

To Alaska Board of Fisheries:

February 24, 2015

I am Scott McAllister, the author of proposal 202 and a 43-year veteran of Alaskan pure seine fisheries.

For the record: I am in favor of keeping the 58-foot seine boat limit. My intention for proposal 202 is to bring clarity to a rule that has become more difficult to understand and enforce over time. As we have all become aware that Alaska's definition of 58-feet, "a strait line to the extremities of the vessel", is not working in today's environment.

The 58 foot "stretch" as I call it has been happening for many years now and in a number of ways. This is due to the lack of clarity in Alaska's definition of 58-feet and contradictions between Alaska's and Federal measurement standards. This has set up confusing circumstances for fishermen and enforcers, leaving Alaska's 58-foot limit open for broad and individual interpretations.

The following are three criteria I would like the board to consider while resolving this problem.

First: All boats that have history in Alaska's seine fisheries must be able to keep fishing going forward.

Second: The regulations need to be fair. By that I mean, don't close the door on future opportunity for fishermen to upgrade using the same rules that people are using now. It is unfair to favor 'tonnage boats' (boats from Canada) that are fishing now and deny opportunities for guys considering the use of similar admeasurements in the future.

Third: The 58-foot limit needs to be enforceable with administrative oversight. By this I mean, enforcement of the limit needs to happen at the administrative level when boats are licensed and registered by CFEC to seine salmon, not while they are fishing.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. Thomas McAllister.