

RC# 68

My name is Hattie Albecker. I am from Ugashik and have participated in the setnet fishery from a very young age.

I oppose Proposal 250 that to allow set permit stacking in Ugashik and Egegik.

Set net permit stacking was debated thoroughly at the Kodiak meeting and the December meeting in Naknek and at both those meetings the Board decided setnet permit stacking worked against the interests of local communities and the intent of Limited Entry. Those same factors apply in this revised permit stacking proposal, and to think the conclusion would change by limiting the regulation to only two Bristol Bay fishing districts is like saying I'm just "a little bit" pregnant. In matters of law and ethics, like pregnancy, you either are or you aren't. There's no "just a little bit pregnant," or "mostly honest" with the facts.

The suggestion that so many factors influenced the price of setnet permits during the time stacking was

allowed for BB setnetters is an attempt to cloud the issue. CFEC data shows that stacked permit operations earned more than twice as much as two single permit operations – and setnet permit prices nearly doubled – and have stayed elevated -- during those three years. At the same time Bristol Bay drift permit prices – subject to the same fish price and run strength influences as set net permits -- rose and fell in value.

The effect of this consolidation on setnet permit prices makes it much more difficult for new participants to enter the fishery.