

**Proposal 247** I would like to review what was we heard during public comment.

1. We heard the Yakutat Chief of police testify that they plan on having a police presence on the river. But they neither have a place to stay nor have the funding from the city at this time. What he failed to mention is that they were planning on having a police presence on the river last year too but didn't have a place to stay nor the funding from the city. Hmmm... Where is the money going to come from? If ever? It is very expensive to build and or buy and maintain a cabin in this remote location. Plus pay someone and provide transportation. When things get tight this will be the first thing on the chopping block.
2. There was plenty of testimony on the Working Group that was formed. They had a meeting in Anchorage a few weeks ago. A meeting that I was not invited to. During the course of the meeting, as you have heard during public testimony, that there were no talks about what to do about the problems or any ideas exchanged about what changes could be made to help the situation. The only change that was talked about was changing the commercial start time from 9 am to 6 am. Which would give the cannery 3 more hours of flying time which equates to about 20 more totes of fish being taken out of the river on any given opener. Which equates to increased competition and conflicts.

The intention of this working group is to not change anything. Except to have a meet and greet before the season so that when a netter comes and lays a net at your feet and take all the fish you were fishing for they will do it more politely. Any agreement that may be made is totally voluntary. I believe that when push comes to shove those that break the agreement will start quoting current regulations to backup their actions. The X factor here are other users that fly in for the day or other permit holders that come in from other communities that are not part of the agreement. Things can fall apart very quickly.

3. It is very important to note that, as we learned yesterday from testimony, not only can permits in Yakutat can net the Tsiu but an untold number of permits from Cordova can as well.

A lot has been said about the heyday where 30-40 permits were on the river. The assumption was that they came from Yakutat. But there were plenty of permits coming out of Cordova and lots of fish were being shipped to Cordova canneries.

If those heyday numbers ever come back protections need to be put in place to protect the sport fisher. If you think things are bad now sport fishers will *really* get pushed aside under current regulations.

As much as everyone dislikes regulation, I believe that a regulation change is the only real answer in this case. Not kicking the can down the road.

Thank you☺

Dan Ernhart