

Dec 1, 2014

Re: Proposal 5-5 ACC 55.023

I'm writing in opposition of Proposal 5-5 ACC 55.023 to exclude sport fishers from fishing within 100' seaward of the Main bay Hatchery barrier net.

I have been sport fishing/snagging in Main Bay since 1991. It is one of the few areas in PWS to snag. It seems in recent years that the commercial openers have already gotten longer - the last several years they have included most of the weekend (closing Sat midnight) which makes it even harder for the sport fishers. In my opinion PWSAC's issues with sport fishers are relatively minor and should be considered part of normal operations when operating a hatchery in an established sport fishing area. This proposal would essentially shut down the existing sport fishery in Main Bay. This proposal is particularly egregious when one considers that PWSAC's considers it's mission to produce hatchery raised salmon for "commercial, sport, personal use and subsistence fisheries in PWS and Copper River regions".

I am also interested to see that ADF&G's Regulations and Board Process and Board of Fisheries actually works when entertaining PWSAC proposal. Per my interpretation is PWSAC's mission to support both commercial and sport fisheries. If ADF&G's process is followed and it is the BOF responsibility to allocate resources between user groups and develop both commercial and sport fisheries, **Proposal 5-5 ACC 55.023 would have to be denied.**

Following are my references:

From the **ADF&G website:**

Regulations and Board Process

Alaska's process for enacting fish and wildlife regulations is an outstanding example of an open public process. The **structure ensures that a wide range of needs and values are addressed** through a high level of public involvement and scrutiny. In addition, the administrative framework helps **ensure that pressures from specific interest groups do not influence the departments' Job** to sustainably management fish and wildlife. Learn more...

Board of Fisheries Website:

The Board of Fisheries (BOF) is responsible for considering and adopting **regulations to allocate resources between user groups**, establish fish reserves and conservation areas, fishing seasons, quotas, and bag limits size restrictions, means and methods, habitat protection, stock enhancement; **and to develop commercial, subsistence, sport and personal use fisheries**. The enabling statute for the BOF is AS 16.05.251.

PWSAC's website indicates their mission includes sport fishing...

PWSAC produces hatchery-born, ocean-raised wild salmon **for the commercial, sport, personal use and subsistence fisheries** in the Prince William Sound and Copper River regions.

Kathie Bethard

Regional Director, MIS Physician Services & Training

Management & Information Services

Providence Region Building

3760 Piper, St., Suite LL-027

Anchorage, AK 99508

907-212-5647

Kathie.bethard@providence.org