

Feb. 25th, 2015.

Dennis Thacker

Box 149

RC 072

Willow, Ak. 99688

Chairman

Board of Fish

Yakutat Southeast/finish

Re: proposal 204/205

Mr Chairman/Board Members

This is a follow-up to my first testimony. After listening to some fishermen's testimony I feel there is some clarification needed.

First, spotting is not banned in all areas of the state. Only PWS, Bristol Bay plus two small Gil net areas in CI. Lower Cook Inlet, Kodiak, Chignik and area M are open to use of planes. Other than area M, South East is the largest seining area. That is one reason the plane has become a useful tool to some of the fishermen. It is approx 300 miles from the north end to the southern boundary and there are times when the whole area is open. It can take a fishing boat more than a full day to travel from one end to the other.

Secondly there are approx. 12-15 planes employed in the spotting business in SE. Of those about half are employed by the processors. Basically the processor planes do the same as I do, only the information is fleet wide, at least that particular processors fleet.

Thirdly I have to wonder what a limited entry permit guarantees the fishermen. By having a permit they are guaranteed access to a public resource that the state spends millions of dollars to assure is harvestable each year. Maybe more or less, but something to catch. Does this permit also guarantee privacy or non competition. A person would have to wonder by some testimony. A fisherman finds a good spot, does he expect to have that all to himself for the rest of the day. Another fisherman can look through his glasses and see what he is catching just as easy as a plane flies over and sees what he is catching. In the Salt Lake Brine fishery when a fisherman finds a good spot he throws a buoy overboard and has a 300 yd. protected area to fish until he removes the buoy. Maybe that is what we should do here. By the way, they use planes to help the boats locate a spot to throw their buoy.

In closing, I have no guarantee from year to year for employment except working hard and doing a good job. It must be working as I've worked with most of the fishermen for more than 15 years and some for more than 20.

Thank you,

Dennis Thacker