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RC 14

November 29, 2018

Alaska Board of Fish  
333 Raspberry Road  
Anchorage, AK 99518

Re: Testimony Bristol Bay Proposal 18, 19, and 20

I would like to go on record regarding Bristol Bay Proposals 18, 19, and 20.

I am a lifelong subsistence user of the Dillingham, having spent most of my 57 years in Dillingham. Ever since I can remember, I have harvested salmon from the Kanakanak Beach in the Nushagak District. I have very fond memories helping my Grandpa and Grandma, Sacally and Sassa Wallona, picking salmon in the mud on Kanakanak Beach. I have raised my six children doing the same activity and helping me fill my smokehouse. It is a family affair that I treasure. Before my 3 brothers built their smokehouses, all of my family including my 80 year old Dad worked side by side to get our smokehouses filled.

I believe we need to make it easier not harder to get the salmon we need for our use, especially in times of abundance, which we have in the Nushagak District. It doesn't make sense to me that we create regulations to make it harder for families to get what they need.

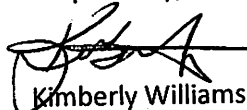
I support Proposal 18 that does away with the regulation of 3-day fishing in the Nushagak District. I have never supported this restriction. This past summer, between the tides and winds, we didn't see the salmon hit the beach like the year before. I work a full time job to support my family and to take the time off from work on Monday and Wednesday creates a hardship. It is very upsetting to me that this past season, the commercial fleet in the Nushagak District was wide open, yet those of us on Kanakanak Beach were held to a Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday subsistence fishing. Why? Let's make it easier and I am ask you to support Proposal 18.

I support Proposal 19, to allow for dipnetting. I am not sure how much an individual can harvest using a dipnet but if that is their only means of getting salmon for their use, then I support it and ask you to do the same.

Finally, I support Proposal 20 to allow use of drift gillnets not more than 10 fathoms in length for subsistence salmon fishing in the Wood and Nushagak Rivers near Dillingham. A couple of years ago, I have very fond memories of going out with my Niece and late Uncle Phillip Wallona to harvest sockeye for subsistence. In the Wood River we got all our sockeye in less then half hour. The next season, we tried in the Nushagak and went high and dry. The Wood River is deep and the Nushagak is more of a mud flat that will go out fast on the tide and as a result, you will go high and dry, which we did. If we could drift, we wouldn't have been stuck for 6 hours waiting for the tide to come back in. We should be very supportive of regulations that makes it easier on families to get their fish. I ask you to support this Proposal that allows the use of drift gillnets of not more than 10 fathoms in length for subsistence salmon fishing.

We have an abundance of salmon in the Nushagak District because of the Board's wise decisions in the past. Let's now make regulations that allows families to get their subsistence fish needs filled by voting yes on Proposals 18, 19 and 20.

Respectfully,

  
Kimberly Williams  
Subsistence User