

Alaska Board of Fisheries  
P.O. Box 115526  
Juneau, AK 99811 – 5526

Dear Members of the Board of Fisheries,

My name is Jimmy Coopchiak, and I'm a lifelong resident of Togiak. I started fishing as a deckhand when I was 15 years old, and I eventually got a drift permit through BBEDC's permit loan program. I submitted proposals 29 and 48.

I support the amendments that the Togiak AC took on proposal 29 that would no longer restrict the sport fishery until the commercial catch in the Togiak River section has harvested 2000 king salmon. Instead, I support changing the bag and possession limit of kings under 20 inches to 10 king salmon, and closing the waters above the mouth of the Gechiak River to sport fishing for kings.

In the past, the Togiak AC supported creating a commercial king salmon boundary line to preserve the king salmon run. As of now, it seems like the commercial fishermen are the only ones that have taken conservation measures while the sport fishery continues to fish near the spawning grounds. Therefore, I hope you consider supporting proposal 29 as amended.

As for proposal 48, I urge you to consider moving the date back when fishermen can reregister to the Togiak district from July 27 to August 4. The Togiak salmon run has been running later than usual, which has created an economic hardship on the local small boat fishery. The original intent of establishing a later transfer date was to help ensure that the Togiak district fishery is economically viable to Togiak's residents and their fleet of smaller vessels. Therefore, I support moving the transfer date back to August 4. Attached is page 42 of the Northern Economics report, showing that the majority of Togiak and Twin Hills residents operate smaller than 32' boats.

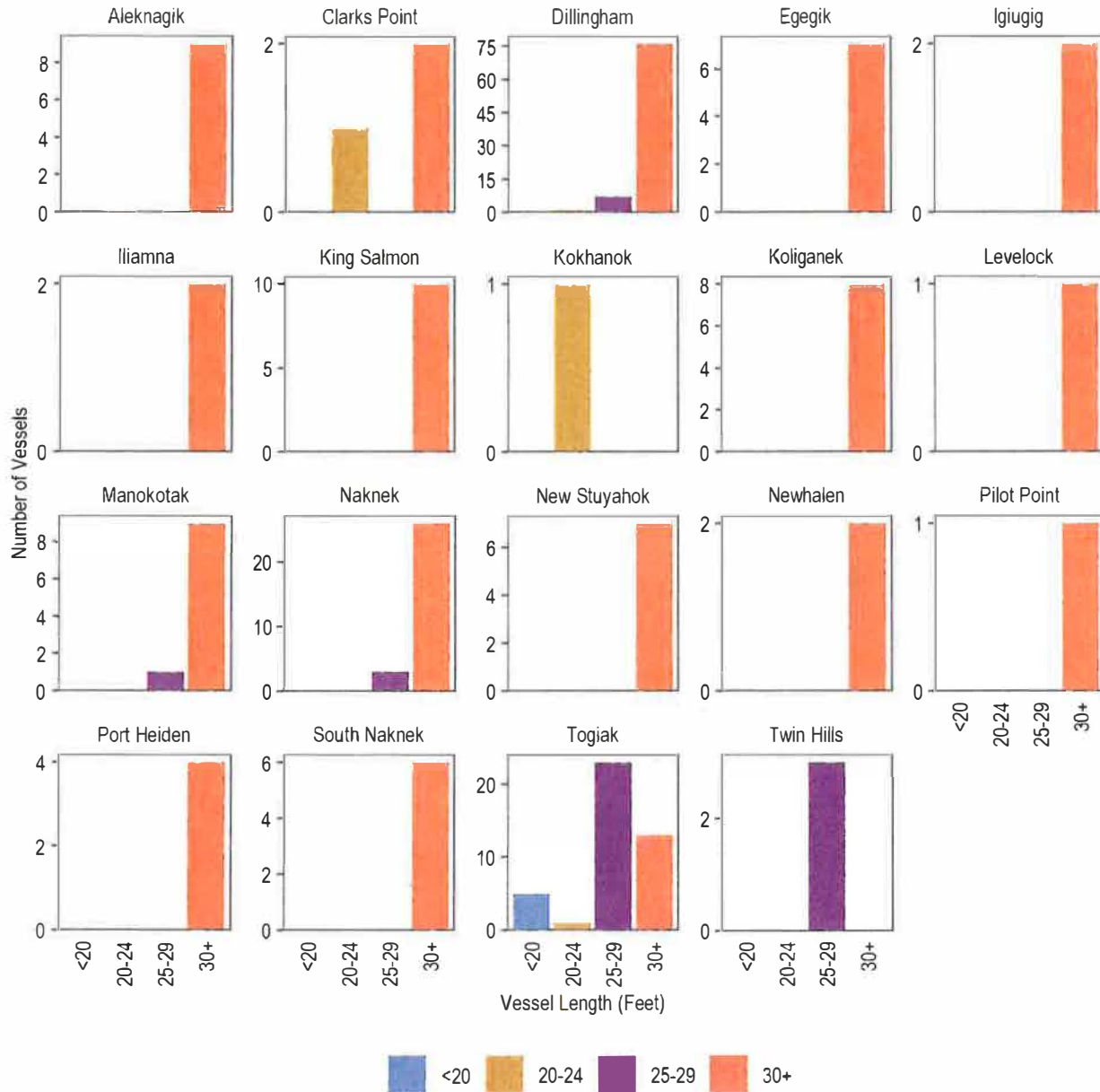
Also, I oppose proposals 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, and 54 to reestablish a general district. The Togiak salmon run is historically small, and I am concerned of fishermen intercepting Togiak bound fish while we are waiting for the peak of our salmon run.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

  
Jimmy Coopchiak

or 25–29-foot ranges. Of note are Togiak owners, where 23 of 42 vessels are between 25 and 29 feet and five vessels are under 20 feet (Figure 18).

Figure 28. Distribution of Vessel Lengths Owned by Bristol Bay Residents, by Community, 2021



Source: CFEC (2021)