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Alaska Board of Fisheries
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, Alaska 99811-5526

Subject: Need for Better Catch Accountability in the Igvak Fishery (Proposal 94)

Dear Board of Fisheries Members:

In concept, I support Proposal #94.

From the late 1960's and continuing through 1973, I commercial fished salmon in the Kodiak area as a crew member onboard the FV Cape Cheerful skipped by the late Bill Berestaff. Our boat commonly fished at Igvak especially in June and through mid-July. There was not much tender service at Igvak during those early years, and we delivered mostly to tenders along the westside of Kodiak. Our salmon catch we reported as west side caught or more explicitly whatever waters on the westside that there happened to be salmon buyer engaged in taking on deliveries. The intent was simple----keep other boats from finding out where we were fishing as we did not want to see any more boats competing with us at Igvak, and this was years before an allocation was assigned.

As a Chignik fisherman, I believe that there should be a landing regulation put on the Igvak fishery. Certainly, it does not take an imagination to realize that there is an incentive to re-assign Igvak reds to other Kodiak fisheries given that Igvak is managed on an allocation. With RSW and faster boats than what I fished on in my earlier years it's rather logical that misreporting to some extent occurs. Is the level of misreporting significant? Very likely. Certainly no one would be taking fish caught on the westside of Kodiak to Igvak, and if our boat and others routinely delivered Igvak reds to Kodiak cape fisheries off Karluk and Alitak in earlier years, expectedly some of this is still occurring today.

A landing requirement on the Igvak fishery is not unreasonable. Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

John Jones