

My name is Nathan Raible-Clark, and locally go by my nickname, Roswell. I live in the Flats neighborhood at 12338 Gara dr.

2023 was my fourth year running the Lady Kathryn, a 38' seiner in Kodiak. I'd like to speak in opposition of proposals 62 and 70, not only for my own sake, but the sake of Kodiak as a whole. If put into effect they would noticeably damage my productivity, damage the fleet's productivity, damage our already declining local economy, and further degrade the already questionable viability of buying into the fishery by young deckhands. The proposals put forth by the Northwest Setnetters Association refer to and imply increasing profitability and efficiency of seining. I find these references to be woefully taken out of context. Costs and difficulties incurred by a seining operation are at an extreme all-time high. Potential to succeed for new vessel owners is at an obvious all-time low. For frame of reference, I am 33 years old, have been seining since 2011, and most of my experience has been on the boat I currently own, fishing for my best friend. The education, patience, and support received from him has been downright fatherly. Very few starting captains get to feel as prepared as I did. Largely the fleet has been incredibly welcoming and supportive as well: In 2020 when my skiff broke down and I was waiting for parts, another captain loaned me his new jet skiff for two full openers. In 21 I had spinal surgery on the opening day of the season, and during recovery another captain let his skiffman out of their gear work for 2 weeks so he could help my all-green crew reassemble the seine. Dozens of other fishermen came down to help get the boat ready in my absence. Despite my condition, we were fishing by mid July. In 23 I blew up 2 engines, and was loaned spares by other captains who barely know me. Thanks to them it wound up being my biggest season in pounds. It feels like every major hurdle I face in my career has a colleague on the other side reaching back to help me over it. This community needs and deserves protection.

Despite getting such unbelievable support, and putting in no small amount of effort, I have only ever made the operation pay for itself, and have yet to take any profit home. Considering the current state of the fishery, I already have no confidence that will improve over the next several seasons. My margins are non-existent. Reduction in my opportunity to put the net in the water in areas where I can fish my little boat in a bay, especially the areas outlined by 62 and 70, could very well be what sinks me or one of many young fishermen like me. The "greying of the fleet" is a common and real concern. These are propositions which would only push the needle farther into the grey.

Additionally, I'd like to bring focus to local business' reliance on the seine fleet. The vast bulk of seiner profit is spent within walking distance of where you now sit. Kodiak as a whole is already facing some major economic issues. Please don't compound them.