

PC 75

TO: Alaska Board of Fisheries
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

FROM: Mindy Heyano

November 30, 2015

Dear Alaska Board of Fisheries,

I am a Bristol Bay resident and a drift gillnet permit holder that OPPOSES all the proposals to allow permit stacking for both setnet and drift gillnet operations.

I am currently a student attending college full time in Washington State. I am able to attend a university outside the state of Alaska with the help of scholarships from local organizations, loans, and being a full time commercial fishermen in the summer. Commercial fishing is my sole income and gives me the opportunity to seek higher education outside the state of Alaska.

Through the Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation Permit Loan Program, I qualified and was able to purchase my own drift fishing permit. Owning a fishing permit through this program is a great investment for my future in the fishing industry. This program gave me the opportunity to earn an income in the drift fishing industry. It allows me to fish on a drift boat with dual permits, which should give me a chance to save some money to purchase a boat in the future.

I strongly feel permit stacking will benefit the wealthy and disrupt the majority of local residents that do not have the financial access to purchase an additional permit. If permit stacking is allowed – it is more than likely that the majority of permits will be purchased by non-residents and non-locals – which was highlighted in the CFEC Report No. 12-02-N. I am concerned about the outward migration of permits leaving the Bristol Bay Region, and the ability of our residents to actively compete against those with the bigger boat operations. As the permits get purchased by non-residents, it will reduce the amount of permits available on the market, which will increase the barrier for local residents to enter the fishery.

Please do not allow permit stacking within the Bristol Bay Salmon Fishery. It may setup an exclusive fishery for the rich and disrupt not only me and my education, income, and permit loan program, but local families and communities that also depend on our fishing for a living.

Thank you for your time.
Sincerely,



Mindy Heyano