

## 2016 BoF Testimony-Ron Tavis

Ugashik Gains vs Outer Port Heiden Loss (Area M)

Mr. Chair, members of the Board, my name is Ron Tavis. I am a member of Concerned Area M Fishermen and have fished Area M since 1987 and have operated my own drift operation since 1995. This testimony is in opposition to the proposals to close the Outer Port Heiden Section to Area M fishers--numbers 22, 23, 24, 155 and 156 and addresses the Ugashik Gain vs Outer Port Heiden Loss with the closure of OPH.

The closure of Outer Port Heiden would bring Ugashik fishers minimal monetary gain, while landing a devastating impact to Area M fishermen. For example: Summarizing the departments AMR's and ex-vessel prices, along with personal communication with staff and using fairly moderate values, the largest Outer Port Heiden catch of 850 thousand fish in 2015 would yield 1200 and 130 additional fish to each Ugashik drifter and set-netter respectively. This equates to an additional 5 brailers per drifter and a half a bag per set netter. **This is not per day, per period or per week but for the entire season.** Consequently, the average Area M drifter would lose approx. 9 thousand fish or almost 35 thousand dollars. Furthermore, there is no significant difference as to the amount harvested in Outer Port Heiden either. Examining Area M's lowest Outer Port Heiden catch in 2013 of 250 thousand fish the results are similar: An increase of 3000 dollars, or 350 fish, to each Ugashik drifter and 300 dollars, or 40 fish, to each set netter while Area M fishers would take a loss of about 2700 fish or 23000 dollars. Understandably, with current market conditions an additional 3 or 4 thousand or even 3 or 4 hundred dollars would help the bottom line (while MARGINALLY). However, the loss to the individuals in the adjacent Area M fishery of 20 to 30 thousand dollars while fishing in their own waters would be catastrophic.

Mr. Chair, members of the board "**These Fish Have Tails**" whether leaving their spawning grounds where hundreds of millions of Bristol Bay smolts are in direct competition with North Peninsula juveniles as they **SHARE** the more available and abundant food source in the "outer bay", offshore of Port Moller, or when returning to their native rivers to spawn having shared their life cycle, with and alongside, North Peninsula fish while travelling and growing to "**Market Value**" through the North Pacific and Area M waters.

Prepared by - Kon TAVIS

## Ugashik Gains vs Area M Loss with OPH Closed

### 2015 (Area M Highest OPH Catch)

#### OPH

867,674 fish (catch)

9133 fish (@ 95 boats)

47492 lbs (@ 5.2 lbs/fish)

@ \$0.75 per pound

<\$ 35619> LOSS

#### Ugashik (Drift and Set)

433837 fish (@ 50% Ugashik stock comp in OPH catch)

268979 fish (@62% -Catch % of Ugashik total run (10yr))

1181 fish (@200 drift) 131 fish (@50 set)

6141 lbs -Drift 681 lbs - Set (@ 5.2 lbs/fish)

@ \$0.65 per pound

\$3992 (drift) \$443 (Set) GAIN

### 2013 (Area M Lowest OPH Catch)

#### OPH

254916 fish (catch)

2683 fish (@95 boats)

13951 lbs (@5.2 lbs/fish)

@ \$1.65 per pound

<\$ 23091> LOSS

#### Ugashik (Drift and Set)

127458 fish (@ 50% Ugashik stock comp in OPH catch)

79024 fish (@62%-Catch % of Ugashik total run (10yr))

346 fish (@200 drift) 39 fish (@50 set)

1799 lbs-Drift 203 lbs-Set (@5.2 lbs/fish)

@ \$1.65 per pound

\$2968 (Drift) \$335 (Set) GAIN

Prepared by Ron TAVIS

## DEFINITIONS

--**50%**-50% Ugashik stock composition in OPH harvest. WASSIP 2007-2009 average.

--**62%**-10 yr catch % of Ugashik total run for Ugashik fishers (AMR).

--**200**-conservative drift boat estimates in Ugashik.

--**50**-Set net boats in Ugashik. ADF&G average used is 52.

--**10%**-set net catch % of drift catch in Ugashik ADFG.

--**5.2 pounds**-Average pounds per fish.

--**Price**-Used ADF&G ex-vessel price except for 2013 Area M Co-op price of \$1.65.

--**95**-Area M drifters used.