

SOUTH K BEACH INDEPENDENT

RC 054

FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION

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

March 19, 2015

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

RE: Emergency Petition (03.17.15), Summary of Requested Changes

Chairman Kluberton,

SOKI seeks to clarify and simplify the suggested language change by submitting this Record Copy (RC).

- 1) *SOKI members have worked with many setnet fishermen from the Kasilof Section - Ninilchik, Coho, South K-Beach, and the Kenai Section - North K-Beach, Salamantof and East Forelands sections of the east side setnet (ESSN) fishery. We would not have brought this petition forward without their support. They will comment individually if given the opportunity if this board moves to have the merits heard in a "special meeting".*
- 2) ***We are not asking for additional hours per week. Just that the allowed hours (6, 8, 9, 12, and 36???) will be managed as a separated unit for the Kasilof or Kenai sections. This may result in an exclusion of one section as the Commissioner may deem appropriate considering an assessment of conservation and risk.***
- 3) *We believe that more "surgical" openings based on perceived abundance can be managed more precisely with time and area if the area is reduced from 70 some miles to roughly half that distance. Tide sequencing varies 1.5 – 2.0 hours from the southern most point to the northern most point.*
- 4) ***The total Late Run Kenai King (LRKK) forecast this year is at 22,115. That is 3,115 more than last years forecast and final post season assessment. It is also 385 kings below the 22,500 action point that lifts the "notwithstanding" restrictions.***
- 5) *The Department has changed the location of the counter thereby moving the relative date to which they determine the size of the king run (50%) to 6 – 9 days latter.*
- 6) ***The value of the fishery in the Kasilof Terminal area is significantly undervalued by the processing industry and they may not choose buy the sockeye at any price.***
- 7) *In actual practice this "flexibility tool" maybe in effect in for a one or two week period. It could be used once at best or possibly more if is successful.*

This slight requested modification to the regulation is a major improvement in an opportunity for maintaining an economically viable fishery. One modified fishing period that is based on "true abundance" for a given beach would be a tremendous relief to the fishery. Fishermen are aware of the consequences of this proposed action but are encouraged that this change may improve their position, especially those that are situated relatively near the proximities of the terminus of each river system.

We would appreciate you consideration and remain available for any questions,

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