

RC9

ADF&G - Boards of Fish and Game - Submit a comment

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BOF Work Session: Oct. 9-10, 2013

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We want to be on record supporting ACR 3 and ACR 4.

In our 40 years of buying and processing salmon on the Lower Yukon, few if any regulation changes have had a greater financial impact as the 2013 implementation of the dip net fishery. As with the birth of a child, we see the value in building on this.

With the Yukon summer chums and kings running virtually simultaneously, controlling the incidental harvest of non-target species, particularly Chinook salmon, with a gill net type harvest was very difficult. In 2012, as in years prior, hundreds of our local Yup'ik fishers had to stand down as they watched millions of surplus chums, and their economy swim past their village to protect the Yukon Kings which of course is the number 1 concern.

The 2013 dip net fishery changed all of that. During the summer king/chum run, over a million dollars was paid out to fishers and workers in these economically depressed Wade Hampton area villages. That could not have happened without this regulation change. Not only did this fishery help bring these economies on their way back from disaster but the king bycatch was zero.

Now we have seen the benefits of looking outside the box to build a better fishery and protect species that need protection along with ensuring we do not have over escapement of the summer chums. It is time to build on this child and implement ACR 3 and ACR 4.

Our Company, employees and hundreds local fishing families wish to thank all on the BOF for their decision to allow the dip net fishery and hope you will do the same for ACR 3 and 4.