

Alaska Board of Fisheries
Bristol Bay Finfish Proposals

Frank Woods
Box 713
Dillingham
Nov-Dec 2022 Anchorage

Madam Chair and members of the Board, for the record my name is Frank Woods. I'm a 57 year old Bristol Bay salmon drift fisherman. I'm here to testify on behalf of myself to the proposals I'm about to address. Specifically 12 and 44.

I was raised to live off the land and live on the water. I'm testifying to allow my children and future generations to continue living in the same way. I didn't learn that we should go until it's all gone, or someone tells you to stop. We learned that lesson in the early days of fishing. We don't want history to repeat itself.

- **Support for Proposal 11, 12, and 13**

Commercial fishermen in the Nushagak District have known about the need to start conserving the kings since they started declining in 2010 or so. We've completely quit fishing for them. They're the most prized possession for our families and culture.

Subsistence fishing isn't producing the amount of Kings that are needed for families to continue traditions and share with family. We've got plenty of sockeye, but the traditions are different for them. I support all of proposal 12, being the author, and some parts of 11 and 13.

- **Proposal 44**

I am the Author and I support my own proposal. Permit stacking allows me to double my income and only increase my operating costs by 20%. However, we need to stop the outmigration of permits by the sunseting the “D” permit experiment. It has restricted the next generation of becoming fully invested as a Bristol Bay Drift Fisherman. I’m willing to give up this income to retain opportunity for the next generation of fishermen.

Sunseting the permit system will go back to the original intent of limited entry.

The D permit system has decreased the quality of fish being delivered for processing. It has inflated the price of a Bristol Bay permit, which strips local young fishermen from the opportunity to get started on their own operation. With this system, some local fishermen would remain lifetime “D” crew members without the ability to move up to captain.

The solution is to put a sunset date before the 2025 fishing season, by repealing 5 AAC 06.333 on Dec. 31, 2024.

I also support Proposal 11,12,13, 29 as amended, 33, 42, 43, 44, and 48.

I Oppose 46, 47.