Board Members,

Thanks very much for your time, effort and diligence spent working through the issues at the Bristol Bay meeting. I would like to make one observation regarding the "committee of the whole" process that was instituted at the Naknek meeting. I have always thought that the committee process is perhaps the most effective means to generate new ideas, find commonality between advocates on opposing sides of issues and generally help the entire BOF through their representative to fully understand the nuances of the issues through the eyes of committee members. I understand that the committee of the whole streamlines the process and leads to deliberations while the discussions are fresh in Board members minds. Unfortunately the way it played out in Naknek the process was nothing more than an extension of public testimony. In fact is seemed as if the process exacerbated the contentious nature of certain issues rather than providing a forum for introducing new information, discussing positions and trying to find some common ground. Obviously you are well aware that some of the regulations being evaluated in this process will be have huge impacts on individuals participating in these fisheries and most assuredly on the fishery's underlying economy. I hope in the future there is some way to get the committee process back to where it can function in a manner that helps add clarity to the challenge of evaluating proposals. Again, thank you for all of your hard work. Regards, Matt Luck

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