

RC076

Alaska Board of Fisheries
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811
Fax number: 907-465-6094

January 14, 2018

Dear Chairman Jensen and Alaska Board of Fisheries members,

My name is Doug Rhodes and I live in Craig but gillnet out of Coffman Cove on Prince of Wales Island on my boat the FV Nakwasina. I and about 15 other gillnetters fish Clarence Strait out of Coffman Cove (District 6) and I also own a small shore based fish processing facility in Coffman Cove called Snow Pass Seafoods. I have been commercial fishing in Southeast Alaska on my own vessels since 1972.

There are several proposals this year that affect gillnetting in southeast Alaska and whether the proposals are for Sitka areas, Lynn Canal, Taku or Tree Point, they all have an impact on the rest of the areas as well. If one area is closed, then more boats are participating in another area and fishing time and space becomes limited and that has an impact on us all.

In my particular area, there are several proposals that concern me. I strongly appose proposal 140 as Anita Bay has become an extremely important area for our gillnet fleet and both allows smaller boats and older fishermen an area to fish that is safe during poor weather, productive, and separates the fleet up in District 6 and 8. Anita Bay is one of the most important fisheries for Wrangell area boats to fish and it needs to continue.

I also support proposal 169 that would help fishermen in my area with an increased opportunity to harvest wild salmon in more of district 6. This proposal would help us by providing more areas that could be fished in poor weather, as well as help us harvest more of the wild stocks that we have been allocated.

I am a member of USAG and support the proposals they submitted (141, 154, 156, 157, 160, 169 and 170). I also support the comments USAG submitted about other proposals.

Thank you for considering this letter,

Doug Rhodes
F/V Nakwasina
Snow Pass Seafoods
907 965 1780