

RC 035

January 4, 2014

Dear Mr. Chairman and members of the board,

As president of Trap Point Fisheries I **OPPOSE** proposition 88.

Proposal 88 is put forth by the same people that originally requested staggered openings. At that time we (Trap Point Fisheries) were opposed to the proposal. Once it was adopted we adjusted our fishery to accommodate staggered openings. We've invested heavily in all three bays (Alitak, Moser, and Olga) and as a result have fish sites in all three bays. We operate with a small crew of family only. To do away with the staggered openings would be a serious setback to our struggling fishery. And the cannery is better able to serve the fishermen with the staggered openings.

Instead of adjustments in fishing times to supposedly benefit particular fishermen, I would ask the board to consider proposals that would enhance escapement and increase runs for the entire fishery including all Alitak district fishermen. It is bad times for all fishermen right now with the catch records for the Alitak district too low to cover fuel costs for Alitak District set netters. An attempt is being made to get all fishermen cooperating for the benefit of all the fishermen. Setnetters attended several summer meetings brainstorming how to improve the fish runs in the Alitak District.

There is a number of issues to be decided and I commend the board's dedication. I do hope you understand that the survival of the fishery can not be accomplished through closures of the Alitak District alone for allowing escapement. The sacrifices these fishermen have already made has not accomplished the survival of the fishery. Different management policy including planned closures of the intercept fisheries on the west side is absolutely necessary if the fishery is to survive.

I know a lot of statistics and fact finding information is being gathered to help the board decide on positive proposals for improved fish runs in the entire fishing district. We are aware that this will mean sacrificed fishing time for survival in later years. Thank you for your dedication.

Sincerely,

