

RC126

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

1/15/2018

Dear Chairman Jensen and Alaska Board of Fisheries members,

I live in Ketchikan and have primarily focused my efforts in District 1 and will head to the northern districts if need be, including Deep Inlet. I have been gillnetting since I was 16, starting first on Annette Island in 2001 and got a southeast wide permit in 2005. The southeast drift gillnet fishery is a unique niche for a single man like myself, and a 9 year old daughter wanting to be devoted to ONE fishery. I participate in this ONE fishery and it sustains me for a large percentage of my living expenses. A one man operation like mine depends greatly on the enhanced terminal harvests areas, especially Nakat and Deep Inlet. To be very blunt, I do not have a multi-million dollar operation and do not need an extremely high income to pay for a crew, and a multi-faceted operation involving multiple engines and diversifying into other fisheries to live and breathe and provide for myself. The way our current fisheries are implemented are satisfactory, one must strive very hard each season to be successful and earn a living. Allowing seiners into our already competitive and sufficient areas is problematic as these specific boats are overfishing in my opinion. Not all, but many I imagine need to make exorbitant amounts of money to pay for their multi fishery operations. This is not the humble one man gillnet fisherman's issue to sacrifice his already competitive fishery and allow a super boat to come in and swoop up his whole weeks' worth of efforts, I know this sounds biased, but the truth is the seiners seem to have a lot more areas to fish and ample opportunities to make a living. We must ask the question are the seiners struggling because of lack of area, or is it because they are so large and have such big appetites that not all of them can get their share? There seems to be a happy medium in fleet size and vessel sizes, I believe the seiners have fallen off an even keel.

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

Thank you for considering this letter,

Will Bousley