



March 8, 2013

Dear Bristol Bay Dual Permit/Leaseholders,

In December 2012, the Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), Board of Fisheries (Board), decided not to extend or remove the expiration date (sunset clause) of Bristol Bay Finfish Regulation 5 AAC 06.331(u). 5 AAC 06.331(u) expired on December 31, 2012. However, at the December 2012, Board meeting, a proposal was offered to re-allow the fishing of dual set gillnet permits in the Ugashik and Egegik Districts. The Board decided to vote on this proposal at a Board meeting in 2013.

In early March 2013, at a Board meeting in Anchorage, the proposal to re-allow the fishing of dual set gillnet permits in the Ugashik and Egegik Districts was voted down by the Board. **As a result, Bristol Bay set gillnetters no longer are permitted to fish dual permits as of December 31, 2012.**

Unfortunately this does impact the additional Department of Natural Resources (DNR) leases that were authorized (per fisherman request) when the above regulation was in effect. This recent Board decision means that we need to make the appropriate changes to remain consistent with our DNR Shore Fishery Regulations (11 AAC 64.080). As a result of the Board's decision you will no longer be able to retain multiple leases that in combination exceed the maximum number of nets and length that is allowed to be fished per individual Limited Entry Permit (LEP). In general terms a person in the Bristol Bay fishery may only lease from DNR the maximum number of nets allowed to be fished per single LEP.

Below are the options available in this situation:

- 1) **Assignment:** Assign your lease to another person who has a valid LEP for the area who does not already have a lease with the maximum amount of net (fishable).
- 2) **Amendment:** There are various options for amending a lease. Please contact us to find out your options. Please also note the lease tracts cannot be more than five (5) miles apart to fit on a plat. Remember the lease or leases you would be left with cannot have more than the total maximum net length allowed between all of the tracts (300 feet total in Bristol Bay). This option is maybe a more costly choice, due to a possible plat update.
- 3) **Relinquish:** Close one of your leases.

**Please inform us of your decision by May 2, 2013**, as these issues need to be resolved ASAP. We appreciate your understanding ahead of time regarding this matter and if you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at the above address, or as follows.

Sincerely,

Department of Natural Resources

Shore Fishery Leasing Team

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An Assignment/Transfer of lease form can be access on our Shore Fishery Leases website: <http://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/shore/index.cfm>; on the right side of the screen and about half way down the “Shore Fishery Index”, click on “Assignment/Transfer of Lease Request.