

My name is Mark Stopha. I live in Juneau and have been an Alaskan resident since 1983. I'm writing in support of proposal 169 to allow downriggers to be used with a fishing rod as legal hand troll gear year-round. This gear is alot easier and safer to use from skiffs and small boats than having to use hand troll gurdies. It does not increase fishing efficiency so will not create a fishing advantage over fishing with hand troll gurdies. Thank you.