

PROPOSAL 57

5 AAC 24.XXX. New Section.

Allow dual permit operations in the Prince William sound commercial drift gillnet salmon fishery, as follows:

5.AAC.24.3XX Requirements and specifications for use of 200 Fathoms of Drift Gillnet gear in Area E

(a) Two Area E CFEC Drift Gillnet permit holders may concurrently fish from the same vessel and jointly operate up to 200 fathoms of drift gillnet gear, and a person holding two Area E CFEC Drift Gillnet permits may operate up to 200 fathoms of drift gillnet gear, under this section. (b) When two Area E CFEC Drift Gillnet permit holders fish from the same vessel and jointly operate additional drift gillnet gear, and when a person holding two Area E CFEC Drift Gillnet permits operates additional drift gillnet gear, the vessel must display its ADF&G premanent license plate number followed by the letter "D" to identify the vessel as a dual permit vessel. The letter "D" must be removed or covered when the vessel is operating with only one Area E CFEC Drift Gillnet permit on board the vessel. The permanent license plate numbers and letters must be displayed in letters and numerals 12 inches high and at least one inch wide.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Allow two Area E Drift Gillnet CFEC permit holders to concurrently fish from the same vessel and jointly operate up to 200 fathoms of drift gillnet gear, and a person holding two Area E Drift Gillnet CFEC permits may operate up to 200 fathoms of drift gillnet gear under this new section. Often referred to as Permit Stacking.

This would be a fleet funded buyback program that would eliminate gear from the water, and would reduce boats in a now overcrowded fishery. For every nine boats that would stack permits it would be over a mile of gear out of the water. This would help with the up river escapement of Chinook and Sockeye on the Copper River, and would open up more fishing opportunity for those participating in the fishery.

This proposal would also help in reducing conflicts between sport and commercial fishers in the Sound. With the increased number of Sport and Charter operators in the Sound, there have been an increased number of gear entanglements, and navigational issues. Less boats would mean less interactions.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. I have noted and experienced the succes of the Duel permit system in other fisheries in Alaska. I have also discussed this proposal with other members of the Area E Drift fleet.

PROPOSED BY: Fred Marinkovich

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