

RC 244

SOUTH K BEACH INDEPENDENT

FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 1632 Kenai, Alaska 99611-1632 (907) 283-5098
Protecting and Preserving the Kasilof River Aquarian System

February 10, 2014

Alaska Board of Fisheries
Board Support Section
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, Alaska 99811-5526

RE: Cook Inlet Regulatory Meeting 01.31- 02.13/14

Proposals 116,117 5 AAC 21.310 Fishing Seasons

Chairman Karl Johnstone,

SOKI supports removing the one percent restriction in late season although if the board should justify the closure with the restrictions placed on the setnet fleet after adopting **Kenai River Sportfishing Associations (KRSA) Proposal 209** then the BOF should consider implementing the one percent rule by each of the SIX statistical areas of the ESSN beaches within both of the Kasilof and Kenai districts.

Suggested Language:

5 AAC 21.310 Fishing seasons (a) (2) (iii) ...if the department determines that less than one percent of the season's total sockeye harvest as determined from each statistical area has been taken per fishing period for two consecutive fishing periods, closures will only apply for each respective statistical area;

We are very concerned that 244-31 Subdistrict (south K-Beach) will have unintended negative consequences in that if closed in the entire Kasilof district, our access to harvest pink salmon under 5 AAC 21.354 will be denied. We are the historic and traditional harvester of pink salmon because of pinks returning to the Kasilof River and the tidal flats geography of the south K-Beach area. SOKI fishermen are at the extreme north end of the Kasilof District, a district that is over 31 miles long and is just 2.9 miles in length. Considering that the Kasilof River sockeye salmon escapement is normally near the high end or is exceeding the top end of the BEG, it would be counter productive to restrict the closest in proximity setnet fishing district for late season Kasilof River sockeye harvest opportunity and pink salmon harvests.

Thank you,

Paul A. Shadura II

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Spokesperson