

My name is Virgil Porter. I was born in Anchorage, went to Soldotna High School, attended UAA & finished up at San Diego State University.

I live in Sand Point and setnet for salmon & jig for pacific cod on my f/v Cinnabar. I'm also the technician for KSDP 830AM, your public radio station in the Aleutians East Borough.

I'm a semi-recent entry into the Shumagin Islands & South Alaska Peninsula Salmon fishery. In 2012 I joined the salmon fleet by fishing a setnet permit under a temporary emergency transfer. In 2013 I became a permanent setnet permit holder after finding an elder to fish for.

I strongly support Proposal 179 submitted by John A. Foster. Applying current scientific data from the WASSIP DNA study published in 2012 to our mixed stock fishery in the SEDM is long overdue. The WASSIP study shows that the harvest in this sector is highly over-assumed to be Chignik bound salmon.

I also emphasize my support for Proposals 167, 191, 193, 197 & 198.

I am strongly opposed to Proposals 181 & 184.

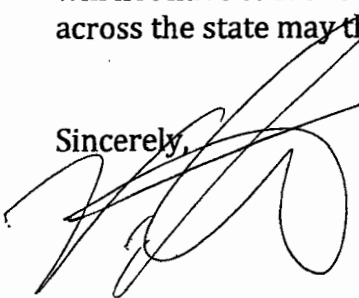
To close our fishery in the Shumagin Islands during June would be a brutal measure. It would be an undue hardship to say the least. As a voluntary measure our area participates in a chum pool during the month of June for each gear group. This removes any incentive to target chum salmon that possibly might be destined for the AYK region.

I am strongly opposed to Proposals 22, 23, 24, 155, 156, 158, 163, 180, 185, 186

As a final note, I'd like to share my perspective about setnetting in the Shumagin Islands & South Alaska Peninsula. Growing up on the Kenai Peninsula & around the setnet fisheries in that area did not prepare me for what it takes to setnet out of Sand Point. It is not a leisurely excursion at one single site for the entire season, I fished at 7 different sites last year.

Due to our far-flung salmon systems, various sub-divisions in our fishing area, and duopoly buyer market - the setnet fleet must become mobile at a moment's notice. We pick up our gear (anchors, lines & nets) & run to local systems that begin to have returns, new areas that open or close and where our buyer will or will not have tender service. The complexity factor involved is increased substantially from what many across the state may think is merely a quaint & simple setnet operation.

Sincerely,

 Feb. 23rd, 2016

Virgil Porter

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