

RC161

January 15, 2018

Dear Alaska Board of Fisheries:

My name is Floyd Wood, I'm an Alaskan resident and have been all my life. I'm third-generation Gillnetter my family has always fished in the northern areas of southeast. I've owned my fishing operation since 1985, before that I fished with my father. I would like to convey my concerns about the 1 to 2 rotation in Deep Inlet.

By only having two 15 hour days a week makes it very hard to just fish one area and make it especially if it coincides with the other areas. Not only is it a loss of income it is also a devaluation of our boat and our permits. It is a loss of the tax dollars to our cities and to the state. There will also be lost jobs that are created around the gillnet fishery and the connected industries. The reason that we supported NSRASS on these hatchery operations was to divide our fleet and give all gear groups other opportunities on poor returns back when they were originally started. The take of the fish in the areas for these programs definitely left an impact in those fishing areas which we still see today - they have never been the same.

I can only speak for myself, and I have always supported helping the other gear groups when they weren't getting the returns that they need. Like the hatcheries and release sites that are going to help other gear groups in the very near future.

A lot of times in August, Deep Inlet is the only thing for the gillnetters to work on - not like other gear groups that may not even fish it when there are wild stocks to fish on which also doesn't help their allocation numbers. The possibility of time and gear restrictions due to the low king salmon returns could possibly have a devastating impact on me and others in my gear group. Without enhance salmon I would no longer be able to make it as a commercial fisherman, because we no longer have strong enough wild runs in the areas that can support huge numbers of gillnetters.

By closing an area to gillnet like Anita Bay not only effects that area also affects the rest of the areas that remain open by overcrowding and making it harder to manage the remaining areas. It is almost impossible to condense all my concerns let alone 30+ years of experience and involvement in the salmon industry in only 3 minutes.

Thank you,
Floyd Wood