

Proposal 15

NO

I do not agree with eliminating 32-foot limit on vessels in Bristol Bay.

The 32 ft limit has been in place for over 100 years and is still working today.

Larger boats would displace the local year-round resident from the fishery. We cannot get access to credit sources or funding to upgrade our vessels to compete.

Local villages may have One Bank in the village, some with none at all. The cost of living in our villages is much higher than anywhere else in Alaska and the lower 48 states.

Our economy is already depressed from being put on limits at the processor. We cannot sell all the fish we can catch. Our boats hold more fish than we can sell. We need to talk about processor capacity and when we can handle the volume of fish, then discuss gear and boat size.

Proposal 20

NO

I am against one person owning two permits to use 200 fathoms of gear. I see this as another attempt to expand the permit stacking regulations. These permits will move away from local Alaskan Fisherman to the more wealthy out of state investor.

We need to protect our people and try to keep what permits we have in our Bristol Bay region.

I havent seen any reports or studys regarding permit stacking or increased gear associated with using more than 1 permit per vessel.

Proposal 21

NO

I am against the use of 300 fathoms of gear. It is already hard to fish around 200 fathoms of gear with 150 fms. I won't be able to catch any fish with 300 fathom nets around. Why create another class of fisherman? If this happened I would go out of business. I think we should return to 150 fathoms per boat and leave it at that.

Proposal 23

Yes

I agree with this. The Togiak district is a small run of salmon from about 300,000 to 1 million fish. They have a fleet of small skiffs they use for fishing in the shallow bay. The community of Togiak depends on this run of salmon for subsistence and economic reasons. It opens on July 24<sup>th</sup> 9:AM to out of district fishermen. I fall fish there nearly every year. I fish for 1 to 3 weeks before digging clams and heading back to Dillingham. In recent years we see a growing group of large D permit Aluminum boats working the Togiak outside line gobbling up the last of the run of salmon. Leaving very little for the local fishermen. If the 200 fathom D permit were not allowed I think it would help the local Togiak fishermen.

Proposal 24

Yes

I agree eliminate permit stacking in Bristol Bay. Permit Stacking has created two classes of Drift fishermen.

1<sup>st</sup> class Dual permit fishermen catching more fish, making more money, getting higher limits, more pounds and larger bounties from the processor. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Class of fishermen, Single permit holders. Mostly local fishermen who cannot afford a 2<sup>nd</sup> permit. We cannot compete with the dual permit holder. Please work to fix this problem, make it fair for every fisherman in Bristol Bay.

Proposal 26

NO

I do not think we should eliminate the super exclusive status of the Togiak district.

Togiak having super exclusive status protects their small boat (skiffs) fleet.

They have a small salmon run in a very shallow bay. The village is up inside the bay, so they use the small boats so they can get home after fishing. Larger boats would not make it to the village.

Any Bristol Bay permit holder can fish in Togiak if he wants to. Just register to fish there. It opens to all permit holders on July 24 9 AM.

I fish the Togiak almost every year when it opens to us.

Proposal 31

NO

I do not want to see fishing in the General District. I believe there is a danger of fishing on unknown salmon stocks in this area. With the possibility of doing harm to some of Bristol Bay's smaller rivers. When we fish within our respective bays and river systems we know these fish belong to the river we are fishing in. We are able to monitor the escapement with confidence.

This is proven with the existing management style of Bristol Bay being used as an example world wide of a well managed fishery.

RC 17

We the Gillnet Permit Holders, The set net Permit holders, and Subsistence People of Clarks Point, AK give Lawerence Olson, Harry Wassily and Richard Clark permission to Report on these Fishery Proposals on their Behalf as follows:

GILLNETTERS	NAME	SIGNATURE
	1.) Morris George	<u>Morris George</u>
	2.) Logan Walker	<u>Logan Walker</u>
	3.) Henry Wassily	<u>Henry Wassily</u>
	4.) Jimmy Wassily	<u>Jimmy Wassily</u>
	5.) Harry Wassily	<u>Harry Wassily</u>

SETNETTERS	NAME	SIGNATURE
	1.) Joseph Wassily	<u>Joseph Wassily</u>
	2.) Louis Gardiner	<u>Louis Gardiner</u>
	3.) Emily Olson	<u>Emily Olson</u>

SUBSISTANCE FISHERMAN	NAME	SIGNATURE
	1.) Morris George	<u>Morris George</u>
	2.) Logan Walker	<u>Logan Walker</u>
	3.) Betty Wassily	<u>Betty Wassily</u>
	4.) Joel Clark	<u>Joel Clark</u>
	5.) Sandra Johansen	<u>Sandra Johansen</u>
	6.) Gusty Wassily	<u>Gusty Wassily SR</u>
	7.) Betty Wassily Gardiner	<u>Betty Gardiner</u>
	8.) Louis Gardiner	<u>Louis Gardiner</u>
	9.) Robert Wassily	<u>Robert Wassily</u>
	10.) Judy George	<u>Judy George</u>
	11.) Paul George	<u>Paul George</u>
	12.) Edward Anderson	<u>Edward Anderson</u>
	13.) Margaret Gardiner	<u>Margaret Gardiner</u>
	14.) Jacinto George	<u>Jacinto George</u>
	15.) Mary Wassily	<u>Mary Wassily</u>
	16.) Jimmy Wassily	<u>Jimmy Wassily</u>
	17.) Joseph Wassily	<u>Joseph Wassily</u>
	18.) Harry Wassily	<u>Harry Wassily</u>
	19.) Pauline Wassily	<u>Pauline Wassily</u>
	20.) Henry Wassily	<u>Henry Wassily</u>

- 21.) Karen Wassily Karen Wassily
- 22.) Tom Egbert Tom Egbert
- 23.) Diane Anderson Diane Anderson
- 24.) Emily Olson Emily Olson
- 25.) Lawerance Olson Law Olson
- 26.) Anthony Clark Anthony Clark
- 27.) Sharon Clark Sharon Clark
- 28.) Marino Floresta
- 29.) Aureon George Aureon George
- 30.) Justin Gardner Justin Gardner
- 31.) Brittany Wassily Brittany Wassily
- 32.) Justine Wassily Justine Wassily
- 33.) Gusty Wassily Sr. Gusty Wassily Sr.

Clarks Point High School Students that are \*fishing partners & subsistence users:

- 1) \*Sam Clark
- 2) Ladoyna George
- 3) Chelsea Wassily
- 4) \*Michael Wassily
- 5) \*Susie Wassily
- 6) \*Nadine Wassily
- 7) \*Kathleen Wassily

(Children) Clarks Point Village subsistence users:

- 1) Jon T. Egbert
- 2) Kayla Walker
- 3) Kaylee Walker
- 4) Joseph Walker
- 5) Amaya Walker
- 6) Ciciyak Walker
- 7) Logan Walker
- 8) Alaskiss Walker
- 9) Tiffany Melovidov
- 10) Jacinto George
- 11) Mayla Golia
- 12) Samantha Clark
- 13) Ryland Clark
- 14) Devynn Wassily
- 15) Samuel Slattengren
- 16) Trevallian Lundgren II

## CLARKS POINT

5 PERMITS for Gillnetters

3 PERMITS for Setnetters

56 Subsistence Grown up and Kids

We the people are in favor of **Proposals # 1,2,3.**

**Proposal # 4,** In the past the fisherman of Clarks Point fished Togiak for many years but were pushed out of this Fishery by the few Company's that buy our Herring, now without Markets, we don't go over there anymore, if we had a Market we would be there, it would be great if we had the Foreign Market over there again so us Native and Alaska People can use this fishery instead of out of State Fisherman, having this Market <sup>opened</sup> up by the same Markets that do our Salmon in Bristol Bay.

**Proposal # 5,** We are in favor of ponding but should be given the outlying Native Villages along the Bristol Bay Coast. so we can develop this ponding and get this Market back, such as being in Leaf Kelp from Southeast for quality.

**Proposal # 6**

**Oppose; Asto # 5** Us Natives should be allowed to Pond this Herring for Market.

**Proposal # 13** favor: of establish BB fish Refuge

**Proposal # 14** Oppose: Our set netters have been here for many years over 60 yrs. in my life and since my parents were living and fished set nets, these change would put our people in great danger of Life or Death. There running lines buoys, Anchors are essential to the set netter.

**Proposal # 15** Oppose: 32' Limit has been around for 60 yrs. of my life time and has done the job real well why change it, we are a shallow water fishery and 32' Limit, does the job very well the right price, and keeps up with the Allocation of our Harvest Percentages.

**Proposals # 16** Oppose: 1 boat <sup>(only)</sup> 1 permit, 1 set net, limit 50 fathoms gear no more <sup>150 fathoms</sup>

**Proposal # 17** oppose: Same as proposal # 16

**Proposal # 18** Oppose: There should be 1 set net per permit holder and 50 fathoms gear, As it is there isn't enough beach for the set netter as it is.

**Proposal # 19** Oppose: same as 16, 17, 18.

**Proposal # 20** Oppose: 1 boat 1 permit, 150 fathoms only. " No Stalking"

**Proposal # 21** Oppose: Only 150 fathoms per boat.

**Proposal # 22** Oppose: 1 permit, 1 boat, 150 fathoms max.

**Proposal # 23** favor: max 150 fathoms drift gillnetters.

**Proposal # 24** favor: No permit stacking period.

**Proposal # 25** favor: all Bristol Bay Rivers should be super exclusive, until escapement has been met.

**Proposal # 26** favors; Togiak should remain Super Exclusive and all Bristol Bay Rivers. Also until escapement has been met in all rivers in Bristol Bay.

**Proposal #40** favor; There is fish running clean up to October, this year Clarks Point subsistence users caught quite a few Silvers in their first two week of October.

With all these changes if push comes to shove, you are just hurting us Alaskan People. To leave you with a food for thought: What would happen if us Natives went Federal Criminal and Civil Jurisdiction, In Alaska and fought for the Judge Bold Decision like State of Washington ?!! Alaska !!. Natives fish 1 day and the Permit holders fish the next day. The season is very short as is and this will cut your fishing a little short? Like half the time.

To: Alaska Board of Fish

RC18

From: Robin Samuelsen  
Box 412  
Dillingham, Alaska 99576

I am a commercial fisherman that has been fishing Bristol Bay for over 45 years. I started in the setnet fishery with my grandma and then became a drifter. I sat three years on the Alaska Board of Fish as well as nine years on the NPFMC. Today I am preparing my two grandsons to hopefully take over my fishing business when I retire.

I would like to provide you with my comments on proposals that are before you concerning the Bristol Bay salmon fishery.

Proposal 13-Support-We need to protect the fish at all costs in Bristol Bay. This proposal is a way to start that process. Everything in Bristol Bay is centered around the commercial, sport and subsistence fisheries and not the proposed big development projects.

Proposal 14-Oppose-This proposal would put setnetters out of business. Many setnetters have to put the anchoring devices in place during a minus tide. This is an unrealistic proposal that would hurt all setnetters.

Proposal 15-Oppose-This proposal and proposals like this one keep coming up before the BOF and get turned down time after time. These boats are safe, hold a lot of fish, can process on them. Safety-We do not have a problem fishing these size boats in Bristol Bay, sure sometimes they sink because of an operator who overloads his boat in rough weather, but these are few. These boats can hold up to 30,000 pounds of fish, on an average I would bet 16,000 pounds. The last five years we have been put on limits or shut downs by our processing companies, many of these limits are 4,000 to 8,000 pounds so why do we need bigger boats, the companies would not let us catch the fish. Within the last 5 or 6 years this has cost us 350 million dollars as well as over escapement. I custom process aboard my vessel and do not need a bigger boat to process. My quality is the best in Alaska, using ice, I sell a top grade product to my customers. This proposal if passed will allow mostly non-local fishermen to expand or buy new bigger boats that would displace local watershed residents. Local watershed residents do not have the capital to invest 80-100,000 in building a bigger boat and proposals such as this one would only drive more watershed residents out of the fishery. The Board needs to protect watershed fishermen because they make up the communities of Bristol Bay, these fishermen are the economic engine of Bristol Bay. We also do not have the infrastructure to handle bigger boats in Bristol Bay. Focus on improving the quality of the fish and not making the 32 foot vessel a 42 foot vessel. Five years ago we were getting \$.40 cents a pound for our sockeye, today some processors paid \$1.05 because of the quality improvement in chilling the product. This is what we need to focus on, not bigger boats.

Proposal 17-Oppose-Permit stacking as adopted by the Board of Fish for drift fishermen, did not attain its intended purpose. Most drifters who fish dual permits now own both of the permits and just put one in a partners name with little or no additional monetary adjustment to the other fishermen. Instead of making the problem worst, just do away with permit stacking and go back to 50 fathoms for setnet and 150 fathoms for drift, everyone would be equal then.

Proposal 18-Oppose-same as 17

Proposal 19-Oppose-same as 17

Proposal 20-Oppose-same as 17

Proposal 21-Oppose-same as 17

Proposal 22-Support-Nushagak River fishermen are hurt by all the dual permits that fish the Nushagak whenever the NRSHA is in effect. This will balance everyone out.

Proposal 23-Support-The Board needs to recognize that the Togiak fishing district is different than the other river systems in Bristol Bay. Most Togiak residents fish skiffs and not 32 foot boats. This proposal would restore the balance in that fishery.

Proposal 24-Oppose-Permit stacking has helped consolidate drift gear in the Bristol Bay fishery. We do not have a buy back plan in place or for the near future, so this works for us in BB. However, a person with 150 fathoms of gear cannot go against a boat with 200 fathoms.

Proposal 26-Oppose- Most Togiak fishermen fish skiffs and stand no chance against a 32 foot boat with 200 fathoms of gear. This proposal would allow big boats into the Togiak district early and hurt Togiak fishermen.

Proposal 27 & 28-Oppose-The 48 hour has been on the books for as long as the State of Alaska been managing the fishery. With 1800 drift boats and 1,000 setnet operations, the 48 hour keeps people from moving. Without the 48 hour in place fishermen will move all over the bays and disrupt fishermen who plan to fish in one bay.

Proposal 29 & 30- Support- This area should have never opened to the Area M fishermen. The BOF closed this area because of interception of Bristol Bay bound salmon in Area M. Now that the BOF opened this area to the Area M fishermen I would support the Bristol Bay fishermen to be put back into this area.

Proposal 31- Oppose-This creates and intercept fishery in Bristol Bay, harms setnet and drift fishermen who do not want to fish the General District. This is bad public policy. We need the department to open the regular fishing districts early so fishermen can catch fish going into the river systems and not a general district which could hurt a river system. If a river system was opened early then there would be no lost economic opportunity.

Proposal 42-Oppose-We should avoid all in-river fisheries in Bristol Bay. The department needs to open fishing districts early in the season to harvest fish and better control the over escapement into our river systems. We lack processing capacity in Bristol Bay and that is the main problem.

I believe the BOF did not follow its own guidelines on the restructuring proposals. These proposals will have a substantial economic, social impact on watershed residents. There has been no economic studies done by the BOF or social work to support these proposals. The BOF needs to look at promoting a healthy fishing economy in Bristol Bay that provides social and economic benefits for the region's residents and communities.

We are working on improving our quality of all salmon species in Bristol Bay, this has been our number one priority, not extending our vessels. Extending vessel length at this time would only favor those with the bucks and not the watershed residents. It would not help the quality or safety of the fishing fleet. Thank You.

RC19

***Attitudes toward Restructuring  
Proposals in the Bristol Bay  
Salmon Fishery***

*prepared for*  
***Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation***

*prepared by*  
Virgene Hanna

University of Alaska Anchorage  
Institute of Social and Economic Research

September 2008

## ***Executive Summary***

Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation mailed questionnaires to resident salmon-permit holders, and completed questionnaires were returned from 185 of those permit holders. Almost half (48%) of the permit holders who responded have been in the Bristol Bay salmon fishery for more than 30 seasons, and 10% have participated for more than 51 seasons. No one reported residing in the region for fewer than eight years and seven respondents had lived there more than 70 years; 47% were over 50 years old. The majority of respondents depend on the salmon fishery for over half of their income; and for 42 participants, the fishery provides all of their income.

Respondents overwhelmingly reported that they planned to pass on their limited-entry permit to a family member—94% reported planning to do so. When asked how long they planned to remain in the fishery, respondents (77%) stated that they didn't know, that it was indefinite, or that they couldn't estimate how long they would participate.

Out of the 185 respondents, 89 had set-net permits and 96 held drift-net permits. Both drift- and set-netters had held permits over a long span of time, ranging from one to 65 years. There was a slightly higher percentage of set netters than drift netters who had been fishing 20 or fewer years and, again, a slightly higher percentage who'd been fishing more than 50 years.

Drift netters were evenly divided in their support for and opposition to stacking. There was very strong support (82%) for two permit holders on one vessel with 200 fathoms; more opposition (60%) than support for one individual with two permits with 200 fathoms; and very little support (13%) for an individual with two permits having additional fishing opportunities. Most reported having no experience with stacking—68% hadn't used a second permit holder, and 82% hadn't been a second permit holder. Only 11 people reported receiving additional income from stacking.

Slightly over half (55%) of set-net permit holders supported stacking set permits. Those who supported stacking were asked which of the following extras they supported for stackers: extra gear, extra sites, or extra fishing time. Extra gear received the most support (77%), although extra sites were supported by more than half of respondents (60%). Extra fishing time was supported by fewer than half (43%). Although less than half of the set netters (35) reported they currently stacked, this was still a higher percentage than among drift netters. Among set netters who stacked, 40% shared their fishing site, while far more reported sharing their vessel (89%) and crew (77%).

Keeping vessels at their current length was supported by 82% of respondents. Whether the respondent owned a boat made little difference in their attitude toward vessel length—among boat owners, 83% support the current length limit; among those who don't own a boat, 78% support the current length limit. There was strong support for keeping the vessel length at its current 32-foot limit among drift netters (80%) as well as set netters (86%).

Analysis by community made little difference in the amount of support for the 32-foot limit; as with age of the respondent, support for the current limit was above 83% in most communities. There are high levels of support for the current length in every district. The least support was in the Ugashik district; but even there, twice as many who fish that district favored the current length.

In response to the question, "Do you believe that earnings from commercial fishing in Bristol Bay should be sufficient to support your family in the future?" respondents expressed mixed feelings. While 48% felt that it should be sufficient, respondents spent time clarifying and adding caveats to their answers. The same was true of the 32% who said "no, it shouldn't" as well as for the 20% who indicated that it depends.

When asked, "Do you believe that earnings from commercial fishing in Bristol Bay should be enough to sustain your community in the future?" 37% responded in the affirmative and 39% negatively; 24% said that it depends. Many people wrote that they wanted it to be adequate, but felt it was not possible under current circumstances of fish prices and the rising cost of living. Others expressed concern about their reliance on the fishery as the economic base of the community and the need to diversify their economy.

Roughly two-thirds of the respondents (64%) supported exclusive registration, and one-third (36%) did not. Many comments focused on the role exclusive registration could play in preserving and protecting the fishery, in part from the management information biologists would have but also through limiting over fishing.

This regulation had the strongest amount of support by far—89% of these permit holders supported the 48-hour transfer regulation. And some of those who objected weren't opposed to the concept of a waiting period, but were objecting to the waiting period being 48 hours; they offered suggestions for different lengths of time, both longer and shorter. The most commonly mentioned reason for their support was for the health of the fishery.

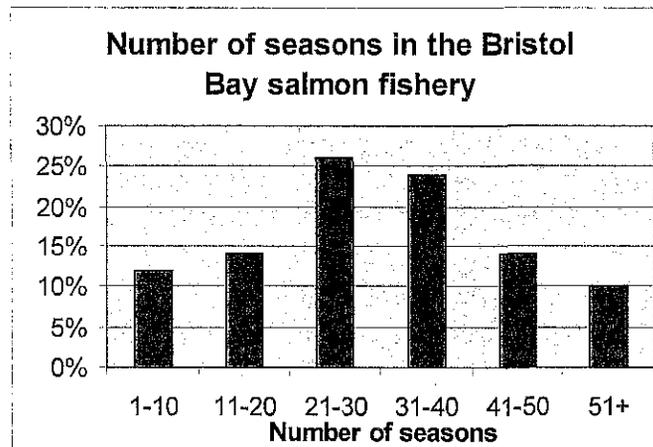
In a distinct departure from responses to the two previous questions, over two-thirds of these respondents did not support the general district. And among the 31% who supported it, respondents qualified their answers by identifying situations when it would be allowable. Those who were opposed to the general district had strong objections because of fears of how this might harm the fishery and that it goes against management principles of protecting discrete stocks. In turn, poor management would lead to a loss of income, would decrease community revenue from the loss of fish taxes, and it would be especially hard on set netters.

## ***Participants in the Survey***

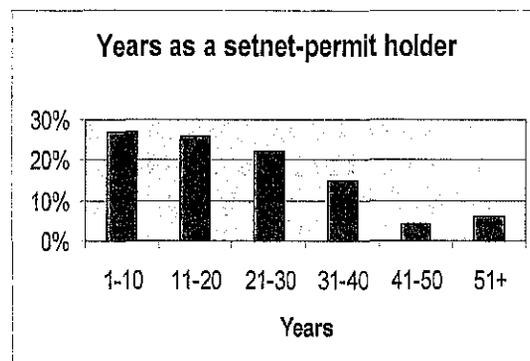
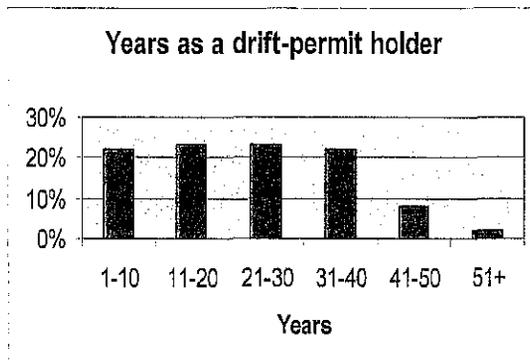
This section describes those who answered the questionnaire from BBEDC. The purpose is to provide an understanding of what we know about the respondents to better understand their attitudes. Most of the analysis in this section includes all participants, but where it may be helpful, some topics are examined by the type of permit the respondents fished. In those instances, the type of permit is noted.

### **Experience in the Bristol Bay Salmon Fishery**

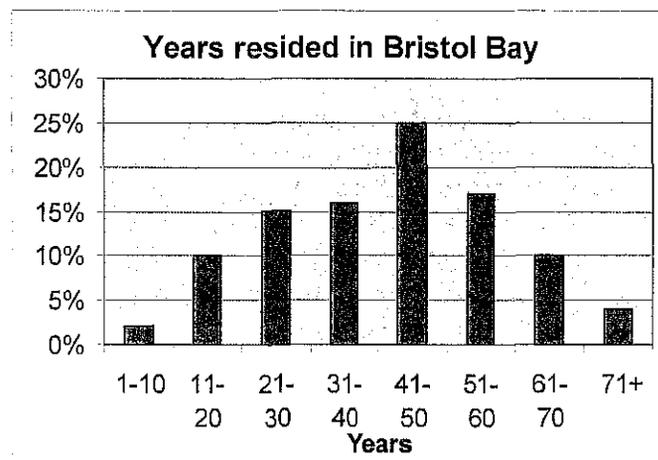
The chart below shows the percentage of fishers by how many seasons they've been in the salmon fishery; it includes responses from both set- and drift-permit holders combined. Almost half (48%) of the respondents have been in this fishery for more than 30 seasons and 10% have participated for more than 51 seasons. The highest bar in the chart reflects the 37 permit holders who reported having been in the fishery between 26 and 30 seasons.



Out of the 185 respondents, 89 had set-net permits and 96 held drift-net permits. Both drift- and set-netters had held permits for a long span of time, ranging from one to 65 years. The two charts below show the differences between the two types of permit holders' years in the industry. There was a slightly higher percentage of set-netters who had been fishing 20 or fewer years and a slightly higher percentage who'd been fishing more than 50 years.



Clearly, those who completed the survey had both fished and resided in Bristol Bay for quite some time. No one reported residing in the region for less than eight years, and seven respondents had lived there more than 70 years. Forty-one respondents had lived there between 41 and 50 years. Unfortunately, the 13 people who had lived there all their lives could not be included in the analysis because they answered the question that asked how long they'd been a resident, by writing "All my life." So the true length of residence in the region could be longer. We do know that of the 179 people who answered the question, "What is your age?" that 7% were under 21, 7% were between 21 and 30; 8% were between 31 and 40; 31% were between 41 and 50; and 47% were over 50. Thus, almost half of the respondents to this survey were more than 50-years old.

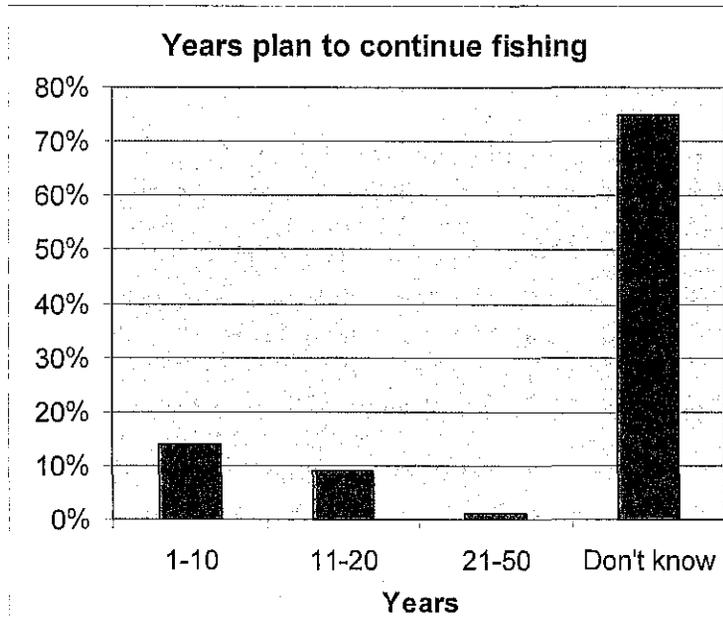


Respondents were asked to list the districts where they fished. The majority fished in the Nushagak district (39%) followed by Naknek-Kvichak with 26%.

Districts where Respondents Fish (Set-Net and Drift-Net Permits)								
	Egegik	Naknek-Kvichak	Nushagak	Togiak	Ugashik	All Districts	All but Togiak	Total
Number	8	47	69	28	14	9	3	178
Percent	4%	26%	39%	16%	8%	5%	2%	100%

## Plans for the Future

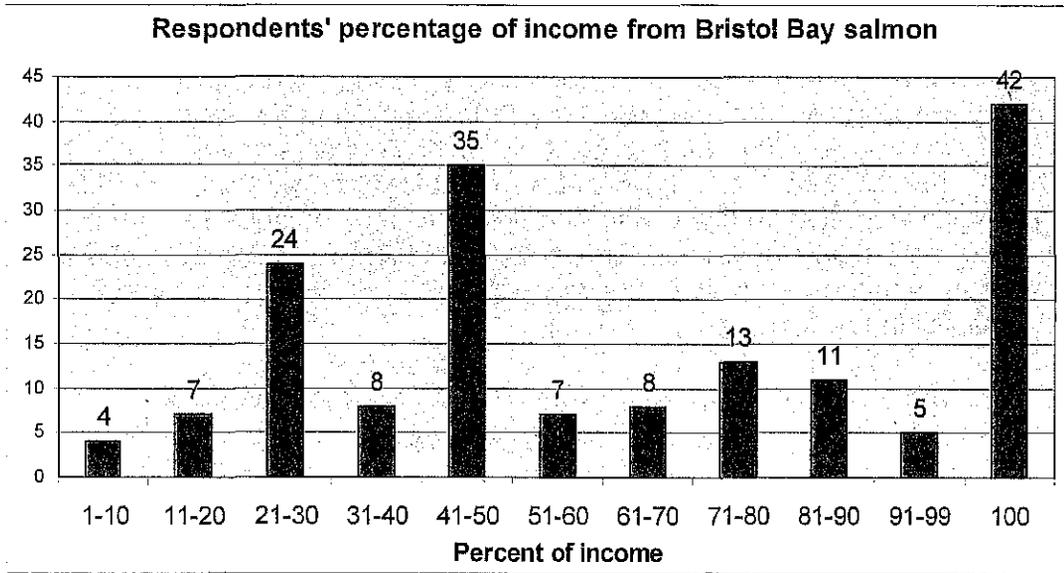
It was difficult for respondents to give a specific answer to the question, "How long do you intend to continue to participate in the Bristol Bay salmon fishery?" The chart shows that for the 39 people who gave a specific number, the range was from 1 to 50 years. However, 137 respondents (77%) stated that they didn't know, that it was indefinite, or that they couldn't estimate how long they would participate. One wrote, "Not too long, I'm getting old."



Respondents overwhelmingly reported that they planned to pass on their limited-entry permit to a family member—94% reported planning to do so. Thus, the 13 remaining fishers who didn't plan to pass their permit to a family member, were asked, "Do you intend to sell your permit someday?" and 11 (85%) replied that they would sell. Of these few who do plan to sell, selling to a Bristol Bay resident was a priority. Five people reported that they would use a broker, and two-thirds would consider using the BBEDC brokerage.

## Income from Bristol Bay Salmon Fishery

The majority of respondents depend on the salmon fishery for over half of their income; and for some, it provides all of their income. The following chart shows the number of respondents and the percentage of their annual income obtained from salmon fishing in Bristol Bay. Not represented on the chart is the one person who wrote "none" and the three people who said that the percentage varies.

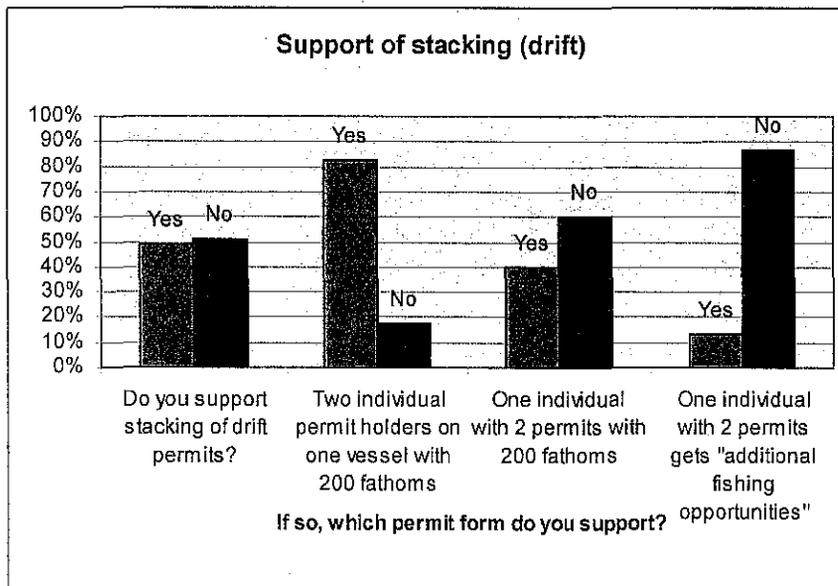


## Regulatory Changes

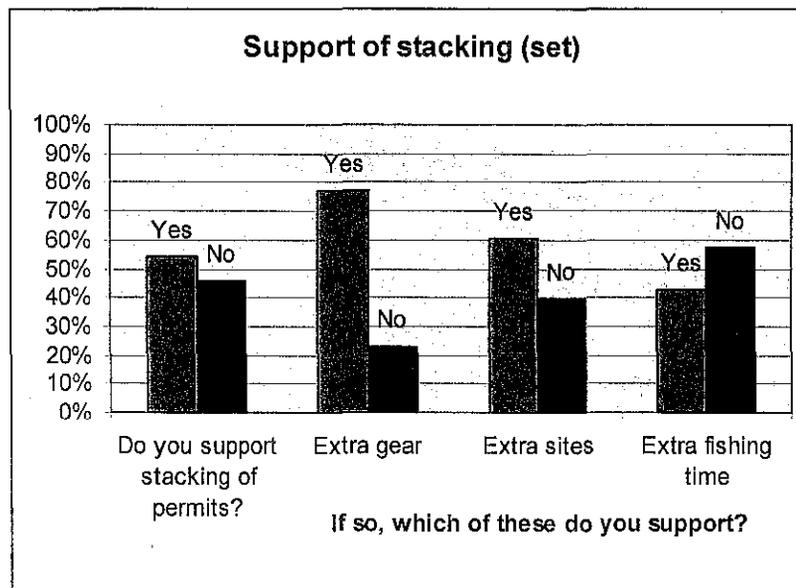
### Stacking

#### Drift- and Set-Netters Support for Stacking

The analysis in this section examines responses by the type of permit held—drift net or set net. No participant reported fishing both drift-net and set-net operations.



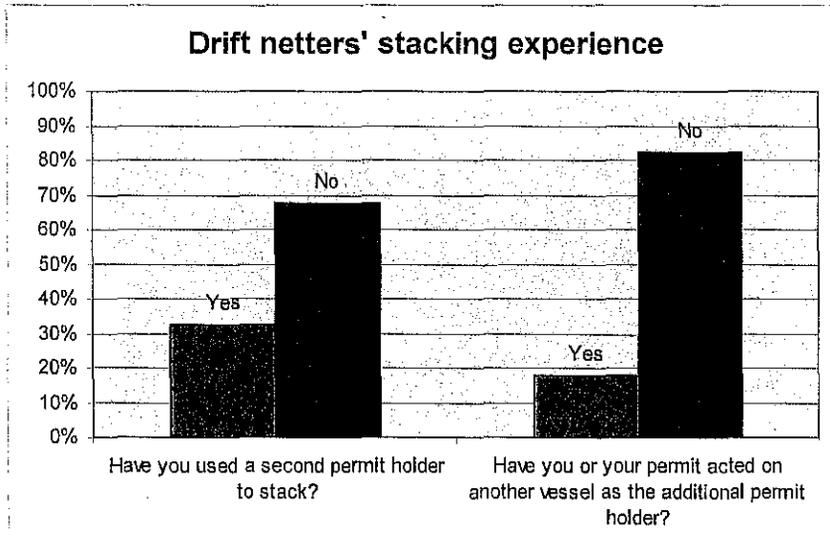
Drift netters were asked if they supported the stacking of drift-net permits. As the graph shows, respondents were evenly divided in their support for stacking. The difference between 49% and 51% should not be considered meaningful. The people who supported stacking permits were then asked about their support for different forms of stacking: two individual permit holders on one vessel with 200 fathoms, one individual with two permits with 200 fathoms, and one individual with two permits getting additional fishing opportunities. The figure shows that there was a great deal of support for two permit holders on one vessel, slightly more opposition than support for the second, and very little support for the additional fishing opportunities.



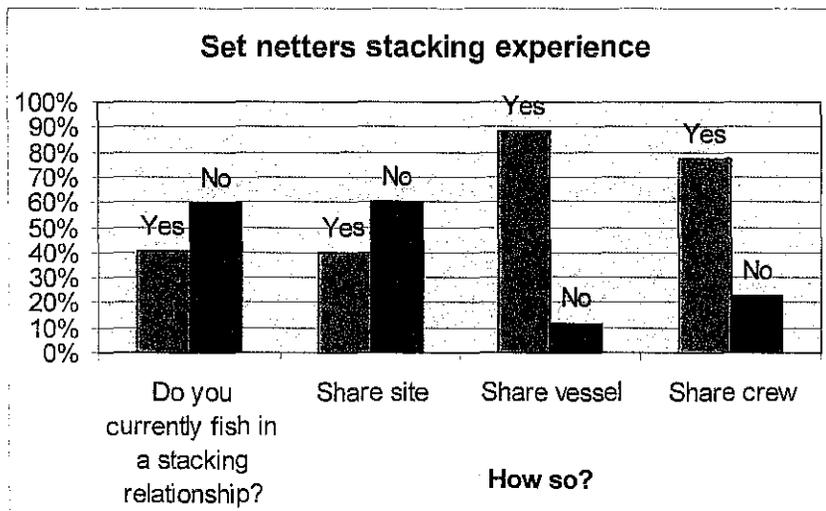
A similar question was asked of set netters. A little more than half (55%) of the respondents supported stacking set permits. Those who supported stacking were asked which of the following extras they supported for stackers: extra gear, extra sites, or extra fishing time. Extra gear received the most support (77%), although extra sites were supported by more than half of respondents (60%). Extra fishing time was supported by fewer than half (43%).

**Experience with Stacking: Drift Netters and Set Netters**

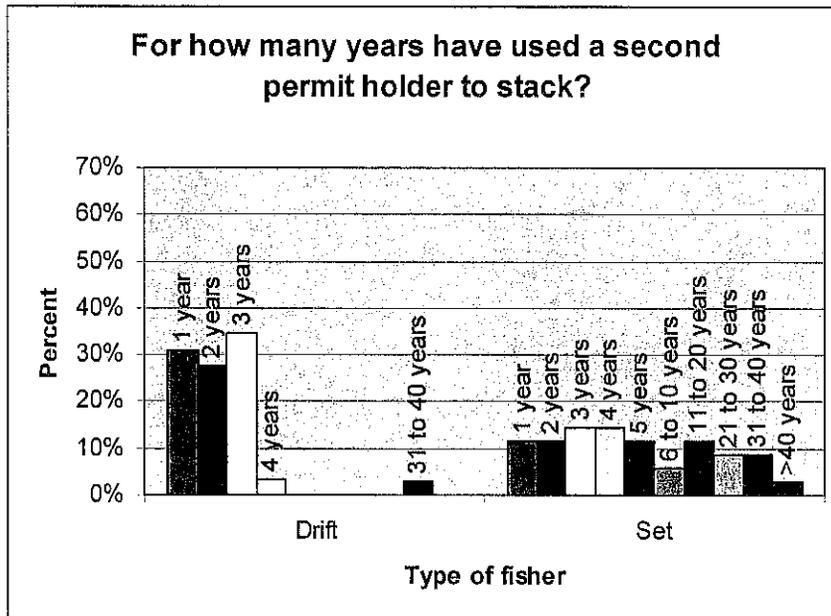
Individuals were then asked about their experience with stacking. Among drift netters, most respondents reported no experience with stacking—68% hadn't used a second permit holder, and 82% hadn't been a second permit holder. Those who had experience with stacking were asked if this had increased their earnings and, if so, by what percentage. Only 11 people reported receiving additional income. Among those, one reported income increasing by 5%, two each by 10%, 12%, and 15%; and one person reported income increasing by 50% because of being an additional permit holder.



Set netters were also asked if they currently stacked and, if so, in what way. Although fewer than half of the respondents (35) reported they currently stacked, this was still a higher percentage than was the percentage of drift netters who stacked. Among set netters who stacked, only 40% shared their fishing site. However, a vast majority reported sharing their vessel (89%) and crew (77%) in a stacking relationship. Although it was not asked, two fishers also reported sharing expenses with others.

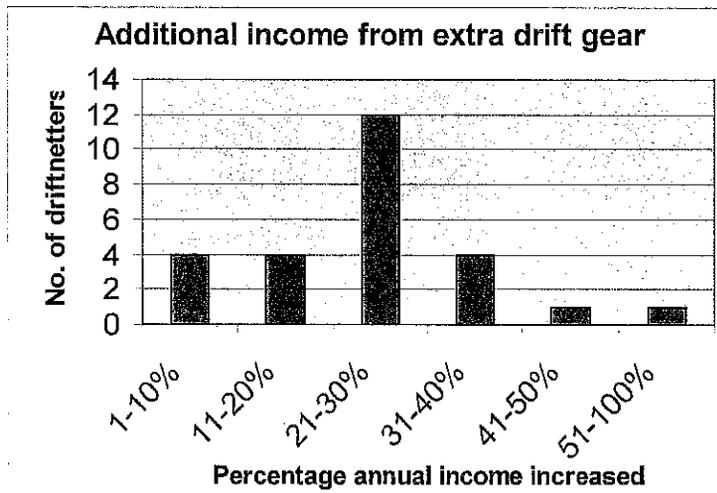


Respondents who had experience stacking were next asked for how long they had used a second permit holder in a stacking relationship. The number of set netters who stacked was evenly dispersed from one year to 40 years. The number of drift netters, though, was quite skewed. Nine people reported having stacked for one year, eight for two years, ten for three years, one for four years, and one person for 36 years.



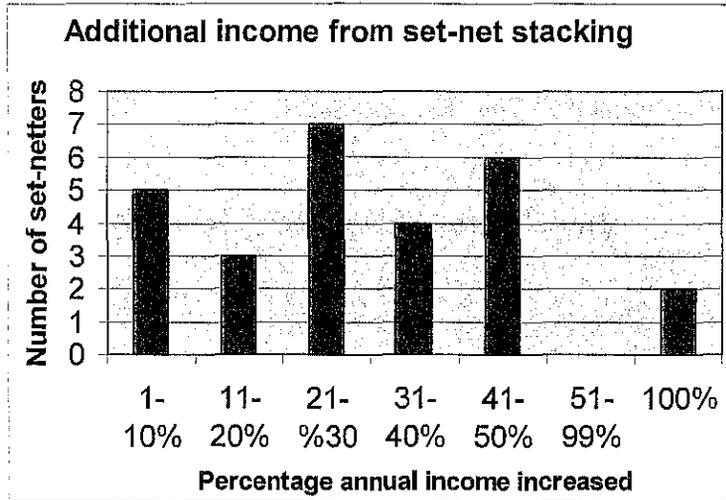
### ***Income Changes from Stacking***

Drift-permit respondents were asked how much they used the extra gear on a seasonal basis. Out of the 26 respondents who used the extra gear, 18 reported using the gear 100% of the time and another six used the extra gear 80% of the time. Two responded that they didn't use the extra gear at all. They were then asked how much additional income the extra gear provided on a seasonal basis, and 76% had additional income between 2% and 30%. The most frequently cited amount was 25%, but one person reported receiving no additional income from the extra gear.



Set netters were also asked to estimate the percentage of additional income they receive because of stacking. As the chart shows, the most frequent response

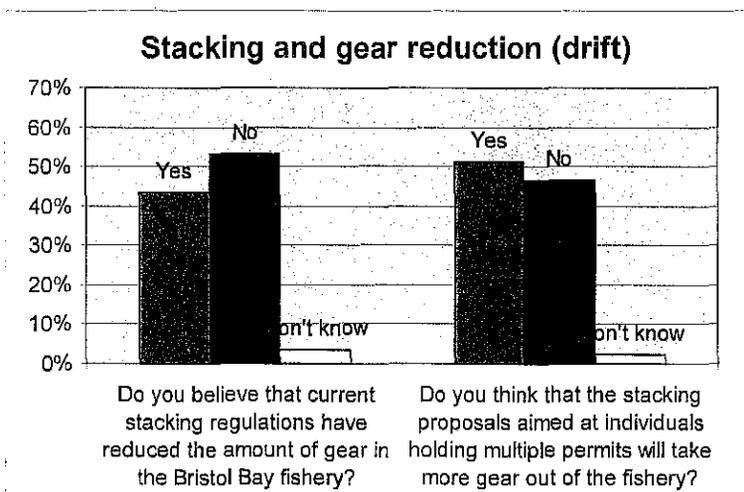
was between 21% and 30%, and the only responses above a 50% increase were the two permit holders who reported a 100% increase in their annual income. What the chart doesn't show are the five people who reported that there was no increase in their income.



**Knowledge of Others who Stack**

Seventy-seven drift netters (84%) reported knowing other fishermen who stack: 42% said they knew stackers who were residents; 25% knew nonresident stackers; and 33% knew both resident and nonresident stackers.

Forty-five set netters, or 56%, reported knowing others who stacked, and 64% knew stackers who were residents; 18% knew nonresidents; and 18% reported knowing both resident and nonresident stackers.

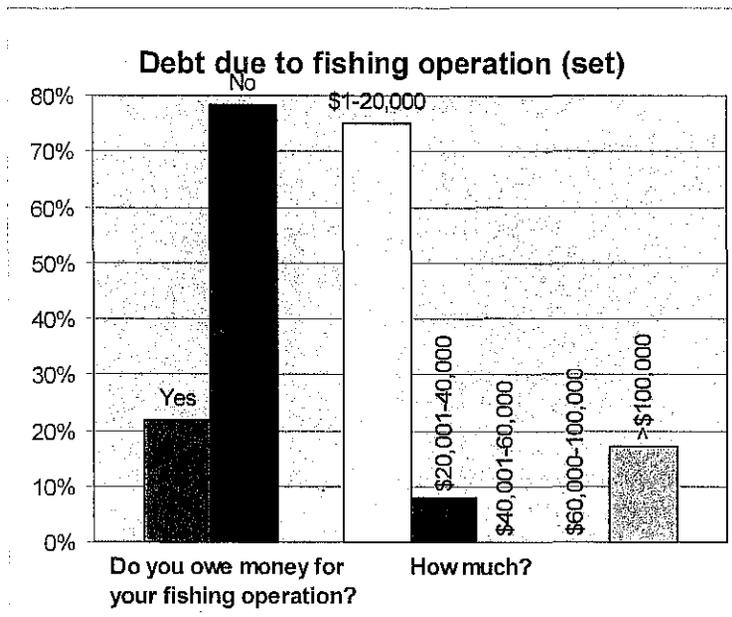
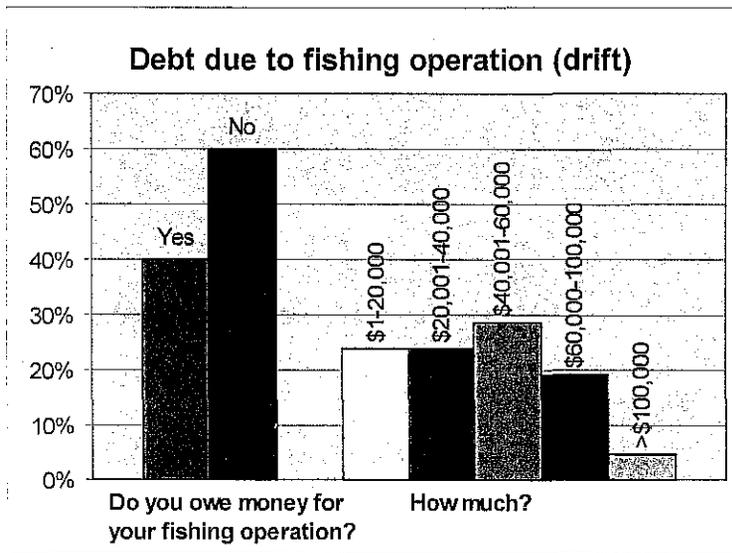


More respondents thought that the current stacking regulations had not reduced the amount of gear than those who thought it had. Of the 90 drift netters who

answered this question, 48 felt it hadn't reduced the gear, while 39 felt it had. In their answers about whether the proposed stacking regulations would take more gear out of the fishery, 44 felt it would and 40 felt it would not.

### Debt Due to Fishing Operation

Forty percent of drift-net respondents reported having a loan or outstanding debt. The amount of the debt ranged from \$2,000 to \$170,000, with most having fishing-related debt between \$40,001 and \$60,000.



Differences in the amount of debt carried by drift- and set-netters are readily apparent in the two charts above. While 40% of drift-net respondents had debt, only 22% of set netters did. And while the amount of drift-netters' debt was distributed quite evenly among the first four debt amounts, 78% of set-netters' debt was under \$20,000. The drift chart shows amounts from 21 respondents and the set chart represents 12.

## ***Vessel Length***

All respondents were asked questions about ownership of a vessel and then a series of questions detailing their preferred vessel length and their reasons for supporting that length. The following sections look at different characteristics of permit holders—such as type of permit, age of respondent, and seasons in the fishery—to see if their level of support for the 32-foot length varies.

### **Vessel Ownership**

Keeping vessels at their current length was supported by 82% of respondents. Whether the respondent owned a boat made little difference in their attitude toward vessel length—among boat owners, 83% support the current length limit; among those who don't, 78% support the current length limit.

### **Support for Vessel Length by Permit Type**

#### ***Drift netters***

Of those drift netters who own a fishing vessel (84%), all report that it is used primarily for drift fishing. These vessels range in length from 22 feet to 32 feet, with 82% of them being 32 feet long. There was strong support (80%) for keeping the vessel length at its current 32-foot limit and, while one person reported both positive and negative feelings about the limit, the remainder were opposed. Those who were opposed suggested lengths ranging from 36 feet to 46 feet, but the most frequently mentioned length was 36 feet (32%).

When asked the reasons for their support for increasing the vessel length, everyone thought it would improve quality; 68% thought it would increase safety, and 68% thought it would increase hold capacity.

#### ***Set netters***

As was true with drift netters, among set netters there was also strong support for the current vessel length (86%). The majority (77%) owns a vessel and they range in length from 18 feet to 32 feet; the two most common lengths were 18 feet and 22 feet. Among those who didn't support the current length limit, four offered an alternative length—two supported 42 feet while one supported 40 feet and one, 36 feet. Six people (86%) felt the increased length would offer increased safety; five (71%) thought it would improve quality; and increased hold capacity was cited by four (57%).

### **Support for Vessel Length by Age of Respondent**

Age made very little difference in support for the 32 foot limit. In every age group there were at least 80% in favor of the current limit, except for those respondents who were over the age of 50, where 78% supported the current limit.

### **Support for Vessel Length by Number of Seasons Fished**

Both drift-net and set-net permit holders supported the 32-foot limit, no matter the number of seasons in the fishery. The support ranged from 100% among those who had fished more than 50 seasons, to a low of 74% among those who had fished between 41 and 50 seasons.

### **Support for Vessel Length by Community**

Analysis by community made little difference in the amount of support for the 32-foot limit; as with age of the respondent, support for the current limit was above 83% in most communities. The only area where support fell below that was in Nushagak Bay, where the level of support was 77%. Because several communities had only one or a few respondents, they were combined into the Bristol Bay Native Association's sub-regions for this analysis.

### **Support for Vessel Length by District Fished**

Respondents to this question showed strong support for the current vessel limit: 135 supported and 27 opposed the current limit of 32 feet. The chart below shows the breakdown of attitudes by the district where the permit holder fishes. Remember that this chart represents 162 permit holders, but because some respondents fish in multiple districts, the numbers total more than 162. This chart shows that among these permit holders, there are high levels of support for the current length in every district. The least support was in the Ugashik district; but even there, twice as many who fish that district favored the current length.

	<b>District Where Permit Holders Fish</b>					
<b>Keep 32-ft. Limit</b>	<b>Egegik</b>	<b>Naknek-Kvichak</b>	<b>Nushagak</b>	<b>Togiak</b>	<b>Ugashik</b>	<b>Total</b>
Yes	16	46	62	29	16	169
No	3	7	13	6	8	37
Total	19	53	75	35	24	206

### **Reasons for Support of the Current 32-foot Limit**

Those who support the current limit were asked to explain their reasons for the support. The quotations that follow give a feeling for the comments that were offered most frequently.

*Save the fish for future generations.*

*I think if bigger boats were allowed, it would wipe out our fisheries.*

*Present vessels are capable of handling the volume harvested in the short openings [that] we now have and maintain excellent quality.*



fc 20

Alaska Board of Fisheries  
November 30, 2009

Dear Chairman Webster and Board Members,

The purpose of this letter is to express Ocean Beauty's opposition to increasing the maximum size of harvester boats in Bristol Bay beyond the current 32' limit. In our view, improving quality is the key to increasing the value of Bristol Bay salmon, and therefore any change in management should be judged first and foremost by its ability to improve quality. Increasing the boat size is not the key to improving quality.

Quality advancements improve the economics of the salmon business across the board. Better quality fish translates directly into increased processing yields and allows for each fish to be directed to the use that maximizes its value, whether that is the fillet line, the canning line, or into an H&G form. This in turn allows for diversification in markets, diversification in product form and new product development, and ultimately is a necessary condition to successfully creating a "Bristol Bay Brand". For this brand to succeed, to get a premium at shelf and develop consumer loyalty, it must deliver consistently good quality. This is the model used successfully by the beef industry with "Certified Angus Beef" and other brands to gain a premium for their product and dampen the price swings that accompany a pure commodity.

We have seen firsthand the effectiveness of icing and chilling programs on quality, and the willingness of the current Bristol Bay fleet to embrace better fish handling when they have the available resources to do so. What we have not seen is a direct link between boat size and fish quality – quality is more an individual measure of the boat operator's commitment to improving quality, the availability of ice, and our ability to pay a premium for better fish.

The 32' boat length is not the limiting factor in Bristol Bay salmon quality. Lack of ice and lack of processing flexibility have been the culprits, but thankfully both are now being remedied and we are seeing positive results. If larger boats were allowed, capital would be spent on increasing vessel size (the volume that a fisherman can harvest) and would be diverted away from the current trend of upgrading a vessel ability to maintain quality of their catch (increasing the potential value of the harvest). This change in

**Togiak Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**November 9, 2009**  
**6:00 p.m., Togiak Senior Center**

Meeting called to order at 6:35 p.m.

Present were Peter Lockuk, Sr., Julius Henry, Frank Logusak, Joe Andrew, John Nick – enough for a quorum.

Andrew deValpine, ADF&G Boards from Dillingham. By telephone, Jim Woolington, ADF&G Wildlife Conservation, and Andy Aderman, US Fish and Wildlife Service.

Minutes from Jan. 29 meeting read and approved.

Elections were held. Peter Lockuk Sr., was nominated to replace George Smith Jr. Motion adopted by Julius Henry and seconded by James Bavilla. Approved by unanimous consent.

Peter Lockuk moved and Julius Henry seconded that Frank Logusak be nominated to his seat. Approved by unanimous consent.

Frank Logusak moved and Henry Julius seconded that John Nick be elected to replace Posen Alexei. Approved by unanimous consent.

**Big Game report – Jim Woolington and Andy Aderman**

Two week winter hunt coming up between Dec. 1-Jan. 31, dates depending on when there is good travel time and to be agreed upon among Togiak AC, Togiak National Wildlife Refuge, Togiak Traditional Council and ADF&G.

14 fall moose-hunt harvest reports have not been sent in; Peter Lockuk will try to get the people to send them in.

17 moose taken by local residents in last hunt; 11 taken by non-residents.

Only fly-in area is five miles east of Togiak River and Togiak Lake.

No good information on composition of moose populations. Seeing lots of bulls and calves. No concern that bulls and calves are in short supply.

Counts are not carried out in the autumn because of unreliable snow-cover.

From radio collaring, managers have good numbers on calf survival. Calf-cow ratio is among the highest in the state.

On Goodnews River drainage, the last count showed 142 moose, up from 113. Only counted four moose in Kanektok and Uralik rivers. Most ever counted there is 10. Moose have continued to increase in Goodnews drainage. There was a fall hunt this year and 10-11 moose were caught.

USF&WS is trying to put together a meeting with Quinhagak. Quinhagak wants to see more area open for hunting, but most moose counted that way is 10; most years less than 10.

Togiak AC: If we send a letter from tribal government here, I'm sure their IRA will say we are trying to boss them around, but I think it would be more appropriate to get their population to grow, get a video report from Togiak and Goodnews Bay on how we started participating with Fish and Game and Togiak National Wildlife Refuge. Togiak River hardly had any moose because we did not work with you. Our elders told us to work with you and quit hunting, and that's when the population started to grow. Same with Goodnews. I think these Quinhagak people need to hear from the village side; they will start listening.

USF&WS would like to work with Togiak AC on that video.

A hunt for cows could be opened when the population reaches 1400. Will be interesting to see what the population is this winter. It's been increasing every year. A hunt on both sexes would entail a proposal to Board of Game. Would be a limited hunt.

Regarding increasing limits on bear hunt – would have to be a proposal to Board of Game.

Regarding collaring of moose – Nine bulls collared in 1998; last one died one and a half years ago. No plans to collar bulls, just cows.

Nushagak Peninsula caribou herd numbering about 550 animals. Has remained around this number for past three years.

### **Fish and Game proposals**

Proposal 13 – Support, 5-0.

Discussion: It would be like a refuge. If our area wasn't a refuge, our river would be filled with lodges to Togiak Lake, and millionaires would fish the river out. It would be another blanket of protection.

Proposal 12 – Support, 5-0

Proposal 10 – Motion to adopt fails, 5-0

Discussion: Rainbows move around and could be adversely affected by this.

Proposal 9 – Supports, 6-0

Proposals 1, 2 and 3 --- Support, 6-0

Discussion: John Bavilla, who also serves on the Nushagak AC, says the two ACs normally support each other.

Proposals 4, 5 and 6 – No action.

Proposal 7 – Supports, 6-0.

Proposals 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 and 21 – Opposes 0-6.

Proposal 22 – Supports, 6-0

Proposal 23 – Supports, 6-0 (John B moves, Peter Lockuk seconds).

Proposal 24 – Supports, 4-2 ((John B moves, Peter Lockuk seconds).

Discussion: Would limit harvest so people would not plug the processors as quickly.

Proposal 25 – Motion to adopt fails.

Proposal 26 – Opposed, 0-5 (Peter Lockuk moves, seconded by Julious Henry).

Proposals 27, 28 – Opposed, 0-6 (John B moves, seconded by Peter Lockuk).

Proposals 29, 30 – Opposed, 0-6 (John B moves, seconded by Peter Lockuk).

Proposal 31 – Opposed, 0-6 (John B moves, seconded by Peter Lockuk).

Proposals 32, 33, 34 35, 36, 37, 38 and 39 – No action.

Proposal 40 – Supports, 6-0 (John B moves, seconded by Peter.

Proposal 41 – No action.

Proposals 42, 43, 44 and 45 – No action.

Five-minute break.

Back in session at 9:15.

A deValpine presents on the proposed changes for the Board of Game meeting schedules. Frank L recommends the council put aside any decision until the rest of the board has returned.

Julius Henry moves to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

RC 22

Good day, Mr. Chairman and members of the board. My name is John Webb, and I reside in Astoria, Oregon. I have fished as a vessel owner, and permit holder in the Bristol Bay drift fishery for 27 years. To follow along with me, this testimony is under RC# \_\_\_\_\_.

I am testifying in favor of proposal #15. To put it simply, I would like a bigger boat! One that better suits my needs as a fisherman to produce a higher-valued product. According to the CFEC memorandum to the Board, most other drift gillnetters in the state, enjoy this luxury now. For example; it shows that area M drifters have vessels that average 38' in length. For further information I recommend this as a long, but good read for those that like facts, and figures.

As an owner of a small, Alaskan business, I often have to make difficult decisions for my venture to succeed. The board is faced with this difficult decision, and the future success of an entire industry is at stake. It comes down to this: do the social benefits of maintaining the 32' length limit outweigh the technological stagnation of our industry? Only you, the members of the Board, can make that decision.

There are valid arguments on both sides. My belief, as a fisherman, is that we cannot afford to limit our options, when it comes to the tools of this

trade. I assure you, our competitors do not attempt to build inefficiencies into their business model, such as we have done in Bristol Bay. I beg of you, to carefully weigh the pro's and con's of this issue in committee, and make a decision based on merit, and not rhetoric. For more on this proposal I would refer the Board to their 3 ring binders, under restructuring committee tab, salmon industry restructuring proposal submitted by myself, John Webb. Good luck with your decision.

On a different subject, specifically, permit stacking. I feel the Board would find it helpful to look at a document titled, "Outline of Options for Fleet Consolidation in Alaska's Salmon Fisheries". This document was written by the CFEC and has a lot of pertinent information in it that relates to permit stacking. If any board member would like a copy, I would be glad to get them one.

Lastly, thank you for this opportunity to speak, and for having this meeting in Anchorage. It has made it a lot more affordable and convenient for those of us that live outside this great state. I appreciate it.

Peter Christopher  
P.O. Box 85  
New Stuyahok, AK 99636

December 1, 2009

RE: Bristol Bay Finfish Meeting  
December 1-8, 2009

Alaska Board of Fish  
P.O. Box 115526  
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board,

Attached: Map of Nushagak River highlighted just upriver from the village of New Stuyahok, where I am in favor of subsistence drifting, as cited in text below. Map provided courtesy of Stuyahok, Ltd.

RC23

**I SUPPORT PROPOSAL 1 - 5 AAC 01.320 Lawful gear and gear specifications.** This would allow subsistence drift gillnets in Nushagak, Igushik, Snake and Wood Rivers. I would like to offer a friendly amendment to add drift fishing in Nushagak River 4 miles up river from New Stuyahok Range 47 west Township 8 South, Section 14 for king salmon. I have supplied a map that designates the location in light green highlight.

**I SUPPORT PROPOSAL 23 – 5 AAC 06.331. Gillnet specifications and operations.** Eliminate use of 200 fathom drift gillnets in Togiak District. I would like to restrict the Togiak District, in whole, to a maximum length of net to be fished not to exceed 150 fathoms. Eliminate dual permitting in the Togiak District.

**I SUPPORT PROPOSAL 24 – 5 AAC 06.333. Requirements and specifications for use of fathoms of drift net in Bristol Bay.** Eliminate permit stacking, the double permits and allow no more than one permit with 150 fathoms of gear per boat.

**I OPPOSE PROPOSAL 15 – 5 AAC 06.341. Vessel specifications and operations.** Eliminate 32 foot limit on vessels in Bristol Bay drift gillnet fishery. The 32 foot limit should stay in affect because this size vessel is sufficient to handle the size of the run and the processing capacity available.

**I OPPOSE PROPOSAL 21 – 5 AAC 06.333. Requirements and specifications for use of 200 fathoms of drift gillnet in Bristol Bay.** Allow use of 300 fathoms of gear with two stacked permits. This proposal would place the fisherman with a single permit at a disadvantage with less gear and limits.

**I OPPOSE PROPOSAL 26 – 5 AAC 06.370(k)(1)(2). Registration and re-registration.** Eliminate super exclusive status of Togiak District. This district is a small fishing district and has allowed the Togiak residents to fish safely in smaller boats and skiffs.

**I OPPOSE PROPOSAL 27 – 5 AAC 06.370(d). Registration and reregistration.** Eliminate the 48 hour transfer between gear types in the same district. It would devastate some of the fishing district by overpopulating the district and would make the drift fleet wait longer.

**I OPPOSE PROPOSAL 28 – 5 AAC 06.370(d). Registration and reregistration.** Eliminate 48-hour transfer for gear type in the same SHA. It would devastate some of the fishing district by overpopulating the district and would make the drift fleet wait longer.

Respectfully submitted,



Peter Christopher

I.C.

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