

In accordance to the recently passed Proposals 79 & 80 which allows separate gear type openings in the Wood River Special Harvest Area, I would like the board to reconsider the adopted management plan.

I would like to first address that separating the gear types(set and drift gillnet fleet) can have huge implications as well as adverse effects on the allocation plan in the Nushagak District. By giving the drift fleet a ratio of 3:1 of openings compared to the set net fleet, you run the risk of the drift fishery becoming even more efficient than the set net fleet as they will be able to fish the beach but we will not be able to fish the middle of the channel allowing more fish to escape. Without the set net fleet on the beach the drift fleet benefits by fishing where the set net operators once fished. Without the drift fleet fishing, the set net fleet will benefit by not being "corked off" but will allow a great deal of fish to go uncaught which would completely negate the purpose of fishing in the Wood River.

I would like the board to consider:

*The WRSWA is not so much about accommodating one gear type over the other, it simply is a tool for ADF&G management to use when the Nushagak is far behind on escapement or failing all together while the Wood River runs the risk of over-escapement.

*For the drift fleet, this proposal does not reduce the congestion of the drift fleet as stated. They will still have a battle on the south boundary line of the WRSWA. They simply want access to the beach and to reduce the amount of fish caught by the set net fleet.

*Opening separate gear type openings further inhibits the efficiency of opening the WRSWA. If the drift fleet participation is low, a great deal of fish still goes up the Wood River. When the set net fleet cannot stop fish from swimming up the middle, the ability to slow the run drops drastically.

*This is greatly beneficial to the drifters and unfair to the set-netters.

*This was pushed through by an overwhelming voice of drift fisherman. I did not know there was any chance of this being passed as I did not see that these two proposals had a leg to stand on. I honestly feel the drift fisherman who suggested this idea put the proposal together just to test whether or not it would pass(shot in the dark). Since there was no real opposition, as I am clearly the minority voice in attendance, bringing consideration for concerns of the set net fisherman not present.

*I am not in favor of making openings that separate the gear types, more so I am in favor of staggering the start/end of openings to give set net a head start and allowing the drift fleet to be more effective(which they are) when the tide allows.

*If this is in place and there is no chance of reversal we would like the Board to consider reducing the ratio of 3:1 down to 2:1 as Board Member Vince Webster had thought of in a discussion I held with him. Should this proposal stay in place I suggest that ADF&G start out with set net directed opening so that we can get ahead of the curve and also set the standard for the drift fleet to play catch up in regards allocation; it is much harder for the set net fleet to catch up to the drift.

*Do not put more restrictions/regulations on Tim Sands, please allow him more of a wide range in options to consider how to manage the fishery in regards to allocation between fleets.

*Nushagak Advisory Council does not fully represent all fishermen from the area as my list proves. I have talked with all of these fishermen listed, who are from the area and in opposition to separating the gear type directed openings and in support of any re-written language which will help assure that the set net fleet does not get a huge reduction of the targeted harvest. Giving us on quarter of the allowed time to fish does not guarantee that we will be able to catch one quarter of the WRSWA harvest. Drift fisherman already have **three times** the amount of gear we have with the added benefit of choosing where they fish as we are anchored to a single spot; they do not need **three times** the amount of allowed fishing time. This list is comprised of set net permit holders in favor of reconsideration by the board:

William Savo	Rosanne Savo	Bruce Savo
Luke Villnave	Kayla Miller	Karen McCambly
Desmond Hurley	Alannah Hurley	Ross Armstrong
Steve Libby	Vince Gust	Sophie Dullard
Saigen Blair	Aleck Heavner	Nina Heavner
Robert Heavner	<u>Kevin McCambly</u>	Dylan Braund

I have not been able to reach these fishermen but know they would like reconsideration:

Glen Wysocki

Rick Wysocki

Holly Wysocki

Mike Merlino

Joe Carney

Tom Rollman Jr

Sam Steen

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board. I just ask that you consider those who are being affected by this decision and all factors which may be taken into account when deciding on this subject.

