

Chair Johnstone, Board Members,

My name is Christine Brandt and I am an East Side Set Net fisherwoman. I say it with pride and passion. Commercial fishing is 100% my livelihood. Recently we were called an antiquated fishery, well if raising my children with family values of hard work and traditions is antiquated then I will wear that label with pride. There is no greater reward than watching 3 generations on the beach working side by side in a family business, each member with a responsibility from the youngest to the oldest, everyone is included. A business where the primary objective is to harvest sockeye, how do we do that? By using less than 6" mesh and generally it is less than 5".

I made a promise to my fellow Kasilof district fishermen, to come to this meeting and protect our fishery from further restrictions. I and the families I represent oppose 209, 211 and RC 58. The Kasilof district is comprised of 285 of the 440 permit holders, or 66% of the ESSN fishery. We do not want to see another season where the terminal fishery is utilized. The management plan has other measures in it to harvest sockeye that will benefit more of the district with less impact on kings, such as the ½ mile or 600ft. There is no scientific data to quantify mesh reduction or net reduction and in fact it could have the opposite affect. Are we not a fishery that is based on biological management?

I support proposal 150, which keeps the Kasilof District within the Kasilof Management plan until July 15.

I have learned that there are no guarantees in life and there are definitely none in fishing. However let us harvest the sockeye when they are in abundance on the beaches, manage the districts accordingly, give the managers back the tools they need to have the biggest impact on reds and the least on kings, take away the restrictions of windows and limited EO's, **DO NOT** add further confusion by adding more restrictions.

I submitted proposals for no retention of females over 33", after discussion with the Department, proposal 193 as amended by the Kenai/Soldotna AC addresses this in the most beneficial way for all users

The early run is definitely a concern, we have not harvested these stocks in years yet the Kings continue to decline. New data from the tagging study shows that early-run kings wait in the lower Kenai River for as long as 4 weeks before moving into their spawning area to complete their life cycle. I encourage you to look closely at this study and take appropriate action.

When conservation is truly an issue I will be one of the first to agree to restrictions, but until that time let us have the opportunity to harvest the abundant sockeye runs.

Thank you for your time.