

Mr. Chairman & fellow Board Members,

My name is Ralph Zimin, a third generation fisherman with over fifty years of experience. I am currently on the Naknek/Kvichak Advisory Committee. However, I am representing myself as a concerned bristol bay fisherman. I support proposal 23. I oppose proposals 24, 25, 26, 27, as well as proposal 30. Specifically, If proposals 24, 25, and 26 pass, altering the "D" configuration to allow one permit holder to operate 200 fathoms of drift gillnet gear, this would have the effect of disenfranching a permit holder, who may not have the financial capability to own their own boat and fishing gear. He or she would lose their essential fishing operation, negatively affecting their family and future generations. Fishing is vital for income to buy basic necessities needed to survive such as heating oil, food, etc.

In the Southwest region, unlike South Central or other areas, jobs & work are scarce. Although these proposals would help some individuals, they would harm far more. If permit stacking, Proposals 24-27, & increased vessel size, Proposal 30, are passed, this will greatly increase the barrier for young men and women to enter the fishery. With declining oil production, commercial fishing will once again make up a large part of the state's economy. Ultimately, we need young Alaskans to enter the fishery & contribute to the state's economy. These permit stacking and the vessel size proposals will make it much more difficult for this to occur. Finally, note that in the Memo from the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission, dated November 20, 2018, state:

Proposals 24, 25, 26, 27 and 30 could increase harvest capacity for both select individuals and the Bristol Bay fleet overall, which could add unanticipated complexity to fisheries management and impinge on the integrity of existing efforts to limit effort. Therefore, the Commission cannot support these proposals as written.

My uncle, Carvel Zimin, Sr, who has since passed, was right whe he said, "to give to one person or group, takes away from another."We have in the past produced record runs, and earnings have increased with RSW or ice. Referring to proposal 30, processor limits have reduced our earnings far more than boat size. Especially if it is a 5000 lb limit or total shutdown! Most always at or near the run peak.

Thank you for your time and consideration,



Ralph Zimin