

**PROPOSAL 60 – 5 AAC 06.XXX. Graveyard Creek Special Harvest Area Management Plan.** Create a special harvest area in the Graveyard Creek area, as follows:

We request the Board of Fisheries to create a special harvest area or something similar to allow certain right(s) to be protected and preserved or simply restore our right to fish. We request this be done via grandfathered rights or creating special provisions created for cases similar in nature.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Bristol Bay

The issue pertains to the permitted use of set net fishing inside of Graveyard Creek located in the Naknek, Kvichak River section which we are no longer allowed to fish. This event occurred over an extended period of days prior to the start of our season, after hiring and spending thousands of dollars to land ready to fish. After much agonizing and delay we accepted our fate and this was the end result made final by Alaska State Troopers. The threat of a criminal violation being issued by troopers or the seizure of our boat(s) and equipment left us devastated causing our entire family an extreme hardship.

That hardship has been ongoing and continues still. Our family has been negatively impacted and our right(s) affected. This area has been aggressively fished for decades by our entire family each and every period for years in the same historical places. Any data or science would have always included this area being fished. It has always been fished. The unique circumstances involve a complex variety of issues to consider so it is unlikely this issue will be easily resolved by the Board. However, we are optimistic. Our family's primary concern now pertains to our right(s) as fisherman and those rights should be protected. This should be reasonably acknowledged by anyone after being presented the facts surrounding our family's history with Graveyard Creek. The unforeseen actions taken by troopers without explanation or just cause have been damaging. Where did this decisive action begin and why? We have no answers and our rights to fish should be grandfathered or restored. We have fished this area specifically uncontested and free of any violations for our entire life now 3 generations later.

**PROPOSED BY:** Agostino Grossi

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