

Hello Members of the board,

RC 261

My name is Cale Laduke, I am 35 years old and I have lived in Sitka my whole life, I make 100% of my income from fishing and I've fished for 20 years now. I have never gillnetted but I have seined and trolled quite a bit.

I am extremely opposed to giving the seine fleet an allocation of 2:1 fishing days in the deep inlet area. I would prefer a 1:1 or status quo allocation in this area.

If seiners get 4 days and gill netters get 2 it will give more incentive for more seiners to come to Sitka.

Seiners are not limited to the deep inlet area which gillnetters are. With 4 days in deep inlet available and the possibility of several other areas close to deep inlet such as: Salisbury Sound, Slocum, Peril, various areas in Sitka sound, I feel it will be more attractive to more seiners. With less days for gillnetters and more days for seiners with the potential for more boats in the area I think ~~they~~ will easily obtain their allocation.

This will be in effect until further review by the board. That amount of time can either be essential and detrimental to a new business, which much of the sitkai

gillnet fleet is. Also, fishing after a seine day in deep inlet is much less productive at the current distribution of days between sectors. An extra day w/ the potential for more boats will mean gill netters are ~~left~~ left with little fish to fish on. "Scraps"... there will be little reason to stay in Sitka for the gill net sector.

I do not feel the Sitka gill net fleet was properly represented in any way by the interests that made any agreement of 2:1 fishing days in deep inlet between seiners & gill netters.

There are over 400 drift gillnet permits in SE AK and with the USAF group there are approximately 170 members. The ~~board~~ board is not a majority representation of the fleet, and in the public comment period it was stated by at least one person from another area that he felt there was little support of this agreement.

Gill netters will have to go to other areas under this agreement RC153. Areas that are of concern for preservation of the delicate species of King Salmon. Please keep in mind the size of the gillnet boat versus the seine boat. F

very hard to pack all the nets you would need for the different gill net areas they will have to go to. Your decision on this issue is the basis for the business plans these fishermen ~~has~~ will have to work with. Sitka is logistically farther to other areas. Petersburg & Wrangell are in the middle of other areas available to gillnet with significantly shorter corridors to the northern or southern runs, not to mention the other areas in the vicinity. I feel the point has been made by enough people in the young gillnet fleet in Sitka that they have not been represented in their best interests. That is detrimental to their business plans, to lose days in deep inlet.

Thank you very much for your consideration & participation in this extremely emotional topic.

Sincerely,

Cole Laduke