

RC091

January 14th, 2017

Dear Chairman Jensen and Alaska Board of Fisheries members,

My name is Peter Keutmann. I am a 30 year old gillnetter based out of Petersburg, my wife and I own and operate the F/V Eric, we also run a direct marketing business called Sea o Shore Seafood selling our various catches to restaurants and grocery stores. I am relatively new to the fishing industry, this will be my 4<sup>th</sup> season gillnetting, I had previously served 5 years in the Coast Guard 4 of which were in Petersburg. My fishing season generally starts mid June in Anita Bay targeting Kings, the first week of July I head north to Dist 11 or Dist 15 targeting chum and sockeye, come September I head back south to Dist 6 or Dist 8 where I will stay till the end of the season targeting Coho.

I am writing in opposition to many proposals being brought before the BOF. The main proposal that I am concerned about is proposition 140. Not allowing gillnetters into Anita Bay would be very detrimental to the numerous Gillnetters that utilize that THA, it would also be very harmful to the surrounding communities' from which those gillnetters call homeport, mainly Wrangell, Petersburg and Coffman Cove. We spend the first 2-3 weeks of our season targeting Anita Bay Enhanced King Salmon, in between openings we spend our time in Wrangell where we market and ship our weekly orders of King Salmon to our various customers around the country. During these Gillnet openings in Anita Bay there is a considerable group of gillnetters that consistently target enhanced king salmon. If Anita Bay were to be made off limits to gillnets I believe there would be substantially more pressure put on the Stikine River King Salmon stocks. I know that if I was not allowed to fish in Anita Bay I would have to move to Dist 6 or Dist 8 in order to target King Salmon, where I can assume my catch rate would be much less than if I were in Anita Bay, ultimately hurting my bottom line. Anita Bay offers an extremely valuable and unique option for gillnetters to catch enhanced King salmon, given that wild King salmon stocks have been weak in recent years it would not seem prudent to indirectly shift fishing pressure from Enhanced salmon stocks to Wild salmon stocks. Anita Bay is a very important fishery for myself and many others, please factor us small boat operations and the effects that could be incurred on the gillnet fleet based upon your decisions.

As a member of USAG I stand by there comments on proposals 132, 133, 137, 139-146, 149-158, 169-171, 192-194

I hope you take my comments into consideration and understand that operating and owning a small gillnet vessel is very difficult for the younger generation. I heavily rely on a successful summer of gillnetting in order to cover an immense amount of expenses associated with this career and to provide for my family. The more areas that are taken away from gillnetters equates to less fish which means less money, I will never strike at rich gillnetting I just want to make an honest living doing what I love.

Thank you for your time

Peter Keutmann