

Submitted by Ernie Weiss

In response to RC 63, submitted March 10, 2016.

The Aleutians East Borough rejects this emergency petition and respectfully urges the Alaska Board of Fisheries to take no action in this matter. We feel this issue was thoroughly discussed at the recent February 23-29, 2016 Board meeting on Alaska Peninsula salmon, during consideration of Proposal 184, and resolved at that time.

While the chinook caught in the 2015 South Peninsula salmon fishery have not yet been analyzed, we would point to the best genetic information on incidentally caught chinook salmon in the Gulf of Alaska available - [Genetic Stock Composition Analysis of the Chinook Salmon Bycatch Samples from the 2014 Gulf of Alaska Trawl Fishery](#) published January 2016 and available on a link on the April 2016 NPFMC agenda at [www.npfmc.org](http://www.npfmc.org)

These comments from the abstract in the study:

*"Based on the analysis of 1,163 Chinook salmon bycatch samples, British Columbia (43%), West Coast U.S. (35%), Coastal Southeast Alaska (16%), and Northwest Gulf of Alaska stocks (5%) comprised the largest stock groups."*

The lightning strike of chinook salmon in 2015 was an anomaly. There is no data that shows the chinook in the 2015 South Peninsula salmon fishery are AYK bound. More likely, from anecdotal observations from fishermen and other data, these small 'black mouth' chinook are an over-abundance of hatchery raised salmon from Pacific Northwest hatcheries.

The genetic study cited above can also be found at:

<https://npfmc.legistar.com/View.ashx?>

[M=F&ID=4295181&GUID=1918F61C-8E61-43DE-B2A8-DCCE169DE668](https://npfmc.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=4295181&GUID=1918F61C-8E61-43DE-B2A8-DCCE169DE668)