

RE: Proposal #33

Reid C. Ten Kley

RC 66

Members of the Board,

Attached please find a sketch of what a weir might look like for use in proposal 33. Some public comments have said that this idea is a trap and traps are not allowed by the State Constitution. I have heard that comment all my life growing up fishing in Bristol Bay.

What the Constitution was protecting against were corporate owned fish traps which gave processors easy access to the resource without benefit to fishermen.

Since this proposal requires limited entry permit holders to work together in order to try this weir approach it protects against the historical resistance to fish wheels or traps.

Any gillnet is a trap I suppose you could say. This weir is just another net, but with mesh too small to catch the fish and instead it directs the fish to a cod-end or floating brailer bag. It preserves the quality of our salmon, and allow for the release of kings.

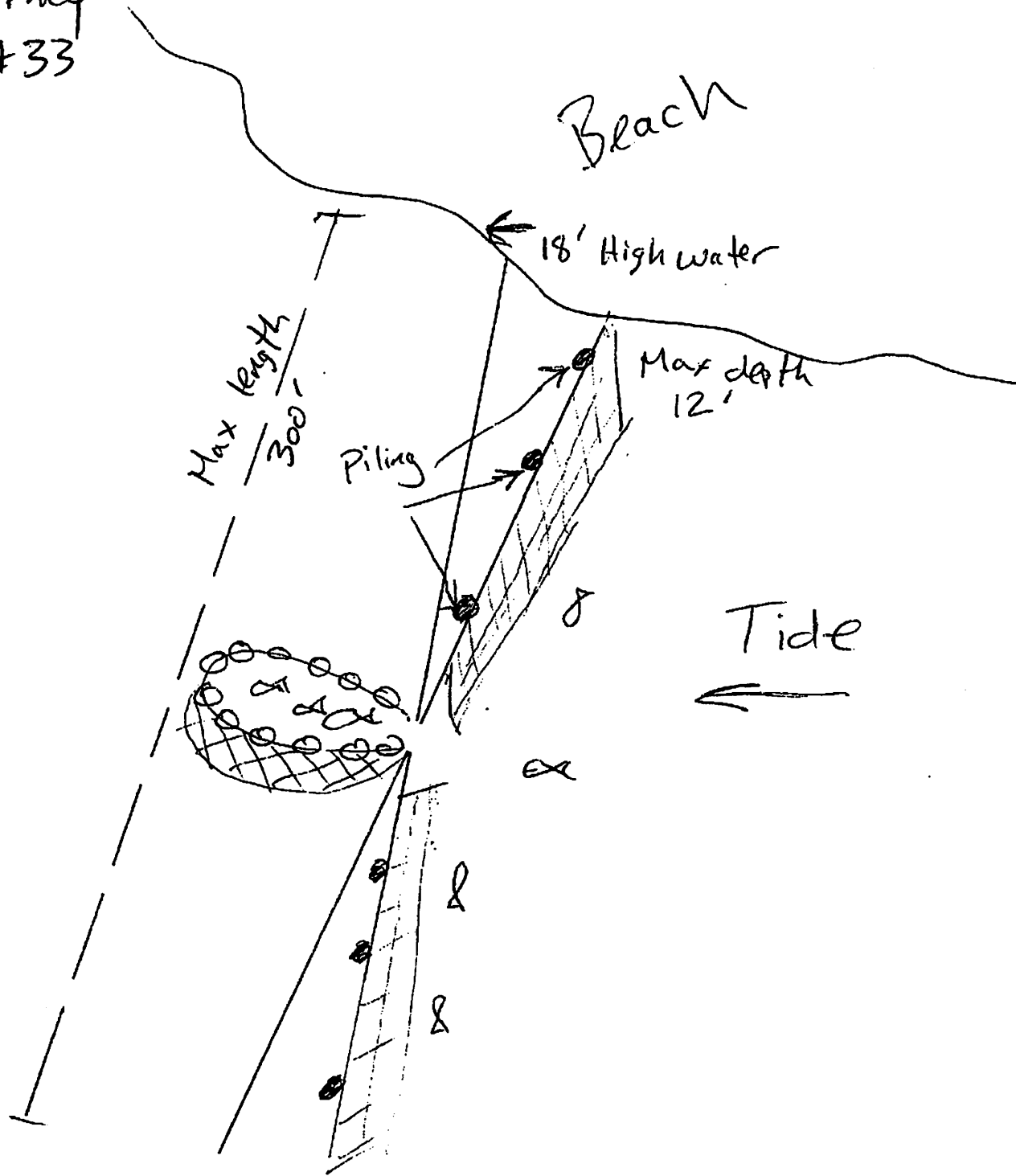
Some have said that allowing this on the basis of quality would demean the gillnet caught fish. This is proposed as a test. Let the markets decide. If other gillnet fishermen like that method then they can keep at it. I have been direct marketing Bristol Bay salmon for 14 years and I'm on a quest to produce the best fish possible, and a gaping sockeye fillet is so far the best we can offer. Ask Norm VanVactor or Vojtech from the audience how they feel when they see a gaping #1 sockeye fillet at the grocery store next to an Atlantic Sapphire farmed fillet. It is a tough yardstick we are being compared against.

My father-in-law and grandfather started fishing in the 1940's in Bristol Bay. A lot has changed since then- tenders, boats, processing equipment, and the end product. However our harvest gear is essential the same.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Reid

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600' max distance from shore for seaward end is 600' from the 18' high water mark