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Mr. Chairman and members of the Board of Fish

Written comment on Proposal 48

I am the author of this proposal,

Early timed PWSAC adult chum salmon have been returning and are harvested by the purse seine fleet at the AFK hatchery since 1999. The AFK hatchery is located in the southwest district in PWS. The regulation book states "*in the Southwest district, the district is closed to salmon fishing before July 18.*"

In 1996 PWSAC started collecting early timed chum eggs at AFK, the intent was to create a early timed chum fishery for the seine fleet, the first adult chums returned in 1999. Since 1999 adult chums have been returning to AFK and are harvested by the purse seine fleet in the hatchery SHA and THA. The language that prohibits salmon openings prior to July 18 has been on the books for decades, its intent is to allow passage of wild and enhanced salmon bound fo the south west district and other districts. The SW districts is a large area, it starts at Cape Fairfield to the west and extends to Naked Island in the East, about 60 miles. And from Latouche Island in the south to Chenega Island in the North, about 25 miles.

The SHA and THA located in Sawmill Bay where the AFK hatchery is located is an area 1 mile by 2.5 miles. It is clear the language of prohibiting salmon openings in the SW district was overlooked by PWSAC and ADF&G when the planning and permitting for the early timed chum fishery took place. Recently it has been pointed out to ADF&G that the regulation prohibiting salmon openers in the SW district is contrary to the on going early chum fishery in Sawmill Bay. My intent with proposal 48 is to add language to the regulations that recognize this fishery occurs in the THA and SHA prior to July 18.