

RC 036

Subject: pop 88
From: Kevin Fisher (kvn_fshr@yahoo.com)
To: kvn_fshr@yahoo.com;
Date: Tuesday, January 7, 2014 11:03 AM

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board

I would like to show my **Opposition** for proposal **88**.

My name is Kevin Fisher. I have gill net fished every summer for salmon on Kodiak Island starting in 1989. I have held a limited entry permit number SO4K 59401X since 1990. I fish in the Alitak District. My father and mother and I were able to purchase a camp in 2002. Since then we have expanded our operation to include more of our family and look forward to fishing with our grandchildren. Our biggest concern is catching enough to make it viable for our family operation to continue.

My Family set net operation consists of my father, mother, sister, brother in law and my self. Like all family operations we share our efforts and our catch. We are the only family operation that fishes in all three stat areas of the Alitak set net District. We have adapted to the staggered openings as best we can. Having a staggered opening allows us to pool our resources and efforts and focus on one stat area at a time. We help each other set and pull gear. Most of the time we fish with a single person in the boat. On openings and closings however we are able to double up, putting two people in the boat helps make everything easier and safer, the problem with doubling up all the time is that we don't catch enough fish to pay for the crew.

Another benefit that staggered openings have is that they allow the processor to do a better job of servicing the District with a small tender fleet. We only have two full time tenders for the entire Alitak district set net fleet. I believe this helps the quality of fish, which helps the value of the fish. Having only two tenders helps keep the cost down for the processor, which also helps allow a better price to the fishermen.

On our first opening of the year (the test fishery) the entire district opens and closes at once. It is a real pain for our camp. First of all we usually do not fish all of our gear, it is very difficult to set and pull all of our permits in that short amount of time. We accept this as a reasonable expense of fishing with out the extra crew that we would have to pay for the whole season and only need for one day. This has a side benefit to our neighbors though, obviously if we don't put a net in the water and catch fish with it, those fish can be caught by our neighbors. Second by the time the two tenders can get around to everyone and pick up the fish from after the closing its usually way after dark. This becomes a safety issue, it's one thing to deliver in the dark right in front of your camp in calm sea, it another to deliver off Akhiok reef in the dark 5 miles from camp in rough weather.

My opinion is that by keeping our camp as efficient as possible, we maximize the personal income from our fishing operation. Our reduced effectiveness only benefits our neighbors.