

Comments on Proposals 44-54, and 36, 36 & 238

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As a lifelong resident of Bristol Bay and Ugashik setnetter since the age of nine, I hope the Board will not support Proposals 44-54 and will allow the one-person two-setnet permit rule to sunset.

My reason for saying this is because of the regulation's dramatic effect on setnet permit prices, which have essentially doubled in the three years since the two-permit rule went into effect. The more permits cost, the less chance there is for the next generation of watershed residents to get into the fishery.

In Ugashik setnet fishing has always been a family business, and my family hopes it will continue that way. But the two-permit-one-person rule is pushing permit prices out of reach for the young people who live here. This will only get worse if the rule is allowed to continue.

For the same reasons I am against allowing one person to own and fish two drift permits and I oppose Proposals 36, 37 and 238. Like allowing one person two own and fish two setnet permits, this only benefits the rich, and it is blind to suppose that anything different will happen with drift permit prices if one person can own and fish two drift permits. Prices will go up and make it much more difficult if not impossible for young people to buy into the drift fishery.