

February 23, 2016  
Brian Cato Record Comment

### **Proposition 22**

As a set netter in the Ugashik district, I know a little bit what it is like to sit with my nets on the beach and watch other people fish my site. The fact that Port Heiden fishermen have to watch other fishermen fish the waters in front of their village, catching Bristol Bay bound-fish while they are forced to travel about 50 miles to the nearest Bristol Bay management district is ridiculous.

Moving the Bristol Bay nautical boundary down to Port Heiden will place the management in the hands of the Bristol Bay management district, where the WASSIP and Boatwright studies show it clearly belongs. Thus it would give the Port Heiden fishermen and the village the benefits of this harvest area.

Furthermore, with a significant amount of the intercept fish being Ugashik-bound, and the Ugashik runs being a variant as they are, we need as many Bristol Bay bound fish under Bristol Bay management as possible. Especially on nominal and low return years.

While moving the Bristol Bay management area will be a costly and burdensome task, the need to do so has become apparent and necessary.

### **Proposition 149 - Cinder River Fishery**

There is absolutely no way a fishery can be developed here without adversely affecting the Ugashik District's escapement and harvest management. On average and on low-return years, we are already spending about half of the regulatory season out of the water. Allowing yet another irresponsible bycatch fishery to open up right in front of the district would annihilate an already crippled set net fishery there. There are already too many mitigating factors hampering this fishery - we cannot exist here as fishermen if any more are added.

### **Proposition 159 - Open outer Port Heiden**

Once again, this proposal asks us to accept what is a flawed and irresponsible fishing management plan. Using these small run tributaries to justify an intercept fishery is just wrong and needs to stop. I think the last GSI shows how ineffectual this practice is.