2014 Project Proposal – Port Moller Test Fishery

Title: **Port Moller Test Fishery, 2014**

Proposer: Bristol Bay Science & Research Institute
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Acknowledgment: Have read the BB-RSDA strategies and bylaws

BB-RSDA Strategy: Support Research (#2)

Project Description: Assist with funding the annual gillnet test fishery at Port Moller and provide daily updates that provide catch data, interpret the run strength, run timing, and age and stock composition for industry (drift gillnetters, setnetters, processors), ADF&G fishery managers, and the general public. These updates are prepared by BBSRI staff Dr. Scott Raborn, Michael Link**,** and Matt Nemeth and emailed daily, along with stock and age composition estimates prepared by ADF&G. In addition, BBSRI staff discuss results with fishermen (and managers) during the season, when feasible. This is a time- intensive, 7-day per week exercise for 30 days.

BBSRI has invested many hundreds of thousands of dollars of its money to improve this high-profile test fishery over the last nine years. These investments have improved in-season forecasts of the run, which in turn has provided direct benefits to S03T permit holders, even in the many recent large runs. This information tends to be more valuable in smaller run years (like the 2014 expected return). This funding request is a relatively small per permit contribution from drift permit holders, and is heavily leveraged (~4 fold): the $40,000 requested here is matched by another $166,000 from other sources.

Project Costs: Total: $206,000
ADF&G: $100,000 (vessel, its crew, and fuel)
BBSRI crew, nets, travel, shipping, sampling gear, and prepare daily updates:
Salmon Processors: $50,400
BBSRI: $15,600
BB-RSDA: $40,000

Project Duration: Field sampling, 10-11 June to 8-10 July 2014
Daily updates, ~30 updates, 11 June – 11 July 2014
Final project report and completion, 15 November 2014