

2015 Alaska Board of Fisheries**Bristol Bay Meeting****Ronald R Tavis testimony opposing Proposals 22-24**

Mr. Chairman and members of the board, my name is Ron Tavis, I am a member of Concerned Area M Fishermen and also serve on its' board. I have fished Area M since 1987 and owned and operated my drift operation since 1995.

I am here today to state my opposition to proposals 22, 23 and 24. I have attended and provided testimony at the Alaska Peninsula meetings since I first became a permit holder. This is the first time I am compelled to give testimony concerning my area in another area's meeting. The time and expense to travel here to listen and take part in the unwarranted and ongoing attempt to curtail our fishery and again at the Alaska Peninsula meeting is getting very tiresome.

There are some new faces but for the most part the same individuals that have stated their goal to "Shut down Area M" are here and will be at the Alaska Peninsula meeting. I ask "To what purpose"? The North Peninsula fishery is small, orderly and well managed with minimal impact on harvest rates to any system in Bristol Bay. There are no conservation concerns and escapement and harvests continue to flourish.

The North Peninsula is a historic fishery with strong local ties and adds needed economic input. Pre Limited Entry, the 1966 ADF&G regulation book described the Alaska Peninsula area in Regulation 105.02 as "All waters of Alaska from Cape Menshikof to Unimak Pass, thence easterly to Kupreanof Point"—the same as current regulations. By regulation Area T fishers may fish the shoulder season for Chinook and Coho in the overlap area. But why does hardly anyone prosecute this fishery? There is better fishing elsewhere.

I hope the board can see what I truly believe this decade's long argument is about---"a misguided attempt to shut down Area M by the same individuals (or by proxy), to gain virtually nothing for their fishery but only for their ego.

Mr. Chair and members of the board, "Fish have Tails". No matter where they are caught—they are the State of Alaska's' resource. Sockeye salmon leave Bristol Bay the size of your thumb—with zero market value. They return from waters to the west, including waters of the Alaska Peninsula, at maturity with full market value. As long as there is minimal impact to an adjacent area I believe it would set bad precedent to re-do area boundaries on well-defined historical areas for what is tantamount to a land grab.

Thank you, Ronald R Tavis