

**From:** Peter Zimmerman [mailto:clipperseafoods@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 17, 2016 9:32 PM  
**To:** Kerkvliet, Carol M (DFG)  
**Subject:** Request for clarity

RC 037

Dear Carol,

On November 8th you, Mike and Barbi attended the Homer Advisory Committee meeting. There were about 33 people present. During the meeting you presented the latest genetic study and gave the Departments views on the Cook Inlet Recreational Fisherman's (CIRF) proposals.

You stated that the Department was opposed to a 2 king daily bag limit, no seasonal limit south of Anchor Pt. When asked about the Departments position to permit a 2 king daily bag limit, no seasonal limit south of Bluff Point you said "The Department was neutral." The question was asked again for clarification and you gave the same reply. I called several people who attended the meeting and they concurred that in fact, is what you said.

I dropped by your office earlier this week & spoke with you & Mike. I requested a survey map and some king harvest information. I also asked you why the department would take a neutral position on a 2 king daily bag limit no seasonal limit south of Bluff Point and not support it considering the latest science. You said the department could not take a position of support on an allocative issue. You went on to say the Department would like to see the terminal runs (Dudiak Lagoon, Halibut Cove, & Seldovia) remain subject to a 5 king seasonal limit. CIRF agrees. I received the Departments comments on CIRF's proposals on the 15th. I responded in yesterdays email for clarification. Your response this morning was "We aren't free to make interpretation outside of the language used in the proposal." Considering what was represented to the AC committee and myself it now appears the department will not take a neutral position if the Board of Fisheries were to suggest a saltwater 2 king daily bag limit no seasonal limit south of Bluff Point. (Exception, terminal runs Dudiak Lagoon, Halibut Cove Lagoon and Seldovia.)

Carol when we started this process 3 years ago you and I had a discussion about trust. I need not remind you there has been a complete lack of trust between the public and the department here in Homer since Nick Dudiak retired. I really went out on a limb with our CIRF members when I told them to trust the department and cooperate with F&G staff, give them any and all information they may require for their study. (Including any heads from tagged fish)

I went so far as to remind our members of the Departments Guiding Principles: ""Build a working environment based on mutual trust and respect between the department and the public, and among department staff. Maintain the highest standards of scientific integrity and provide the most accurate and current information. Improve public accessibility to and encourage active involvement by the public in the departments decision making process."

Our time, your time, the Boards time, is valuable. We have attempted to work with the Department, in good faith, at the local level, to come up with the best possible management solution for our Lower Cook Inlet King salmon saltwater fishery. We have repeatedly asked for guidance from department. In most cases, the departments reply is, submit a proposal to the board. When in fact, the Board most likely would prefer to have most matters settled at the local level. The board meets here in Homer every 3 years. The process of researching and summiting a proposal is time consuming and laborious. Most of the issues presented to your department could be addressed at the local level. (crab & shrimp surveys conducted by volunteers for example) The community has volunteered for countless projects only to be politely rejected. So instead of encouraging public participation, the public is ignored. Hence the anger, frustration and mistrust.

We fund the Department. We purchase licenses and king salmon stamps, excise taxes from fishing equipment, electronics, imported boats go directly to ADF&G via the Dingell-Johnson Fund. The stated purpose of those funds is, "Restoring, conserving, managing, and enhancing sport fish, and providing for public use and benefit from these resources." We, the residents of Alaska and the Federal government finance the ADF&G but somewhere that simple fact is lost. It's all well and good for the department to state their "Guiding Principles" BUT IT'S FAR MORE IMPORTANT THAT THEIR ACTIONS REFLECT THEIR WORDS.

So I'll rephrase the question, if at the upcoming Board meeting there's a suggestion that the current regulations regarding Lower Cook Inlet saltwater king salmon be changed as follows: South of Bluff Point 2 king daily bag limit, no seasonal limit. (Exception terminal fisheries, Dudiak Lagoon, Halibut Cove and Seldovia excluded) would the Department be neutral?

Sincerely,  
Pete Zimmerman  
Cook Inlet Recreational Fisherman (CIRF)

**From:** Kerkvliet, Carol M (DFG) <[carol.kerkvliet@alaska.gov](mailto:carol.kerkvliet@alaska.gov)>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 18, 2016 1:13 PM  
**To:** Peter Zimmerman  
**Cc:** Miller, Matthew G (DFG); Vania, Tom D (DFG)  
**Subject:** RE: Request for clarity

Pete,  
My initial response was certainly not meant to infer we would rescind our neutral stance, as stated in staff comments for a given proposal, if it is allocative. So to be clear, we are either neutral (if it is determined allocative) or we support the proposal as stated in the last paragraph. I don't see us opposed.  
Sincerely,  
Carol