

RC 62

**RC****Regarding Proposal 42****Submitted by Prince William Sound Setnetter's Association****In response to RC 47 submitted by CDFU**

In response to CDFU's withdrawal of Proposal 42, we request the BOF to retain Proposal 42 in the process of Board consideration for Committee of the Whole through deliberation and conclude with regulatory language pertaining to increasing the distance separation between setnet gear and driftnet gear in the Main Bay Terminal Harvest Area (THA).

In order to reinforce the intent of the current regulations, we request increasing the current legal distance between set and drift gear from 25 fathoms to 30 fathoms within the Main Bay THA. This would not be an allocative regulation change as the current regulation intends to keep drift gear from setting between legally spaced set nets 50 fathoms apart in the Main Bay THA. The original intent of the 1984 BOF to implement setbacks between drift nets and set nets in the Main Bay THA and Crafton Island Subdistricts was made very clear in 1996 when the BOF adopted a proposal submitted by the Alaska Wildlife Troopers to increase the legal distance between set nets and drift nets from 50 fathoms to 60 fathoms in the Crafton Island Subdistrict. The Board adopted this request from the Alaska Wildlife Troopers to carry out the intent of the regulations established by the 1984 BOF.

Following the action taken in 1996, the Crafton Island Subdistrict was restored to a safe and orderly fishery as intended. The 1996 Board made a change to reinforce the regulation established in 1984.

Today, we are requesting the same be done in the Main Bay THA to once again reinforce the intent of the regulations established in 1984. By increasing the legal distance from 25 fathoms to 30 fathoms between set net and drift gear in the Main Bay THA, it would only reinforce the current regulations and restore a safe and orderly fishery in this area.