

Date: 12/03/15
To: Board of Fisheries Members
From: Joe Chythlook
Re: Proposals 51 & 52

RC 095

Hello Members of the Board:

MY name as mentioned above is Joe Chythlook. I'm one of the life long residents and subsistence user from Bristol Bay. I've also been involved with the Bristol Bay commercial salmon fishery for 60 years. I have owned and operated my own drift net fishery for 53 years. Among other things I did in life, I retired from service to the people of Alaska as a Regional Regulatory Program Assistant for the Boards Support Section of ADF&G after 21 seasons in 2009. I have also served as a Nushagak F & G AC members prior to that and have just recently been elected to serve again. Currently I serve on the Bristol Bay Native Corporation Board as Chairman.

Today, I just wanted to make my own personal comments on a couple of proposals that are before you to consider and act on at this meeting. As a past and current participant in the process, I have seen many good proposals passed by past Board members. I have also seen some that were, in my opinion, not so good for the fishery. I have philosophically been opposed to the idea of allowing more than one CFEC permit to be allowed used on a single vessel. However, I was not completely against the original idea of allowing two permits under what I believed to be an honorable intent of the original passed regulation. But since then, I have seen what I believe to be different use of what it was originally intended to be use for. That was for someone to get on with someone who had a boat that was willing to take on another permit holder who could not fish his own vessel because of mechanical or other emergencies incurred during a particular season. The secondary intent was also to lesson the number of nets employed during the particular season. However, my observation has proved to that some fisherman have taken advantage of the system and have made it so they can own two permits and have utilized family members to fish with them on the same vessel. Therefore, this has made it harder for people who actually need to utilize this regulation to find a boat owner that they could benefit the most for the use of their permit as a second permit holder.

And now, some of these same permit holders who already own two permits want to make it easier for them to acquire more permits and fish both permits so they can expand their own share of the catch from the fishery that many of us who have not been able to have the opportunity to acquire for various reasons which include the lower price of fish in the last decade or so. And what proposals 51 & 52 are trying to allow, if passed, is to make it easier for the fishermen who have already taken advantage of the system to be able to have more capital to expand their ability to catch more fish to make this already fully capitalized fishery harder for others who want to get into or remain in business.

Therefore, as you have already heard from many in the last couple of days, my request is that you do not action to make it harder for local watershed residents who are already struggling to remain in the fishery. Thank you.

