

Warren Wilson

F/V Advantage

Life-Long Resident of King Cove, Alaska

## MR CHAIR MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

My name is Warren Wilson; I am a lifelong resident of 53 yrs. from King Cove Alaska. I currently drift gillnet in Area M. I serve on the King Cove Advisory committee, CAMF, and am a City of King Cove council member. The City of King Cove relies on the raw fish tax from salmon. Salmon used to be one the main sources of tax dollars for the city government until all the restrictions the board of fish imposed on the area M salmon fishery with net depth, fishing time and area in the 1980's and 90's on the South and North Peninsula.

That's when the fishermen had to diversify and fish other species of fish and crab. But with the federal fisheries in the north pacific being rationalized, the majority of our fishermen again are going to have salmon as their only source of Income. So the last thing the Area M fisher's need this year is more restrictions on fishing time and area. With the price of fuel, gear, freight, food, airfares rising out of sight and fish prices dropping almost every year for the last 15 years, we as fisher's living in the villages are going to be in dire straits.

It's up to you BOF members to make sound decisions on the area M fishery so we can be able to live in King Cove.

As to Proposal # 187, I support because it allows more daylight fishing time and allows more time for salmon to exit the area in the month of July.

As to Proposal # 195, I support this proposal as it will allow the fishers of King Cove to fish closer to home and not have to run 35 miles to Unimak Island to fish for chum and pink salmon in July and August. All this proposal is asking is to let the drifters fish the same area's as in the June fishery.

We are probably only going to see a shift of effort of 8 to 10 drifters.

As to proposal #'s 197,198,199, I oppose. Every drift and set-net permit holder in Area M has the right to fish the Northern Districts on the North Peninsula. We have to remember drifters are restricted from fishing the Caribou Flats Section. The storms that slammed the area with heavy rain fall in 2007 washed out most river systems spawning beds in the north and south peninsula. Also the cold winters and freezing of most of the Bering Sea, and colder water in the North Pacific has moved the salmon further East on their migration pattern in the north pacific. This is why we are seeing low returns to the Bear and Nelson in recent years, not the interception in the northern districts.

The WASSIP Report states the farther that commercial fishing of salmon takes place from any river system in Western Alaska is less likely salmon will be taken in such numbers that it will devastate the run of that salmon stock. Where we a fleet of about 90 drifters a 100 miles from that river system in these 3 proposals is trying to portray us doing.

Again,I am a lifelong resident of King Cove and Fished all my life in Area M. Thank you for your time and consideration on these proposals.