

## Alaska Board of Fisheries

## Public Comments

## Submitted by Thomas Tilden

For the record, my name is Thomas Tilden and I live in Dillingham, AK. I have been a subsistence fisherman my whole life. I am a commercial fisherman and I have been fishing since 1965. I started fishing on my own in 1970 as a skiff drift fisherman. Since then I have fished herring, as a gillnetter and seiner, fished salmon as a drift gillnetter and set net. I have longlined for halibut. I have worked in the processor sector, as a deck hand on a tender, a longshoreman, a cook, and in crab and shrimp fisher in Adak and Kodiak.

I strongly support 135, because of windows. I support 145 and 146. I also support 144 with the proposed Outer Port Heiden boundary line on the latitudinal line. Because I support the community of Chignik, I support in concept 128, 134, and 136 through 138 and I oppose 140 and 143 and oppose in concept 129-133 and 139, 141, and 142.

Bristol Bay and Chignik are strong salmon producers. They have natural elements that hinder their production, such as low water, high water, harsh winters, an overabundance of predators of either the juvenile and adult salmon or their eggs. They also must survive in the high seas, where foreign pirate fishermen, seals, salmon sharks, belugas and other species affect their return numbers. Man-made issues that will also affect their survival are climate change, Pebble mine, off shore oil production and intercept fisheries, like Area M. We have no control over the elements or what happens on the high seas. But we must do our best to fight offshore oil production, Pebble mine, our carbon emissions and restrict Area M from over harvesting any one stock.

Salmon run sizes to drainages in Bristol Bay vary dramatically. During the WASSIP years, 2006-2008, average runs varied from 852,000 returning to the Togiak River to 9,300,000 salmon returning to the Wood River. Additionally, they have different sizes of fish in each river. Togiak has huge fish; Igushik has large fish; Nushagak has medium fish and the Wood River has small fish. These are unique drainages that produce unique fish. With no windows, certain segments of the run could be overharvested and decimate a small run. It confuses me that in the Northern District fisheries, especially in the Ilnik and Outer Port Heiden fisheries, Bristol Bay salmon contribute from 50% to nearly 80% of the harvest while local stocks go basically unharvested.

Let's insure that Bristol Bay and Chignik Areas continue to produce viable populations of salmon by limiting Area M interception and voicing opposition to off shore oil production and the Pebble mine.

Thank you.