

Mr. Chairman

Members of the Board

My name is Beaver Nelson. I live in Homer and have seined for salmon since 1968.

On Proposal 276:

The law is in place limiting salmon seine vessels to 58 feet and Bristol Bay gillnetters to 32 feet. The Bay limit is enforced so why not the seine boat limit? If the problem is adequately defining length overall so that Troopers can enforce it, then the Board should take action to clarify this definition.

The recent influx of over-length vessels has primarily come from 2 sources:

1. Surplus boats from Canada that are over-length to start with; and,
2. Stretch jobs on vessels under 58 feet that seek to increase packing capacity by exceeding the 58' limit.

An additional 1 foot added to the fish hold on a boat 18' wide adds about 8,000 pounds of capacity. That same foot added to a deeper draft 20' wide fish hold adds about 13,000 pounds. Start adding 2-3 feet extra to the fish hold and the capacity really multiplies. Day after day and year after year of delivering thousands of extra fish adds up and puts legal length vessels at a financial disadvantage.

I have 2 sons who have constructed limit seiners recently. They went to great lengths to ensure the vessels are ONE INCH short of 58 feet.

Basically all commercial boat owners know the length of their boats. They all know the common sense definition of length overall. If a vessel is over length, the owner has been negligent in ensuring that his vessel is legal or else is attempting to evade the law through a technicality.

I hope the Board can come up with an enforceable definition for the 58' limit as was done with the 32' limit in Bristol Bay.

Proposal 44:: State Waters Pollock Management Plan

I support Prop. 44 which seeks to provide opportunity in State waters for local small boat fishermen to participate in this fishery.