

PROPOSAL 76

5 AAC 06.333. Requirements and specifications for use of 200 fathoms of drift gillnet in Bristol Bay.

Allow permit stacking in the Bristol Bay commercial salmon drift gillnet fishery, as follows:

Amend language and add to the existing regulation; 5 AAC 06.333. Requirements and specifications for use of 200 fathoms of drift gillnet in Bristol Bay. Allow permit stacking in the Bristol Bay commercial salmon drift gillnet fishery, as follows: Allow a Bristol Bay Drift fisherman who owns two Bristol Bay Drift permits to fish from the same vessel and operate 200 fathoms of driftnet.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Current regulation allows Two Bristol Bay drift gillnet CFEC permit holders to concurrently fish from the same vessel and jointly operate up to 200 fathoms of drift gillnet gear under this section, except (1) in the Togiak District; (2) in a special harvest area. This regulation is the product of negative economic impacts on our salmon fishery experienced in the early to mid 2000's, during this economic downturn a special State of Alaska fisheries task force was created to look at ways to make the fishery more economically feasible, following legislation allowed one individual to own two permits aimed at reducing the number of participants in the fishery and making it economically sustainable to operate through the up and down economic cycles of the Bristol Bay salmon market.

Most recently the Bristol Bay Salmon fishery has experienced another economic downturn that has had negative impacts on the entire fleet of Bristol Bay Drift fishermen. This negative economic downturn has Bristol Bay Drift fishermen looking for alternatives to be economically sustainable in cyclical seafood environment.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This proposal was put together and has broad support among the Bristol Bay Drift fleet.

PROPOSED BY: Abe Williams

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