

PROPOSAL 42

5 AAC 06.333. Requirements and specifications for use of 200 fathoms of drift gillnet in Bristol Bay.

Repeal provisions allowing operation of 200 fathoms of drift gillnet from a vessel with two CFEC permit holders onboard, as follows:

5 AAC 06.333 Requirements and specifications for the use of 200 fathoms of drift gillnet in Bristol Bay. REPEALED, 2021.

Repeal the dual drift permit regulation in Bristol Bay.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Proposal/proposer requests that the Board of Fish repeal the regulation that allows two permit holders to jointly operate up to 200 fathoms of drift gillnet gear from the same vessel. If adopted only 150 fathoms of drift gillnet gear would allowed to be operate from any drift gillnet vessel regardless of how many drift gillnet permit holders are on board the vessel.

Having part of the BB drift fleet fishing 200 fathoms of gear and another part of the fleet restricted to 150 fathoms of gear has and will continue to create a significant economic disparity. Dual permit vessels are earning substantially more revenue than single permit vessels. This additional revenue leads to overcapitalization of the fishery by the dual permit vessels. An additional problem created by the economic disparity is the trend of Bristol Bay drift limited entry permit ownership outmigrating from the Bristol Bay watershed, rural Alaska, and Alaska to out of state permit holders.

Having all drift vessels fishing the same length of net ensures more parity among permit holders in the same spirit of requiring all drift vessels to be no longer than 32' in length. When the dual permit regulation was originally adopted sockeye ex-vessel prices were approximately \$0.35-0.40/lb. Now ex-vessel prices are higher such that a single permit vessel can earn a reasonable income with 150 fathoms of gllnet gear.

It is not prudent nor acceptable to manage and operate state fisheries in a manner that places local and resident fishermen at a disadvantage to non resident fishermen.

PROPOSED BY: Timothy Gervais (EF-F21-012)
