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# Individual Permit Stacking for Bristol Bay Drift Gillnet? Proposal #25/26

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- The following slides are intended to support the case for one individual owning two permits and fishing them from one vessel.
- The information will demonstrate how Proposal #25/26 will benefit all fisherman/fisherwoman in the Bristol Bay region, including sport fishers and set netters.

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## A History of Regulatory Events Related to Permit Stacking.

1. 2004- Board of fish adopted permit stacking in Bristol Bay. This allowed two separate limited entry permit holders to fish 200 fathoms of gear on one vessel.
2. 2002 - Alaska Legislature allowed two limited entry permits to be owned in one name in one salmon net registration area. HB 286
3. 2017 - Board of Fish allowed Individual Permit Stacking in Cook Inlet.

Submitted by  
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(slide 4)

## What does Individual Permit Stacking mean?

- The ability for one person to own 2 permits and fish them from one vessel with 200 fathoms of gear is what individual permit stacking means.
- Currently, 1 permit on one vessel can fish 150 fathoms of drift gillnet.
- Currently, 2 permits owned by different individuals on one vessel can fish 200 fathoms of gillnet.

(slide 5)

## Benefits of Individual Permit Stacking

1. Gives the fishery another option to remove drift gillnet gear from the watershed.

- 1 permit = 150 fathoms of fishable gillnet gear
- 2 permits registered to separate vessels = 300 fathoms of gillnet being fished
- 2 permits registered to the same vessel = 200 fathoms of gillnet being fished (D vessel)
- \*Each registered D vessel removes 100 fathoms of gillnet gear from the Bristol Bay fishing waters. 100 fathoms = 600 feet, 10 new D boats equates to over 1 mile of gillnet gear removed from the fishery.

(slide 6)

## 2. Provides Economic Stability and Benefits to both Single and Dual Permit Operations.

- According to CFEC numbers an average of **1793** individual boats fished in the 15 years prior to dual permits being allowed to be fished on one boat. In 2017, 14 years after the regulation was adopted to allow two permits to fish on one boat, **357** boats (Karen Brito, ADF&G Dillingham) fished with dual permits in Bristol Bay. This reduced the fleet by 357 boats and removed 40.57 miles of drift gillnet gear from the water because of permit stacking.
- Review: 40.57 miles of gillnet gear have been removed due to permit stacking, that number cannot be ignored. Individual permit stacking will strengthen that initiative.

(slide 7)

## 3. Increased profitability for all vessels.

- Less gear in the water equates to larger possible catch volumes per fishing vessel and increased average revenue per vessel.
- Lowers the risk of failed financial seasons on low volume years.

(slide 8)

## 4. Increased vessel reduction to help obtain optimum vessel numbers as described in the Bristol Bay Salmon Drift Gillnet Optimum Number Report.

- Adoption of Proposal #25/26 will likely result in an increase in the number of boats fishing in a dual permit configuration further reducing the total number of boats closer to the Optimum number, 900-1200 vessels, recommended in the executive summary of the CFEC 2005 Optimum Number Report (CFEC Report 15-4N, page 17)

•([https://www.cfec.state.ak.us/RESEARCH/salmon/XSUM\\_10\\_21\\_04.pdf](https://www.cfec.state.ak.us/RESEARCH/salmon/XSUM_10_21_04.pdf))

(slide 9)

## 5. Higher permit retention rates for watershed residents and less permits transferred to Non-residents.

- Watershed permits lost to transfer has decreased since the introduction of D vessels in 2004.
- Transfer of permits to non-residents has decreased since 2004.
- (Data numbers for permit transfer are available in an associated presentation.)

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## 6. Opportunity for increased product quality.

- Less fishing vessels increase opportunity and availability for improved chilling capabilities and upgrades within the fleet.
- Ex vessel price per lb. should increase throughout the fleet with a higher percentage of the fleet concentrating on quality.

(slide 11)

## 7. Less aggressive fishing practices on boundary lines.

- Decreased vessel traffic on fishing lines leads to reduced on-water conflicts, vessel collisions, enforcement issues and cost, and fishery stress.
- This would lead to more fishing options for the less aggressive fisherman/fisherwoman.

(slide 12)

## 8. Increased king salmon escapement.

- Removing miles of more fishing gear from the waters of Bristol Bay will help increase king salmon spawning numbers and will help the conservation of that species in the Bristol Bay watershed.
- Sport fishing groups in the lakes and rivers of the Bristol Bay watershed will see improved fishing opportunities.
- In 2017 Bristol Bay Salmon season, 357 vessels fished in dual permit configuration, that resulted in 40.57 miles less gear fishing in the water.

(slide 13)

## 9. The fleet in general is interested in reducing vessels.

- In 2013, 81% of the Bristol Bay salmon drift permit holders who responded to a survey sent out by the Bristol Bay Regional Seafood Development Association (BBRSDA) said they would like to learn more about a potential buyback of Bristol Bay drift permits. Such a buyback would reduce the number of drift gillnet permits allowed to participate in the Bristol Bay salmon fishery.
- Allowing one individual to own and fish two permits would help reduce the fleet and would avoid the need for a federal or state buy-back program and the taxes associated with those programs.

(slide 14)

## 10. 2018 Survey of Bristol Bay Permit Holders.

- Dittman Research out of Anchorage conducted a survey/poll of all Bristol Bay Drift Permit Holders to get accurate data on the fleets position on Individual Permit Stacking.
- Data from this survey will be submitted to the Board of Fish when the survey/poll is completed and the data is calculated.
- Scope and application of the survey/poll administered by Dittman Research will be presented to the Board of Fish.

(slide 15)

Conclusion: The option for individuals to own and fish two permits from one vessel will benefit the entire Bristol Bay Watershed, not just the drift gillnetters.

- Set netters will benefit if there is less drift gear in the water.
- Sport fishing groups will benefit by higher potential escapement rates for Bristol Bay king salmon due to reduced gillnet gear in Bristol Bay.
- All drift gillnet fishermen and fisherwomen will benefit by the removal of fishing gear from the Bristol Bay waters.

(slide 16)

Cook Inlet adopted Individual Permit Stacking and years later that decision is still appropriate.

- Cook Inlet drift gillnetters have been allowed to own and fish two permits from one vessel, and now is the time to allow Bristol Bay drift gillnetters to have the same opportunity to improve the fishery.

(slide 17)

# Alaska Board of Fish. The time is now.

The fleet is in favor of this.

The biology of the watershed will not be compromised.

The watershed's ability to retain permits will be enhanced.

The fishery will be improved.

Vote YES and pass Individual Permit Stacking.

Proposal #25/26 is a positive measure for Bristol Bay.