

Peter Angasan Testimony
Bristol Bay Drift Fisherman

Thank you Madam Chair and members of the Board. My name is Peter Angasan, I'm a local Bristol Bay Drift Fisherman and I've lived in King Salmon my entire life. I also set netted for 30 years in Bristol Bay.

I am opposed to proposals 75 – 78 regarding permit stacking. Allowing a single person to own two Bristol Bay drift permits and fish an extra 50 fathoms of gear would take the little guy out of the picture. It will be very difficult for local residents to make a living. Many of our local folks rely on the current D-Permit system, which would essentially go away. Permit prices would go up, and greed would take over for those who can afford to purchase an additional permit. BBEDC is essential in helping young local watershed residents enter the fishery. Their permit loan program has seen benefits with the current D-Permit system to help get the younger generation involved in the fishery. This allows them to enter the fishery without taking on the extra capital of purchasing and managing an entire fishing operation until they are ready.

I am also opposed to proposals 82 – 91 to change the 32-foot vessel length regulation. The 32-foot regulation is essential in keeping a fair and equitable fishery between locals and non-locals and has been in place for decades. The Board of Fisheries has two findings detailing past discussions on the 32-foot regulation. I encourage you to read these if you haven't already. They can be found in RC 8. Changing the 32-foot regulation to allow bigger boats will cause a bigger problem. The disparity among the fleet will become greater than it already is and greed will consume those who are able to afford larger vessels. What we have now preserves the present and the life and future of Bristol Bay to come.

I support Proposal 55 to repeal the Nushagak River Coho Salmon Management plan. The department has not been enumerating Coho salmon in the Nushagak for many years. It is impossible to manage Coho in the Nushagak without data.

I also support proposal 79 to increase the offshore operation distance for set gillnets in the Ugashik Village setnet sites area of the Ugashik District to 1000' from the 18-foot high tide mark. Mother nature has been depositing mud around the Ugashik Village set net sites and negatively affecting their opportunities to harvest salmon by their village as they traditionally and historically have. I support their efforts to maintain fishing opportunities at their historic sites. Thank you for your time and consideration.