

Bart Meyer
 210 Shotgun Alley
 Sitka, AK. 99835

12-2-2015 Public Comment:

Summary:

Support Proposals 45, 46, 48: allowing dual set net permits.

Oppose proposals that expand fishing districts.

Support Proposal 54 regarding in season reduction of interception of Kvichak stocks.

Oppose Proposal 221: requiring tenders to anchor 1,500 ft from set net

Discussion:

Thank you Chairman and members of the Board.

My name is Bart Meyer. I am a life long Alaska resident. I have set net in the Kvichak Section of the Naknek/Kvichak District for 38 years and halibut and shrimp fish in Sitka. I have been a long time member of the Kvichak Setnetters Association Board.

I support Proposal #45 allowing dual ownership of set net permits for two reasons.

As a long term family operation, I believe it is reasonable that I should be able to transfer my permit to one of my sons who also hold their own set net permits. Originally, I owned one permit and two sites. My sons both fished with me as crew. Over the years we have experienced repeated buyer daily limits, due to collapse of the Kvichak returns we fished the Naknek River Special Harvest Area, and we have faced increasing operating expenses that have required us to invest in additional permits and sites. When I can no longer fish, my sons will need my permit and site to keep our operation economically viable.

The following approximates our finances:

\$ 50,000	50,000 # per permit @ \$1.00 per #
(10,000)	Crew share and operating costs
(6,000)	Self employment tax @ 15.3%
(8,000)	Income tax @ 20%

\$ 26,000 Net cash for living and capital investing in the fisheries

This estimate assumes a fairly good pounds year. And the price in 2015 so far is half of this estimate.

I oppose #221 requiring tenders to anchor no less than 1,500 feet from set nets. This absolutely would not work for the Kvichak. Deep water for our tenders is close to our beach and this proposal would move the tenders to dangerous waters for skiff delivering.

I oppose proposals expanding fishing districts. My concern is there would be an increase in interception of Kvichak stocks in districts that are not included in the Kvichak set/drift harvest allocation. I also oppose proposals that would loosen vessel registration rules for the same reason.

I support the intent of proposal #54. The significant drift interception of Kvichak stocks is not included in the BOF approved Naknek/Kvichak harvest allocation. The expansion of drifter fishing effort in Egegik District in recent years has resulted in an increasing harvest of Kvichak bound fish to the harm of the Kvichak terminal harvesters – both set net and drift. Tools are now available to reduce interception through in-season genetic sampling.