

RC#31

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February 19, 2013

Alaska Board of Fisheries

Subject: Comments on **Proposals 173, 174, 175,176**

Respectfully Submitted to the Alaska Board of Fisheries

I am Mori Jones and have fished in Area L, Chignik, Alaska for 47 years. Presently, I reside in Washington State on Decatur Island.

First, let me state that the Fish and Game is to be commended on all of their hard work concerning the WASSIP and the SEDM stock composition studies.

The study concerning Area L's allocation fishery at Southeast District Mainland brings up the percentage differences between the "old" tagging study of 1961, which found that 80% of the fish caught at SEDM were Chignik bound salmon, and the 20% remainder were Kodiak and Cook Inlet sockeye salmon. The new study shows that while Chignik sockeye still provides the vast majority of the catch, other non-local sockeye are contributing at a higher level. Additionally, it shows that the local stock contribution is rather minimal.

Fishery technology has improved over the years. Fishermen in all areas have adjusted and moved to areas that prove more productive. In Area M, new fishing patterns have resulted in an increased and unaccounted interception of non-local stocks. The Dolgoi Island area fishery has increased as has the Shumagin fishery.

Area L, Chignik, started a sockeye salmon habitat program in 1982 and has invested over one million dollars the last 10 years alone.

Although Chignik is meeting its escapement goal for the second run of Chignik bound fish, it is quite obvious that this second run is very vulnerable due to the fact that the SEDM-WASSIP study had to be postponed until 2010 – 2012 because of a poor 2nd run in 2006 through 2008.

I have read in the proposals that because of a large 2011 Chignik run this would justify changing the SEDM allocation percentage. The 2011 Chignik run was totally unexpected by Fish and Game, biologists, fishers, and processors. No one was ready, and there was no indication that the run was going to be an historical harvest. There had not been a run like that in the past 40-50 years, so to use 2011 as a basis for changing percentages is unwarranted. Further, the SEDM fishers shared in the 2011 Chignik run as they fully achieved their historic harvest allocation.

This being considered and the fact that the Board of Fish and the State has taken a definite position of not wanting to create any new intercept fishery, I believe that the SEDM should be

held to their historic catch numbers and hopefully, the percentage will be adjusted to compensate only for that.

I respectfully request that before the BOF makes any changes to the SEMD, they need to be aware that due to the rebound in fish prices, this has allowed quite a few new young fishermen from the Chignik Villages to pursue running boats. This is a very positive step for the five Chignik Villages.

A large complication will be created if the BOF chooses to allow more fishing time or an increased allocation in the SEMD fishery. Not only will Chignik bound harvest be affected, this will also cause a larger interception of Kodiak and Cook Inlet bound fish. Respectfully, please maintain the current historic balance by not increasing the interception of non-local sockeye salmon in the SEMD fishery. If you were to elect to change the plan to a lesser Chignik stock assignment percentage, then also change the current allocation in accordance to ensure that non-local stock interception does not increase. This would maintain stability in the SEMD fishery and not result in a reallocation. Thank you.

Most sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mori Jones", written in black ink.

Mori Jones