

## Support for Proposal #127

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RC 240

### Subject: Upper Cook Inlet Drift Boat Permit Stacking with Gear Reduction

#### 1. Background:

- a. House Bill 286 was passed in 2002 allowing an individual to own two commercial salmon permits in the same fishery.
- b. House Bill 251 was passed in 2006 allowing the Alaska Board of Fish (BOF) to authorize additional fishing gear with the ownership of a second permit.
- c. In 2008, the BOF authorize drift gillnetters in Upper Cook Inlet the option to have a second permit holder on board the vessel (D-Boat) and fish one additional shackle (300') of fishing gear. This "D-Boat" option results in a 2 shackle (600') reduction of fishing gear per vessel.

#### 2. Problem:

- a. Currently a drift fisherman can own 2 permits, but cannot fish additional gear unless the second permit is in the name of a separate individual (deckhand) that is on board the vessel.
- b. Transferring the permit into the name of the deckhand creates significant economic risk as CFEC regulation prohibits liens or restrictions on transfers.

#### 3. Solution:

- a. Adopt Proposal 127 (Permit Stacking) that would allow one individual to own two Drift Permits and fish one additional shackle (300') of gear from the same vessel.
- b. The vessel remains limited to a maximum of 4 shackles (1,200') of gear whether fishing as a "D-Boat" or "Stacked" vessel.
- c. For every dual-permit vessel, there is a voluntary 600' gillnet gear reduction in the fleet.

#### 4. Latent Permit Concern: (See RC 134) Latency is low and short term.

- a. Unadjusted latency rate (1975-2012) is 13.1%.
- b. Latency adjusted for 1989 Oil Spill (1975-2007) is 8.8%.
- c. CFEC adjusted (see RC 165) 2011 latency is 12.5%
- d. CFEC adjusted (see RC 165) 2012 latency is 6.9%
- e. Each year some permits are not fished due to personal circumstances of the permit holder, few if any are "long-term" latent.

#### 5. Board Consistency: (see RC 224)

- a. Board-Generated Proposal A was adopted (vote 7-0-0) to authorize "permit stacking" in the Cook Inlet set net fishery. A gear reduction of 36% (45 mesh to 29 mesh) on the second permit is required for the privilege to use "permit stacking".
- b. Proposal 127 requests the "permit stacking" privilege for the Cook Inlet gill net fishery for similar reasons as present in the set net fishery. A gear reduction of 67% (2 shackle, 600') on the second permit is included as part of this proposal.