

Good afternoon Mr. Chairman, members of the Board and Staff. My name is Dianne Dubuc. I appreciate the opportunity to address you today and do so on behalf of the Seward Fish and Game Advisory Committee of which I am vice chair.

The Seward Fish and Game Advisory Committee petitioned the Joint Boards in 2013 to reduce the size of our AC from 15 members and 2 alternates to 10 members and 2 alternates because we were having problems achieving a quorum at some meetings. Our Committee of 12 is made up of 5 citizen sportsmen, 4 commercial fishermen, and 3 charter sports fishermen. We also seek to keep all seats as undesignated. The Seward AC met on Thursday, October 15 and Friday Feb 5 with a quorum of 9 members to discuss Statewide Finfish proposals, Board of Game proposals and to hold elections.

For a full review, and the actions we took on various proposals please refer to our minutes which is RC8 in your book. Please also refer to RC # 25 which is Mr. Norman's testimony in full which were supposed to be attached to the minutes.

In the interest of the available allotted time for testimony I will focus my discussion today on Proposal 203 submitted by CIAA.

Proposal 203 seeks to Expand emergency order authority to close sport fishing in special harvest areas if hatchery cost recovery goals may not be met.

Our AC unanimously opposed this proposal 8-0.

To begin with, we felt this issue should not be at a Statewide meeting. Each hatchery is different and they should be managed on a case by case basis. To our knowledge, CIAA is the only hatchery that collects brood stock at an area far away from where cost recovery is done. Cost recovery happens in the SHA within the Bay. Brood is collected in the freshwater SHA at the weir at Bear Lake. The terminus of the Bear Lake SHA. Please refer to RC # 16 for detailed maps of the Bear Lake, Homer. And Port Graham SHAs. Please note that the Homer and Port Graham SHAs are concentrated in smaller areas than the Bear Lake SHA.

For the benefit of recently appointed Board members and as a refresher for older members please allow me to present some historical perspective on this matter.

In November of 2004 at the LCI meeting two proposals of note were passed.

Proposal 15 put forth by CIAA sought to among other things establish the Bear Lake SHA and called for a review of the SHA as well as the management plan in 3 years. Again RC # 16. This proposal was carried as amended. The amendment read " The Dept. shall manage the commercial harvest of enhanced Bear Lake sockeye for a 50/50 split between the commercial seine fleet and the Trail Lakes Hatchery operators"

Proposal 28 submitted by the Seward AC was carried allowing a freshwater salmon fishery for coho from the estuary to the bridges on the Seward Highway as up until that time there were no fresh water salmon sports fishing opportunities in our area.

At the 2007 LCI meeting the Seward AC submitted Proposal 21 which would open the same area designated in 2004 for red fishing. The Board carried this proposal.

In 2009 CIAA submitted Proposal #380 as a petition out of cycle and the Board scheduled it for regulatory consideration during the March 2009 Statewide Shellfish meeting. Proposal 380 would repeal the Bear Lake Management Plan and replace it with the Trail Lakes Management Plan. The hatchery was in a financial bind and needed 100% of the resource in all the SHAs for cost recovery to stay afloat. The Plan would have the Department manage the SHAs to achieve CIAA cost recovery and bloodstock goals for the Trail Lake Hatchery. The Seward AC was initially against this proposal as this was the first time we had heard of a fishery being managed for brood stock AND cost recovery. We amended 380 as follows:

There would be alternate days fishing including all of the shas for common property and CIAA. This arrangement would last for one year. The Board carried proposal 380 and replaced the 50 50 split of the Bear Lake Management plan with the Trail Lake Management Plan giving 100% of the fish to CIAA. Prop 380 was amended with a sunset clause that would expire in 2011. The management for both cost recovery and brood stock would be for years 09 and 2010 only. Paragraph D part 3 of prop 380 stated the prime objective of any sockeye salmon enhancement must be to provide the opportunity for a commercial sockeye fishery prosecuted with MINIMAL CONFLICT WITH THE RECREATIONAL FISHERY.

In 2010 CIAA submitted 3 proposals at the LCI. Proposal 12 would remove the sunset clause from the Trail Lake Management Plan. Proposal 13 would close the sports fishery when brood stock goals were not met. Proposal 14 would close the PU fishery until all brood stock goals were met. All 3 proposals failed.

At the 2013 LCI meeting CIAA submitted proposals 83, 84, and 85. Each of these proposals dealing with 3 different areas asked the Board to manage these areas to achieve brood stock and harvest, cost recovery, goals. The Board adopted the amended language in RC 26 which read: The Dept. will manage the sports fishery in accordance with regulations in 5 AAC 47-5ACC 75. The commissioner may issue eo's to liberalize or restrict sports fisheries based on achievement of brood stock goals. All 3 proposals passed with the amended language. Of note is that the Board did not allow management for cost recovery purposes.

Fast forward to today and proposal 203.

CIAA is again asking the Board to manage fishing in the SHAs according to brood stock and cost recovery goals. CIAA has had limited success at best achieving cost recovery goals. In 2014 the goal was 2.9 million and the actual \$ amount caught was 1,725,643\$. In 2015 the goal was 4.2 million and 2,571,603 were realized. With the price of fish going down and the cost recovery goals going up we do not see how cost recovery goals will ever be realized. Seward would be directly affected by allowing management for CR in the Bear Lake SHA as the SHA takes up a good portion of Resurrection Bay. Early run reds are money fish for CIAA competing only with Copper River Reds. As of now management has been only for brood and NOT for cost recovery. RC 26 at the 2013 meeting put this in stature that the sports fishery would be managed for brood and not CR.

There is also the issue of wild fish being caught in CR efforts. At a recent CIAA board meeting it was stated that in 2015 90,000 reds were caught for cost recovery. 1% or 900 of these fish were wild. Taking that into consideration, a percentage of wild fish must also be taken by the sports fishery. Not all of the fish swimming thru the SHA are hatchery fish.

As an aside, CIAA was giving away reds at the Bear Lake weir this year. Not charging for the fish but giving them away. How is it possible to be giving away fish when cost recovery goals are not being met? Obviously the sports component of the catch was insignificant as enough fish made it passed them to be given away. Again please refer to RC # 16 for sport caught catch data. Perhaps the cost recovery efforts should be doing a better job of catching these fish. We ask the Board to allow the status que to remain and allow the Dept. to manage for brood stock only and not cost recovery.

In closing I would like to reference Brent Johnson's, statement in the 2014 annual report. "Part of the CIAA mission is to Maximize the value of Cook Inlet's common property salmon resource" What better way to do that than have the fisheries open to anyone who wants to participate.' Not so in the Bear Lake SHA. The common property fishery has been virtually nonexistent as all the fish have been going to support the Hatchery since 2009.

Thank you for your time and consideration today. I will attempt to answer any questions you may have. I also have copies of the various proposals I referenced if anyone is interested.