

R C 099

Chris Cameron Bristol Bay fisherman 34 years

Permit stacking and two permit ownership will become the demise of the Bristol Bay limited entry system, totally going against the reasoning behind establishing it.

The limited entry system was put in place to protect the individual fisherman from corporate ownership and to promote the resource to benefit the greatest amount of participants.

The arguments in favor of permit stacking have never really been followed or accomplished. The idea was to allow persons with permits to combine with each other to lower costs and become more efficient, what happened is that some bought permits, put them in others names and consolidated ownership. Now they are at a crossroads in who they can transfer permits to and how to lease them out and get away with gaming the system of permit leasing which was never limited entries idea.

The argument has also been that it reduces the amount of net in the water but we will see that individuals already are arguing for more net for two permits or less net for single permits. If net reduction is the goal we can just limit the amount of net per boat with one permit. If we look at though's promoting this idea one must ask, who is to benefit? The fishery as a whole or a group of fisherman to better their own situation at the cost of others. When fishing in bristol bay and one boat lays out more net in front of you than you have it become a distinct disadvantage.

We need more fisherman not less, we need more participation from local people, not less. This law has serious consequence for the future of the fishery. Bristol Bay and the limited entry system has worked for years, I ask that please you leave it how it was and go back to one permit, one boat, the original system. The people pushing this have there own self interest in mind and not the future of the fishery.

