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Chairman John Jensen
Alaska Board of Fisheries
Boards Support Section
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Re: Agenda Change Request #11 (UCIDA); Genetics of the Composition of Kodiak Area Sockeye Salmon Stocks; Management of Kodiak Salmon Stocks.

Dear Chairman Jensen and Members of the Alaska Board of Fisheries,

I am 29 years old. I have been seining salmon in Kodiak for 17 seasons. I was a crewman on my father's seiner for 16 seasons. 2017 is the first year that I have operated a salmon seine vessel. I have been an Alaskan resident, and lived in Kodiak, all my life. My family has a very significant dependence on the Kodiak salmon fishery, and my plan is to pursue that tradition. I employ 3 crewmembers.

The time frame between June 23 and July 31 is very important to my salmon fishing operation. This time frame is also very important, not only to the all Kodiak seine and setnet fishermen, but also to the Kodiak community, all the Kodiak villages, several hundreds of cannery workers, processing companies, small businessmen and support industries who provide goods and services to the salmon fleet and processing industry, tradesmen, the transportation industry, the consumer, and the entire economic engine that is driven by the importance of this June 23 to July 31 Kodiak salmon fishery.

Given the very significant economic disruption that would occur in Kodiak to the above-mentioned individuals, communities and entities as a result of the implementation of ACR #11, or from any other modification in the regulations that govern the Kodiak salmon fishery, it is imperative that the Board should have a significantly in-depth understanding of the economic impacts of ACR#11, or of any other action that would intend to change our Kodiak salmon management plan. Adjusting the Kodiak salmon fishery in the way that is proposed by the individuals who are responsible for bringing this issue forward for Board consideration, either as an ACR action, or action that would take Kodiak out of the normal 3-year cycle, is unjustified.

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In short, Kodiak is a very well-managed salmon fishery. The Kodiak salmon fishery has little impact on Cook Inlet stocks. Any modification to the way that ADF&G manages the Kodiak Salmon fishery would cause serious and unjustified economic consequences for the harvesters and processors of Kodiak salmon, and conflicts between and among Kodiak seine and set net salmon fishermen.

If you change the management plan for Kodiak salmon, Kodiak fishermen will not be able to harvest local pink and chum salmon stocks as they have in the past, and in a manner that makes sense from many relevant and time-tested management and biological perspectives. This will result in forgone catches and poor quality. The fleet will be forced to move into the inner bay areas, which will also cause new conflicts between the set net and seine fishermen.

I respectfully request that you do not accept ACR#11. ACR#11 does not include arguments, facts or other information that meet the ACR criteria that is required for either considering or changing fishing regulations or management plans, or addressing the criteria that relates to new information, conservation concerns, errors in regulation, etc.

I also request, and suggest, that you do not schedule this issue to some time that is outside of your established 3-year schedule to address the Kodiak salmon fisheries. The facts and information that surround this issue do not in any way justify addressing Kodiak or Kodiak-related issues prior to the scheduled 2020 time frame that is currently planned to again consider the Kodiak salmon fishery.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Sincerely Yours,

Aaron J. Nevin
F/V Aquarius