

Board Support Section
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811

Decemeber 7, 2015

Dear Board Member,

This public comment is in regards to your budget committee meeting. We, the Kvichak Setnetter's Association, want to express our empathy about the pending budget crisis that will be the driving factor in determining whether or not to make adjustments to future Board of Fisheries meeting cycles. Our organization has deep concerns that the BOF meeting cycle for Bristol Bay Finfish will be changed beyond the three year cycle that is currently in existence. Bristol Bay is a very complicated fishery and a huge contributor of Alaska's seafood production. The sheer number of proposals that are presented at every cycle meeting, including the complexity of the issues that demand your attention and action, are the reasoning behind our concerns. We are also concerned that extending the meeting cycle will reduce your effectiveness to adequately address the issues that affect our fishery. The ever-changing dynamics of the Bristol Bay fishery, as well as environmental, cultural and social economic changes that can occur, warrant a minimum of a three year cycle.

Bristol Bay is considered one of, if not the best, managed and most highly sustainable fisheries in the world. It is the efforts of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and its Board of Fisheries process that has created this recognition on a global scale. Understanding that something must be done to address the lack of available budget, we urge you to leave Bristol Bay Finfish on the three year cycle. We also urge you to not combine Bristol Bay Finfish with other regions or fisheries for the same reasons expressed above. It would be detrimental to our great fishery that we have worked so hard and so long to create.

Thank you for consideration.

Sincerely,
Eric Meyer
Kvichak Setnetter's Association, President
(805) 235-8776