

Mike Davis

██████████ Dillingham AK ██████████

Testimony to the Alaska Board of Fish

Madam Chair and members of the Board. Thank you for the opportunity today to testify, for the record, my name is Mike Davis. I am from Dillingham.

For background, I first started fishing as a deck hand in the Bay 56 years ago. I have run a set net operation in the Nushagak since 1981

I very much appreciated the presentation yesterday on Traditional knowledge.

Much of what I learned about this fishery came from the local people, that had fished in the Bay all of their lives

Today I have limited my comments to Proposals 75 and 60.

Like others in our region I have certainly have seen the out migration of permits from the region. Permit stacking was implemented in part to allow permit holder without a boat to fish, which has helped many local residents get into the fishery. But it has also meant that many residents with 150 fathoms of gear are now competing with boats with much more gear in the water.

Proposal 75 which would allow individuals own two permits (and permit stack), will likely mean an increase in the number of boats with 200 fathoms of gear, and it may also limit the local residents' opportunity they now have to participate in the fishery..

Proposals 60

The Wood River Special Harvest area began decades ago as a way to protect the silvers in the Nushagak.

However, one detrimental effect of this special harvest area, has been the impact of the kings that spawn in the Muklung River, which is located a few bends up Wood River from the where lower boundary of district exists.

In additions to regulations in place to protect kings in the Nushagak, I believe we need to also recognize Wood River's contribution to our king salmon runs in the Nushagak region. This may take further study, but I think it important knowledge for the department to have.

Proposal 60 proposal would allow the Wood River Fishers to increase set nets length from 25 to 37 ½ fathoms of gear. This would make it even less likely for kings that are in the Wood River to make it to their spawning grounds. (Muklung and in the Lakes)

Increasing the amount of gear in the Wood will also greatly monetize the "front line" sites which will only add to the conflicts that already exists in the special harvest area.

The conflicts in this special harvest are real, and one reason there are many Nushagak set netters choose not to participate in this special harvest district.

Thank you! Madam Chair and members of the board for the opportunity to participate in this forum. I am happy to answer questions that you might have.