

Alaska Board of Fisheries  
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Dear Chairman and Alaska Board of Fisheries Members,

January 12, 2018

I would first like to thank all Board of Fisheries members for your hard work and conscientious commitment to both sustainable and equitable management of Alaska's fisheries resource.

My name is John Cvetich and I am currently a gillnetter in Southeast Alaska (permit #S03A 56094R 1701K), owner/skipper of F/V Seahawk. I fish out of Coffman Cove where I own a home (103 Loggers Lane, Coffman Cove, AK 99918) and I keep the Seahawk in Wrangell during the off season.

I have fished in multiple fisheries as both a permit/vessel owner and crewman in Alaska for close to 30 years. I have an undergraduate degree in Fisheries, had been a graduate student at the University of Washington College of Fisheries and employed by the Washington State Department of Fisheries when that agency existed before becoming a commercial fisherman. The SE gillnet fleet contributes a vast percentage of its earnings to local Alaskan economy since most permit holders are Alaskan community members and represent a diverse local work force.

I do not advocate for increased competition between gear-types, but urge you as members of the Board of Fisheries to provide equitable harvest opportunities of common fishery resources that will benefit Alaskans and the local economies of SE Alaska. With that I would like to respectfully submit my response to a number of proposals.

**Proposal 137: Increase the regional king salmon possession limit. OPPOSED!** Current king salmon populations are fragile and increasing any allocation would further jeopardize diminished stocks.

**Proposal 139: Eliminate provisions for rotational fishery in Southeast Cove Terminal Harvest Area. SUPPORT!** All gear groups should be included in any new enhancement production.

**Proposal 140: Prohibit use of drift gillnet gear for salmon fishing in Anita Bay THA during 2018-20 fishing seasons. OPPOSED, OPPOSED!!!!** Anita Bay is the only terminal harvest opportunity in central Southeast and only one of the two in all of the SSRAA region. Anita Bay is instrumental in dollars and supporting the local Wrangell economy, where local residents

represent 57 resident gillnet permits as opposed to only 8 resident seine permits. Anita Bay gillnet fishery spreads the fleet out, reduces pressure in areas 11 and 15 and is significant for the economies of Wrangell and Petersburg. This proposal would hurt local economies and many residents, please don't support gillnet restrictions in Anita Bay!

Proposal 141: Adjust net rotation schedule for gillnet and seines in both Anita Bay and Deep Inlet. SUPPORT

Proposal 142: Modify drift gillnet and seine fishing rotations in deep Inlet THA. OPPOSED! Residency disparities between seine and gillnet are relevant here as well as allocation proposals. The NSRAAA does not support this proposal nor does USAG in which I am a member.

Proposal 143: Change the time, ration for driftnet gear to purse seine gear openings in Deep Inlet THA: OPPOSED: This proposal would displace local gillnetters and the reasoning is described in 141 and 142.... The seine fleet will already be benefiting from new projects in Southeast Cove, Crawfish Inlet and Thomas Bay. Wait for the Joint Regional Planning Team calculation recommendations and do nothing at this time.

Proposals 149, 150, 151, 152 in SUPPORT!

Proposals 160,169,170, 171 in SUPPORT!!!

I would like to thank you for your time and consideration of my comments. I urge you to consider the benefits to local economies of Southeast Alaska from the 83% of driftnet permit holders who are residents. Also please consider the increased efficiencies of seine harvesting as compared to past historical seine practice which has vastly outstripped technologies/harvest efficiencies employed by drift gillnets

Sincerely,

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