

PROPOSAL 33 – 5 AAC 06.370. Registration and reregistration. Change the area registration date requirement for the Bristol Bay commercial salmon fishery, as follows:

5 AAC 06.370 is amended to read:

(a) All Bristol Bay permit holders must declare what district they wish to fish in on or before the third Friday of June of every year, which will then require permit holders to adhere to the present 48 hour wait time for transferring to another district.

(b) For the permit holders who wish to not fish until a later date can do so, but when they do wish to fish, must declare which district they wish to fish in.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Current law allows Bristol Bay drift permit holder to fish in any district without what declaring what district they wish to fish until June 25 +/- a day. Currently, fish biologists are unable to accurately manage given districts run strengths based on the ever change fleet strength. Secondly, canneries are struggling with adapting to the ever changing fleet jumping from one district to another without any wait time. Third, the catch quota between the setnet and drift fleet is skewed so greatly at the beginning of the season, which leads to unneeded challenges during heavy fishing periods. Fourth, it has become apparent vessels are catching fish in one district and then running to another district, fishing then selling their catch from more than one district at one time. This provides issues with run strength from one district to another. Finally, the river drainages for the various districts are seeing their front end of the escapement numbers are being reduced due to the current law.

PROPOSED BY: Chad Sorenson

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