

Alaska Board of Fisheries
Bristol Bay Finfish 2015

Jonathan Larson
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Nushagak Drift Fisherman

Chairman Kluberton and Members of the Board:

I am from Dillingham, AK. I am a lifelong drift fisherman and vessel owner.

I am in **Support of Proposal 64** on average fishing a few hours of the flood is more effective than fishing the whole ebb. Fishing the flood gives fisherman more options, if you ask any drift fisherman they would most likely prefer to fish the flood.

Proposals 51, 52, 53 - Opposed I believe that allowing one individual to own and operate two drift permits will make it harder for watershed residents to buy into the fishery. Particularly myself as I am not currently a permit holder. I believe this proposal will only benefit fishermen with capital. Most watershed residents do not have this type of capital available to them. History shows that allowing one individual to own and operate two permits raises the value of the permits in general. The majority of local fisherman have a hard time buying one permit, it is not economical to buy two permits when you cannot afford one. Even with the help of BBEDC the region does not have the capital to compete with outside fisherman. Getting a job in Bristol Bay is hard and finding a lender to buy a permit without one is incredibly difficult. Fishermen outside of Bristol Bay have a better opportunity to get a job which in turns improves their chances at receiving a loan. There are two banks in Bristol Bay that fishers can access to receive a loan. Fisherman outside of the Bay have so many more banking options that as long as they have a decent job they are more likely to be approved for a loan. Specifically in regards to Proposal 53 I believe that we should not allow dual permits to use 300 fathoms. Allowing this would benefit more outside fisherman than local fisherman, using more gear requires more capital. Allowing dual permits to operate 300 fathoms will make it very hard for single permit holders to get good fishing access and opportunity, especially on the line. When you get corked off currently with just 200 fathoms your set is over, getting corked off by 300 fathoms would leave single permit holders no chance.