

RC162

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

1/15/18

Dear Chairman Jensen and Alaska Board of Fisheries members,

My name is Chad Smith and I am a Commercial Fisherman residing in Wrangell Alaska. I have been gillnetting in Southeast Alaska for the past 38 years. I have fished all the available areas in the past, but now stay close to Wrangell which means that Anita Bay is a huge percentage of our salmon income. To remove our access from Anita Bay would be devastating to not only us but the gillnet community at large. It will in turn, affect the local economy as fishermen would be forced to leave the area for other fishing options.

By having the Special Harvest Areas available to the local gillnet fleet it helps in the overall disbursement of boats, thus being a boost to the local economies.

Historically our family has depended on the enhanced salmon programs of SRAA, NSRAA and DIPAC. In speaking with the gillnet community I find that the vast majority of Gillnetters have historically, and still do, heavily depend on these programs as well.

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,

Chad Smith

F/V Sabrina Joy

Wrangell, AK

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