Mark Buckley

2 Project Concepts: 1. Ice machine on a tender. 2. Ice machine on a gillnetter.

Strategic Objective: Research, identify and promote chilling practices that are effective and practical.

Amount: < $10,000 cost share on two projects costing partners $50,000+.

I am an S03T Permit Holder who believes the RSDA can do more to promote chilling in Bristol Bay.

1. At present there is an ice machine aboard the tender Starling S. The machine can produce ~10 tons of ice every 24 hours. It can reportedly make ice from fresh water, brackish water, silty water, and salt water. It cost the Starling S roughly $80,000 just to buy it. It operated during the 2012 season and according to Paul Schwitters, the owner of the Starling S, it performed very well. The Starling S successfully sold ice to boats in Icicle's Nushagak fleet.

In 2013, according to Paul, Icicle began providing free ice to its fleet. In response, the Starling S. did not operate its ice machine because Paul says he saw no point in burning fuel to provide a free product. Therefore the machine sat—and still sits—unused on the deck of the Starling S.

I suggest the RSDA contact Icicle and Paul and offer to subsidize the cost of running the ice machine by paying for the fuel, with the proviso that the ice would be available to all gillnet boats. Ideally, Icicle might be persuaded to position the Starling S in a district such as Egegik or Ugashik where ice can be in short supply. Cost to the RSDA might be capped at $7,000 or less.

2. Naknek resident Ralph Mancuso, owner and operator of the F/V Uncle Fritz, finds it time consuming and expensive to buy ice for his drift boat. He reports he burns a lot of fuel, and spends a lot of time, running to get ice. To mitigate this, he is planning to install an ice machine aboard his boat. Highland Refrigeration of Seattle sells the small machine Ralph wants. It retails for $19,000 and can produce ~1,000 pounds of ice per day. Highland will provide the unit to Ralph at no cost. Ralph will only need to transport the machine to Naknek and insure it. If Ralph likes the machine then at the end of the season he can buy it. If he doesn't like it Highland will take it back.

Ralph will need to spend approximately $9,000 to buy a generator to run the ice machine. He will also need to install plumbing. Additionally, Ralph will have to buy the fuel to power the generator. He estimates the fuel cost will be about $100 per day.

I suggest the RSDA offer Ralph a fuel subsidy of $100 per day for 20 days, for a total of $2,000. In return for this subsidy he would be asked to keep a daily diary of the process of installing and operating the ice machine. At the end of the season he would write a report detailing the effectiveness of his icing experiment, along with any recommendations. Photos would be a good idea, too. This will be a cheap way of participating in this project, and for a mere $2,000 we would learn a lot.

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