

RC 280

Alaska Board of Fisheries

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Date: January 19, 2018

Dear Chairman Jensen and Alaska Board of Fisheries members. My name is James Thomsen, and I'm a young fisherman from Haines. 2018 will be my fourth season captaining my gillnetter, and I depend on fishing Deep Inlet every fall when fishing slows down up north. Being a new captain, I have an overhead of bills due to my operation, and I need to make as much money as possible every season to keep up. I believe that this agreement RC 153 USAG and SEAS came to, will make it very hard for gillnetters to make any money down there, and will devastate the whole fishery down there. Its not only northern gillnetters that depend on Deep Inlet every fall, its every city in southeast. Every year I go down in the fall I see Ketchikan, Wrangell, Petersburg, Juneau, Haines, everyone. We all pay 3% of our income to NSRAA (deep inlet) and I believe we should all get a fair amount of time to fish there, and enough time every week to make enough money. I along with a bunch of other gillnetters would be satisfied if it was still possible to amend the agreement to a 1:1 gillnet to seine rotation for this 2018 schedule. Another concern of mine is the agreement USAG and SEAS made on letting seiners fish district 12 (near hawk inlet), which I believe will have a huge impact on our sockeye fall fishing and runs up north near Haines. After July 22 is when the majority of sockeye are caught in that area, and I fear there wont be much of a sockeye season up there. Fall fishing in district 15A has already been poor the last several years, and if we can avoid depleting it even more that would be in the best interest for all of us. I hope you'll consider my letter and my opinion, thank you for your time.

James Thomsen, FV Windbreaker

 1/19/18