



## Southwest Region School District

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*Aleknagik*

*Ekwok*

*Clarks Point*

*Koliganek*

*Manokotak*

*New Stuyahok*

*Togiak*

*Twin Hills*

December 11, 2018

Dear Lower Bristol Bay Advisory Committee,

The Southwest Region School District (SWRSD) would like to applied through for an educational setnet permit to operate in the waters of Bristol Bay Area T through the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC). In order to be considered by CFEC, we are required to submit our educational plan to the local area management biologist of the Department of Fish and Game for review. Since the proposed setnet camp would take place in Pilot Point or furthermore the Ugashik district, we would appreciate to hear any feedback or concerns regarding our proposal.

The eight villages served by Southwest Region Schools are economically dependent upon the fisheries. Currently, there is a rising concern on the dwindling numbers of local participation within the salmon fishery. Since the 1970's, local drift permit ownership has decreased from 36% to 19%, and if the trend continues it could have lasting detrimental impacts on the sustainability and wellbeing of our communities.

At the moment, all the regional school districts recognize the unfortunate trend of permits leaving the region. We are currently exploring different options to further educate our students about the Bristol Bay salmon fishery. This effort would be a region wide initiative, in collaboration with the other schools to recruit interested students from all the villages in Bristol Bay. It is our belief that this shall not disrupt the existing commercial fishery, as it would take place towards the end of July, which should allow for the biological escapement levels to be reached. All the fish delivered would go towards the operating costs, and any additional proceeds would be deposited into Alaska's General Fund.

It is imperative to address and implement solutions that can help retain limited entry permits by residents in the region. Through this collaborative effort, we plan to prepare and educate the next generation of Alaskan leaders in the fishing industry. We would appreciate your comments on this proposal, especially if it presents a biological concern to the watershed. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Jon Clouse, Federal Programs Director  
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