

PROPOSAL 47 – 5 AAC 06.331. Gillnet specifications and operations. Allow permit stacking for set gillnet operations and up to one and one-half the current legal limit of gear for one permit to be operated when permit stacking, as follows:

Bristol Bay set net permit holders would be able to hold and actively operate two setnet permits at the same time. However, the total aggregate of gear in the water (fishing) would be equal to 1–1/2 times the legal limit of gear for a single permit in the area fished. (i.e.; if the legal about of gear is 50 fathoms, then the dual permit holder would be able to operate 75 fathoms.)

Reasoning is that this may enable and encourage a non-transferable permit holder to obtain another permit as a hedge against potential future loss of the income source for his/her family and also allow them to hold the family fishing site. By limiting gear, the extra permit may not be enough incentive to encourage others to buy in to the fishery.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The issue this proposal would address is the continuing migration of Bristol Bay set net permits away from Alaskan residents and local Bristol Bay residents in particular. Presently there are about 100 non-transferable Bristol Bay set gillnet permits on the books. At one time there were 155. All but 18 of these permits were issued to Alaska residents, the vast majority of whom resided in Bristol Bay. When the holder of a non-transferable permit dies, his permit is gone— no longer available to the family. Most of these permit holders have no other permit in the family.

The following proposal would help Alaska residents make their set gillnet operations more viable. Presently, entry permit holders may hold two entry permits for the same fishery, but they may only actively fish one of them. (In the Bristol Bay set gillnet fishery) This proposal, while potentially affecting all of Bristol Bay set gillnet permit holders, is designed to specifically protect the non-transferable permit holder and their families.

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