

RC07

**Proposal 159 – Dutch Harbor Food and Bait Herring Fishery.**

My name is David M. Gregory. I am long time resident of Unalaska. I participated in the Gill Net Herring fishery many years ago.

**I write in opposition of Proposal 159.**

The proposal seeks to roll the gillnet quota into the seine quota making a single amount that both gillnet and seine vessels could fish on.

The problem with this is the Gillnet boats need several weeks to work on catching their quota because they can usually only make one delivery per day and the vessels are small and cannot hold large amounts of fish. It takes time for these boats to catch enough to make a profitable season. If both gear classes start working on the quota at the same time the seiners could take it all in less than a week leaving nothing for the gillnet fleet.

There is no reason for this change as the gillnet quota is rolled over into the seine quota if it is not caught by July.

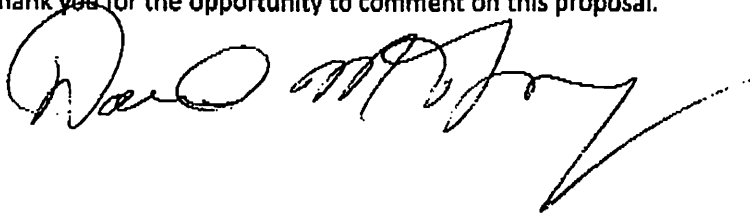
Making this change will effectively shut out the Gillnet Boats from being able to participate in this fishery into the future. No one will be able to gear up and try to fish because the seine fleet will catch it all before they could make more than a couple of deliveries.

I have not participated in the fishery for several years as the herring have either not returned to Unalaska Bay or they are too deep to be fished with a gillnet. This has been the issue for many of the past years as the seiners have been getting their fish over in Akutan and not Unalaska Bay.

I have always had aspirations of getting back into the gillnet fishery but the uncertainty of not having fish show up precludes making the capital investment on the hope the fish show up. However if they do I believe you will see local boats getting back into the fishery.

I would encourage the Board of Fish to reject this proposal so that residents with small boats still have the opportunity to get into this fishery in the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposal.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David M. Gregory". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.