

## **PROPOSAL 30**

### **5 AAC 06.341. Vessel specifications and operations.**

Increase the maximum length for drift gillnet vessels from 32 feet in overall length to 42 feet in overall length, as follows:

This proposal is to strike the number 32 and replace it with **42** in the first paragraph of the referenced code section.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The 32 foot vessel length restriction must be changed. This issue addresses the issue of quality output, safety, and financial viability of Bristol Bay gillnet vessel owners. 32 feet of vessel length is not enough to meet modern standards required by the seafood industry. PRODUCT QUALITY requires robust refrigeration equipment for any cooling system used on a vessel. To achieve this larger chillers are need, and the power to run them efficiently is a generator. SAFETY at sea is a prime consideration for the maritime community. A larger, more stable work platform will keep fishers more efficient workers and lessen injuries related to slips, trips, and falls. A larger vessel can also accommodate bulwarks and hand rails to ensure a physical barrier to falling overboard. FINANCIAL EFFICIENCY is needed to afford maximum profitability - especially to watershed residents - who can use a larger vessel to more safely fish the other bounty of other species in Bristol Bay. As it is financially ridiculous to double down on old, legacy 32 foot gillnetters, the Bristol Bay fleets must recapitalize on a platform that has durable value, is safer for the crew, and has value beyond the salmon season. With the evolution of 'stacked' permits, the limit makes even less sense. Stacked boats have more gear and handle more fish, and effectively every argument presented is 33% stronger. If this regulation **is not** changed, fishermen will be forced to cram more and more required equipment into the already cramped 32 foot platform. It is a fact that the fleet is become increasingly "square" with each new generation of vessels. This investment can now easily cost more than \$500,000 and

other than meeting the Bristol Bay length requirement, the vessel is comparatively worthless in any other fishery. That is an egregious waste of money.

**PROPOSED BY:** Mark Smith

(EF-F18-073)

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**PROPOSAL 31**

**5 AAC 06.370. Registration and reregistration.**

Delay implementation of the 48-hour district transfer notification period until the third Saturday in June, as follows:

A fisher that would like to train new crew and test their equipment would drop their card. That fisher would have until the third Saturday @ 9am in June to transfer into purgatory. Purgatory meaning that state of nowhere, just as if you haven't drop your card. Third Saturday 2018 is the 16 of June. Understanding that this date will change when the Saturday a week later. This would take the stress out training your crew and testing your equipment.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Dropping your blue card in early June, when a drift fisher wants to fish that person has to drop their blue card in the river district that they're not sure they really want to fish. Then having to wait 48 hours when they want to change fishing districts. Having new crew, wanting to test your fishing gear, new drum, engine etc.,etc. Egegik, Ugashik and Togiak have no mechanics and is very expensive to fly one down. Nushagak is in Chinook protection and doesn't have early opening, those drift fishers would have to travel to Eastside districts to train new crew and test fishing gear. Before the main salmon run arrives, Port Moller test data isn't out yet and other tools to make the right decision in picking a starting fishing district.

**PROPOSED BY:** Darryl Pope

(EF-F18-052)

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**PROPOSAL 32**

**5 AAC 06.320. Fishing Periods.**

Extend duration of late-season fishing periods in the Naknek-Kvichak, Egegik, and Ugashik Districts, as follows:

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- (c) In the Naknek-Kvichak, Egegik, and Ugashik Districts,
- (2) after 9:00 a.m. July 17, salmon may be taken from 9:00 a.m. Monday **through 9:00 p.m. Sunday**, except as specified for the . . .

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Minimal fishing time after the regulatory period reduces opportunity to maximize the use of the fall fishery resource for the following reasons:

- 1. Fishermen/crewmembers cannot justify staying operational for 4 days of fishing time each week.
- 2. Processors cannot commit to maintaining personnel and equipment in an operational state when product is only available for 4 days/week.

In addition to the loss of opportunity to fishermen and processors, there is a concomitant loss of control and information in the escapement of late run salmon.

**PROPOSED BY:** Bill Hill

(EF-F18-007)

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**PROPOSAL 33**

**5 AAC 06.330. Gear, and XX.XXX. New section.**

Allow the use of beach weirs in commercial salmon fishing in Bristol Bay, as follows:

5 AAC 06.332

(a) Set beach weirs and their holding pens must be operated 400' away from any other set gill net, beach weir or boundary line.

(b) Weirs are defined as a fixed net or fence system not more than 300' in length and should be operated perpendicular to the shore.

(c) The weir should be constructed of mesh size not larger than 3 inches and be no deeper than 12 feet.

(f) The seaward end of the weir must be not more than 600 feet from the 18 foot mean high waterline.

(e) When fishing periods are closed weirs must be left open to allow fish to pass through without entanglement.

(f) Holding pens for the weir must not go dry with any fish in them, and all weirs must be outfitted with an emergency release door on the down current side of at least 4 feet by 4 feet to let fish out quickly should need arise.

(g) All regulations pertaining to the allocation, opening periods, and districts for set gill nets shall also apply to set beach weirs.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Allow for a new gear group called a beach weir. Alaska salmon are under increased pressure to compete on quality with new salmon farming methods that result in near picture-perfect grocery store presentation. Bristol Bay's gill nets are an effective way of catching fish by a large fleet of small boats, but salmon harvested with gill nets don't yield a high enough quality product to compete in today's market place. It was fine when salmon was all being salted or canned but not when it is sold "fresh frozen" behind glass cases at the grocery store. A beach weir could be a way of harvesting fish with minimal bruising or net marks, non-target species like Kings could be released, and fishermen would never have to go over their processor imposed limits. The new method isn't meant to increase a fisherman's harvest volume just their quality.

Weir permits can be obtained by trading in two valid set net permits. Make this a provisional article lasting two years in order to evaluate its ability to effectively improve quality without disproportionately affecting catch volumes, and to give the stake holders opportunity to repeal it easily if it is found to be disliked. By requiring 400' between a weir and the nearest set net it would require two neighboring set net lease holders to collaborate in order to operate a weir, and the extra space would provide more access to fish for neighboring fishermen.

**PROPOSED BY:** Russell Phelps and Reid Ten Kley

(EF-F18-107)

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**PROPOSAL 34**

**5 AAC 06.350. Closed waters.**

Reduce closed waters in the Naknek-Kvichak District, as follows:

I know the board just adjusted this boundary at the special March 8th 2016 meeting to accommodate for some erosion on this beach. It was because of all this closer examination of the marker which led me to realize the problem noted below. Had I noticed sooner I would have asked for accommodation at that 2016 meeting. If you do this my neighbors to the North (five sites) have agreed to move north this distance and amend their DNR leases to resolve this problem.

5 AAC 06.350(b)(1) is amended to read:

(b) The following locations in the Naknek-Kvichak District are closed to the taking of salmon:

(1) those waters northeast of a line from a point near Graveyard Point at [58°52'4.55"N LAT 157° 0'53.39"W. LONG] to a point on the northwest shore of Kvichak Bay at 58° 53.37' N lat., 157° 04.26' W. long.;

I think the Lat Long coordinate provided will be correct but please have your departmental GIS person verify.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** In 1989 DNR issued shore fisheries lease ADL224517 accidentally too close to ADL 26113 (See SFDI 1333). This is about 35' too close at the inner end of our net. I would ask the board to move the Kvichak district boundary enough so that we can amend our leases with DNR so that the inner ends of both nets are appropriately spaced.

**PROPOSED BY:** Reid Ten Kley

(EF-F18-095)

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**PROPOSAL 35**

**5 AAC 06.350. Closed Waters.**

Reduce closed waters in the Naknek-Kvichak District near Graveyard Creek, as follows:

My solution is to move the temporary markers which are still temporary and place them further up at the actual mouth of Graveyard Creek taking in account for much erosion and continued erosion where I will continue to move my sight further back in my line each year as necessary. The last Board proceedings claimed that if this location could have been determined they would have been able to restore my fishing rights. I plea to all members of the Board to end my hardship and vote for a solution or remedy to avoid any further hardship to be endured. I plan to provide measurements, photographs of Graveyard Creek.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** My proposal is made requesting all Board Members to vote to restore my fishing right(s) at Graveyard Point inside

Graveyard Creek located in the Naknek Kvichak District of Bristol Bay. I respectfully request the legal right be restored to fish again. So I can return to my historical location and simply resume fishing as a set netter this coming up season without further delay or hardship to me or my family in 2019. Without my fishing site(s) I will have nothing to show for my children to inherit the family business after fishing for over 40 plus years, essentially my entire life. My family is part of a fishing legacy spanning over 60 years. Where for decades we have shared with others, life as commercial fisherman, where we once all knew one another. A place where my last name Grossi was synonymous with Graveyard Point as were other family's (our friends and neighbors) who were there since the beginning with us. We are now the second and third generation handing down the family tradition to our children our mother and father's grandchildren are now ready to learn the business as well and carry the tradition forward as it should be for all of us who choose this way of life. With the passing of my personal proposal an injustice will be repaired which occurred without any advance notice several years ago causing great hardship just days prior to fishing being opened in our district. This occurred when ADFG placed temporary markers at the beginning of the season across the creek creating a (boundary line) which did not permit me to fish any longer behind the newly established point, without breaking the law. I was told by Alaska Troopers that if I fished in closed waters I would forfeit my catch and my vessel and equipment would be seized leaving me no other avenue other than finding relief with the Board of Fisheries proposal process which I have had to find my way. My family and I have fished in Graveyard Creek free of any legal issues regarding regulatory laws and we have fished uncontested for decades. We have been seen harvesting salmon year after year. I have never been issued any citation nor have I received any demerit points ever in my life or career and my presence is well documented. I plan to provide all necessary documentation to substantiate all of my claims made in this proposal.

Allowing me to return fishing to the only place I have ever fished since a child of 2 years in the skiff with my mother, father and brother is why I'm here again 4 years later. The transcript is evidence the members then gave great consideration and wanted to support the return but fell short to details which I will remedy with the documentation to receive the same support and return my grandfathered rights to me.

My father won our legal proceedings to make me (Agostino Grossi) the youngest Limited Entry Set Net Permit Holder in the State of Alaska. The documentation is irrefutable and the evidence overwhelming as to the place I have historically fished night and day for over 40 years including family members before me.

**PROPOSED BY:** Agostino Grossi (EF-F18-111)

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