

RC 51

Boards Support Section  
Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
P.O. Box 115526  
Juneau, AK 99811

November 10, 2015

**Subject:** BOF Comments - Kvichak Setnetters' Association

**Dear Board Member:**

The Kvichak Setnetters' Association (KSA) is comprised of 100+ members who fish sites in the Kvichak sub-district of the Naknek/Kvichak district. Our mission is to provide a unified voice of our members, especially at Board of Fisheries meetings. We work to ensure that set net fishers in the Kvichak section are given fair access to sockeye bound for the Kvichak River. Due to the nature of our district and our location at the end of Bristol Bay, we have unique needs and perspectives on the effective management of our salmon.

Our specific comments on the proposals before you are listed in the table below for your convenience. Please consider our opinions as you form the rules and regulations that govern our fishery.

Proposal	KSA Opinion	Comments/Notes
25, 26	Oppose	Creates additional interception of Kvichak stocks before fish enter Kvichak Section. Late season fish are also important for escapement, both in numbers and spreading out the run.
27, 28	Oppose	Current regulations are adequate.
29	Support	Provides flexibility in operation of legal gear within existing areas of operation. Extreme current often makes a connected 50 fathom net very tight and dangerous, with or without a running line. This proposal would improve safety, quality, and the setnetter's ability to manage gear.
45, 46, 48	Support	KSA supports these proposals regarding permit stacking for setnetters. We approve these proposals as amended. With prices down and processor limits becoming the norm, a single set net permit does not provide sufficient return on investment. It also helps keep family operations together.
47	Oppose	Support permit stacking but not under those restrictions. Sites and permits are planned and often operated as single entities. If a family operation with 4 sites is owned, the stacked permit would be insufficient to fish all available sites.
49	Oppose	75 fathom on a single site would create problems of adequate separation from neighboring sites due to flagging and bowing of net. Could create potential "corking" of neighbors.

50	<b>Support</b>	We support this proposal as amended "Allow set gillnet dual permit stacking in 'all Districts of Bristol Bay'."
53	<b>Oppose</b>	Increases potential of conflict with set gillnet anchors and nets due to inability to control drift net. Also, could adversely affect fish movement to shore.
54	<b>Support</b>	Please consider WASSIP report. Create a better management plan to ensure that different river systems have equal opportunity to catch the fish bound for their system. For example, if Kvichak River fish are being harvested in Egegik, but Kvichak fishers are not catching Egegik fish, then take steps to pull the Egegik line in with more frequency when significant pushes of Kvichak fish are moving into the district.
58	<b>Oppose</b>	Expansion of the Naknek Section would reduce flow of fish into the Kvichak Section.
221	<b>Oppose</b>	In many areas of the Kvichak District, sand bars prevent tenders from anchoring further out than they currently are. A 1,500 foot minimum would prevent tenders from buying fish in much of the upper Kvichak District.

Thank you for your time, and the consideration of our comments.

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Kvichak Setnetters' Association  
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