

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Board of Fish Comments – Kvichak Setnetters Association

December 5, 2012

Hello Mr. Chairman, esteemed Board Members,

My name is Eric Meyer. I was raised in Southeast Alaska. I have fished as a Kvichak set netter for 32 years, the last 15 as a permit owner. I am a board member of the Kvichak Setnetters Association. I am representing the Kvichak Setnetters in this presentation.

I am going to give you a brief synopsis of our Boards voting on some of the proposals. They are as follows:

24) We oppose a seine fishery in Bristol Bay.

32-35) Regarding boat length, we have no official position as long as allocations remain the same.

44-54) In reference to permit stacking, 6 of 7 Kvichak Setnetters Association board members voted to support these proposals to repeal the sunset clause and allow stacked set net permits. 5 of our 44 members currently have "stacked" permits. Our reasoning is:

- It increases the profitability of a set net operation on any given season but not necessarily double as the earlier report proposed.
- Years when limits are in place, low return years, or when fishing within a Special Harvest Area where restricted gear is required, dual permits can help make a season profitable where it may otherwise not be.
- We feel there would be no adverse affect on quality.
- It preserves family operations. For example when a family member retire or has conflicting interest on a particular season such as educational opportunities or commitments.
- Lastly, permit prices have increased in recent years, not necessarily from permit stacking but rather from increased fish prices and improved fish returns in recent years.

55) We oppose fishing 100 fathoms on any site.

57) We support use of WASSIP to create better management plans and limit interception. I found the WASSIP report particularly interesting in that it identified a larger percent of Egegik harvest was bound for the Naknek/Kvichak district than had been previously reported by scale sampling in prior years.

58-61) We oppose any fishing in the general district, again to prevent interception.

63-65) No official comment on allocation change but the wording MUST include an allocation split between Naknek and Kvichak sections within the Naknek/Kvichak district.

66) We strongly oppose removal of the allocations.

67 & 76) We oppose any actions that restrict ADF&G's ability to effectively manage the sustainability of a run.

71-72) Oppose opening the Naknek Special Harvest Area for any reason other than preservation of Kvichak stocks.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you here today.

Eric Meyer
Secretary – Kvichak Setnetters Association
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