

Greetings Mr. Chairman and members of the Board,

My name is Patrick Brown and I am an Area M fisherman. I setnet and seine for salmon, and jig for cod. Fishing is my primary income.

I am a lifelong resident of Sand Point, a member of the Qagan Tayagungin Tribe, the Aleut Corporation, and chair of the Sand Point AC. I also have a Bachelors in Communications from UAS.

I started fishing on my dad's boat in the early 1990s. By the time I was 10, I was making a 2% crew share.

Growing up on a boat, my elders were very insistent on me getting an education. They told me our fishery was dying, on account of fish politics and pressure from outside interests, Areas L and T.

During that time, we were operating under various management plans, including the Chum Cap and a Bristol Bay sockeye allocation.

The Shumagin islands got the short end of the stick in the Bristol Bay allocation, and set netters in general were heavily impacted by the implications of the Chum Cap. Set netters generally don't catch chum, and seiners back then were going gang busters on the Chum to get as much as possible before anyone else. Now, we have a chum pool, and seiners have learned to stand down when the concentration of chums is too high. We have self-regulated, and are doing well doing so.

In 2003, after my first year of college at UAS, I ran my father's set net operation for him. Even though I know he wanted me to carry it on, my view on fishing at that point was bleak, and I told him I wasn't going to be a fisherman.

He sold his permit following that season for less than 1/3 what he paid back in 1987.

2004 was my only summer in the past 22 years when I didn't fish salmon. I got back into fishing in 2005 running a boat for an aunt and uncle in Sand Point. This was after the June management plan was set in place, and my optimism in fishing was restored.

I bought the set net operation from them following the 2005 season, and the rest is history. I couldn't have done it without the June fishery.

And that is why I'm here: to oppose proposals 181 and 184, which aim to take back the June fishery we have all depended on for the past 10 years.

I am also opposed to proposals 185 and 186, which I think would have a very negative impact on the June, as well as post-June fisheries.

In light of WASSIP information, I ask that the board adopt proposal 179, which would more accurately reflect genetic information, while ensuring Chignik fishermen still get their guaranteed harvest before we can fish SEDM.

Thank You,



Patrick J. Brown

2/24/16