

PROPOSAL 50 – 5 AAC 06.331. Gillnet specifications and operations. Allow permit stacking for set gillnet operations in the Egegik District, as follows:

Allow set gillnet dual permit stacking in the Egegik District of Bristol Bay. Allow other districts to opt into the dual permit program if the set gillnet stakeholders in each district choose to.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The issue is setnet permit stacking in Bristol Bay. We had setnet permit stacking for three years before the Board of Fisheries took it away. The program worked like it was supposed to. There were no problems. We had over 82% positive comments at the last board cycle for Bristol Bay. It was a sound program that allowed setnet fishers to not have to transfer between family members all the time. It added some stability to many setnet families allowing some flexibility in what family member could be present. It allowed a family member to take a summer off to go to special training that they couldn't get any other time than fishing season. Permit stacking also allowed a person to grow their fishing operation. Many young people are not looking at setnet fishing as a future because the upside is not there. By being limited to one permit they can see most single setnet operation just break even. Most all of the dual permit holders were family groups. Those permits were transferred back to family members not sold, nothing changed. Setnet permit prices didn't change by repealing dual permit program the board made it more difficult to juggle permits with in the family. Setnet permit stacking helped keep fishing families together. This program helped Alaska families

PROPOSED BY: Kim Rice

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