

The proposal for the driftnet fishers to stack permits in the Egegik district is unacceptable for a number of reasons and their fishing gear should be cut back to one hundred twenty five fathoms.

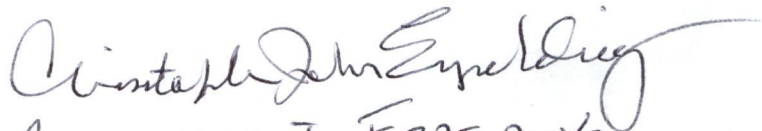
First, permit stacking allows the fishers to increase their quantity of salmon and thereby put more fish in the boat. This makes many of us upset. Why? Heavy brailer bags decrease the quality of the salmon that is delivered to the tenders. The crews on the tenders become very upset because a grade A salmon becomes a grade D salmon by the time it is delivered.

Second, the grade D salmon affects the overall price of the salmon. An extra ten cents a pound for one hundred thousand pounds of fish is ten thousand dollars.

Third, the good fishing locations are only located in a few locations throughout the district. If the capacity of a good fishing area is two hundred boats with one hundred fifty fathoms of gear, then the same area will only hold one hundred boats with three hundred fathoms of gear.

In the 2015 season, the setnet fishers were allowed to fish nearly every day of the season. The crew that I fished on had six permits and our best tide was four bags. To be fair this type of management should be applied to the driftnet fishers, too. Instead of four hour openers, the driftnet fishers should only be allowed two hour openers. We all have bills to pay, so why should the driftnet fishers be allowed to hog all the salmon.

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CHRISTOPHER J. ERPEDING