

RC 117

SOUTH K BEACH INDEPENDENT

FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 1632 Kenai, Alaska 99611-1632 (907) 283-5098
Protecting and Preserving the Kasilof River Aquarian System

February 3, 2014

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

RE: Cook Inlet Regulatory Meeting 01.31- 02.13/14

SOKI Proposals 105,114,150,154,155,167,177,216,284

Chairman Karl Johnstone,

South K-Beach Independent Fishermen's Association (SOKI) is a fishing group established to inform and comment on specific effects of management and environmental actions on the area designated by stat area (244-31) adjacent to the mouth of the Kasilof River.

SOKI has submitted 10 proposals for this meeting. One of these proposals is not published in the proposal book although we did fax it in before the deadline of April 10, 2013; we have re-submitted it as a separate RC.

We adamantly oppose;

**RC 58,
Proposals 103, 118, 119, 156, 161, 166, 168, 188, 190, 207, 209, 211, 248**

We appreciate the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) recent regulatory action in the Kodiak region that addressed non-targeted catches of king salmon by restricting retention of kings over 28". While not a new regulation we understand that for conserving measures in salmon fisheries this has been a standard in promoting sustainable fisheries in state and federal waters.

It is our desire to see this practice instituted in times of low king salmon abundance in the stat areas of the ESSN districts.

We would like to inform the board that in 2013, using the most current genetic stock identification and considering the high number of jacks calculated by week in the Kasilof District, south K-Beach, within all 144 hours of openings and an estimated 55 setnet permits reported, for the entire season, 75 Kenai bound kings over 28" were harvested.

We find it incredible that we are continually asked to reduce our harvest opportunity over the course of decades for "allocation" reasons and at this present juncture we again are burdened with the suggestion that the remaining allocation that we do have is "too much".


Considering the historical ratio of 2 kings caught in river for every king caught by the ESSN, I believe that it is time that the inriver directed and fully allocated fisheries do some serious consideration on practices and conditions that may be hindering the spawning and juvenile production levels of king salmon in attaining the limits of the Kenai River's natural carrying capacity.

We are confused at the continual ad nauseam proposals to implement gear reductions in our fishery. Many of our fishermen in our area do not support this change as it is extremely costly and a burden to implement. Many of the Kasilof District commercial fishing families are still reeling from the economic disaster of 2012 when the entire ESSN were allowed to harvest only 3% of the Kenai/Kasilof commercial harvest.

We also do not understand how 2.5 ft. of floating web can make the difference in catching a king traveling some 30 mph with a 6 knot tide, can actually make that maneuver to avoid uneven underwater terrain and obstacles just to do a limbo type move under a taught, in the current, lead line.

We are here to assist the BOF in whatever is required to structure fair and equitable solutions. Please feel free to ask us questions or request further factual support for our statements.

Thank you,



Paul A. Shadura II
Spokesperson