

Dear Representative Stutes and members of the House Fisheries Committee,

I am a lifelong commercial salmon set netter on the west side of Kodiak island. My kids are now working in the business, and they are the third generation of fishermen. We have been salmon fishing at the same site since 1972. I support HB 117

Since receiving permits in limited entry, we have always operated as a multi-permit site and have fished cooperatively. We now fish multiple nets out of 3 skiffs and usually split up to cover the gear, and end up meeting on one or two sets as we finish a run through the gear. Often my sons and I will end up with three skiffs on the same net.

Separating fish from each permit would completely change how we handle fish and lead to added costs and diminished fish quality.

We are not asking for anything to change. We are trying to preserve the status quo so that people who are fishing the only way they ever have aren't forced to adapt a new system that negates all the efficiency we have achieved. These are vital efficiencies that are the only way we have been able to survive as a viable business.

This legislation is a straightforward way to clear up inconsistencies between regulation and practice and get ADF&G the information they need, while still allowing the fishery to continue as it always has, a win-win for everyone.

Set netting is a very sustainable, family oriented way to harvest salmon from Alaska's waters. Please help us continue.

Thank you for working to help solve this problem.

Sincerely

Peter S Danelski

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