

Dear Chairman Kluberton,

In January 2016, the Alaska SeaGrant held a workshop in Anchorage titled Fisheries Access for Alaska—Charting the Future, with fisherman and stakeholders from around the state.

There were over 100 participants, legislators and the Lieutenant Governor in attendance. During our conversations one of the main concerns was the outmigration of people and the shrinking of communities throughout Alaska without the stability of our fishing industries. Fishing really is the cornerstone of many, if not all of our coastal communities. The take away message from this workshop was that we need to keep permits in our areas and that we cannot fragment out communities any further.

Passing the Dolgoi proposal 186 will do both of these things. Once the Dolgoi section reaches its proposed cap it will also force the seine and setnet fleets to move to the Shumagin area causing increased harvest levels and potentially impacting the amount of sockeye bound for Chignik.

Every change in these regulations has an impact on the status quo. Once a cap is reached, the effort doesn't disappear, it shifts to another area. In 2007, the Board opened this area to drift gill net gear. Right now there are only a few drifters in this area. However, there is nothing to prevent this number from growing. So any cap needs to take the drift effort into account. The current seine and set net fleets fishing there now, would be forced into the Shumagins. There are a limited number of hook hauls, additional seiners will put pressure on those vessels that rely on the Shumagins. There are also limited space for set nets, which will put a lot more pressure on the Shumagins.

I feel this proposal would be the start of a ripple effect and by the next cycle we will be having this same conversation about the Shumagins. Concentrating our fleet will have long range negative impacts for everyone. Please take this into consideration when you are deciding on the proposal.

Please consider status quo in our Alaska Peninsula/Aleutian Island Area M fishery.

Sincerely,



Alvin Osterback
Sand Point