

12/2/15

RC 046

Thomas Tilden

Dillingham, AK

Good morning Mr. Chairman, Board of Fish and staff. My name is Thomas Tilden, I am a commercial fisherman and have been commercial fishing since 1965. I have fished as a crew member on both set net and drift fisheries operations. I have also fished in both fisheries as an owner of permits in both. I no longer set net fish and only drift now. I am heavily invested in the fishery by not only owning my own permit but my own boat, that I designed and had built in Hungry Harbor in the Columbia River. My sons, daughters, and grandchildren have been my crewmembers. I have my son and two grandchildren who fish with me now. They all want to be fisherman. I have fished not only salmon with my boat but have seined and gillnetted herring. I have also fished halibut with long lines. My comments are gonna focus on two issues. #1. Permit Stacking, #2. 48-hour transfer. But before I talk to these I would like to express proposals I support and those I don't.

I support proposals 22, 23, 24, 30, 41, 44, 56, 63, 64, 67, 69, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 77, 78, 79, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89. I don't support proposals 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 220, 221, 34, 42, 43, 45, 46, 47, 48, 51, 52, 54, 55, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 65, 219, 68, 70 and 90.

Regarding permit stacking, I oppose any kind of permit stacking. When you read CFEC report No. 12-02-N it shows that local Bristol Bay Fisherman are at a disadvantage in stacking permits. In 2010 only 9 permits were stacked by Bristol Bay local fisherman and in 2011 only 12 and in 2012 only 13. Now you look at non-local in 2010 were 27, in 2011 there was 39, and in 2012 there were 42. When you look at non-residents in 2010, 19 and in 2011, 44 and 2012, 50. So when you look at these numbers Bristol Bay residents are at a huge disadvantage. When the east side districts were pulled in to build up the Kvichak river, permit stacking was not allowed in the east side districts. So they all came to the Nushagak district to fish. Every once in a while fishing boats tangle, because those with dual permits tow at a slower rate than boats with only 3 nets.

It's no wonder that outside fishermen can afford to buy an extra permit. Just look in the yellow pages at the number of banks available to outside fishermen in Seattle. Pages and pages of banks are available to outside fishermen. Now look in Anchorage yellow pages. There are just a couple pages of banks available for Alaska fishermen. Another advantage they have is that all the major buyers are located within the Seattle area.

I am not in favor of any permit stacking or any proposal that will make Bristol Bay Residents at a disadvantage in their fishery.

I would like to now address transfer waiting time. I believe that this has always been a great management tool for ADF&G. It is also good for processors and fishermen. As a fisherman it takes a very serious situation to occur for me to transfer out of the Nushagak District. Nowadays with cell phones, I know what other fishermen are doing in other districts instantly. Let's keep in place the 48 hour transfer so that ADF&G knows how much gear is in the water for each district. So that processors know where their fleet is and fishermen know who all is fishing in the district that they are transferring to.

In conclusion, let's eliminate the stacking of permits and give all fishermen equal footing on the fishing grounds and let's keep the 48 hour transfer time.