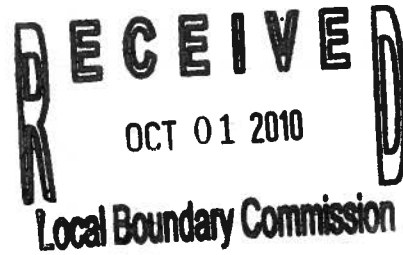


September 30, 2010



Local Boundary Commission staff
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I urge the Local Boundary Commission to support the Dillingham effort to annex Nushagak Bay and Wood River Special Salmon Harvest commercial fishing waters into the City.

This annexation will allow Dillingham to join other communities in the Bristol Bay region and collect a fair share of revenue from area commercial fishing, through a local fish tax.

Local fish taxes are bringing in more revenue annually to support communities in the Bristol Bay region than does the State's business fishery taxes. The Nushagak Bay is the virtually the only major commercial fishery in the region where there is no local fish tax in effect. This is like leaving money on the table and walking away.

I am a Dillingham commercial fisherman, and while I don't look forward to paying a new, small local tax on this resource, I support the effort because I know that:

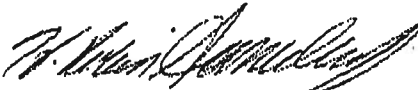
- About 38% of the commercial fishermen in Nushagak Bay are from outside of Alaska and this local tax will generate revenue from them to help support their use of Dillingham infrastructure and services.
- Over half of the fish caught in Nushagak Bay are processed outside the Bay, so neither Dillingham nor any other Nushagak Bay local community gets any State business fish tax from this fish (because State tax is based on where the fish is processed). The Dillingham local fish tax, because it will be based on where fish is harvested, will provide revenue from this fish to Dillingham to help support infrastructure and services, including cover real costs for fisheries-related harbor, port, trash collection, public safety and other services.
- This more directly links Dillingham financially to the success of local fisheries. I expect and will be watching to see Dillingham invest more in harbor and fishery support and infrastructure.
- Commercial fishermen in other areas pay a local fish tax to the City of Togiak, City of Egegik, City of Chignik, Lake and Peninsula Borough, Bristol Bay Borough, Aleutians East Borough Kodiak Island Borough, the City of Saint Paul, City of Unalaska, City of Akutan, City of King Cove, City of Sand Point, and City of Atka. Dillingham also needs this revenue too to support itself and adjacent regional fisheries.

- Finally, while there are no guarantees, I hope that this new City revenue source will allow Dillingham to relax – or at a minimum stave off increases - in property tax.

Dillingham is the hub community for the western Bristol Bay region. As such, it spends significant municipal revenue to provide infrastructure and services used by both regional and Dillingham residents and others. Most commercial fisherman in the Nushagak Bay are not Dillingham residents, yet, virtually all use Dillingham's harbor, boat launch ramps, streets, land fill and trash pick-up at the harbor, public safety services, airport and more. Only about 135 commercial boat owners list Dillingham as a primary address, but on a bad weather day in-between fishery openings there can be 4 or 5 times this many commercial fishing boats rafted to one another and to the floats in the City's small boat harbor. Commercial fishermen keep their boats in the harbor between fishery openings, some live onboard, others haul their boats in and out for servicing, repair or storage, to get fresh water or ice and more; the harbor's use is truly regional in nature. While some neighboring community fishermen may not use it as frequently as non-Alaskan fishermen do, almost everyone with a boat uses it at some time.

Please support the Dillingham annexation effort; it makes sense and will help provide for Dillingham's long term financial sustainability.

Sincerely,



H. Robin Samuelsen, Jr.
Commercial Fisherman