

RC093

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Alaska Board of Fisheries
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Dear Chairman Jensen and Alaska Board of Fisheries Members,

I'm Bill Thomas from Haines, Alaska, and was born and raised here for 70 years except for a 2-year obligation to serve my country, 1966-1968(Vietnam 1968).

I was a deckhand prior to going into service and started again in 1969 and leased a boat then bought my own. I have a original limited gillnet entry permit that I got from the State for the privilege to harvest the resource owned by the people of Alaska. Also have a shrimp permit and own halibut quota (started fishing in 1973). Had a hand troll but sold it when the Board reduced troll lines down to 2 from 4.

I served in The Alaska State Legislature for 8 years, and 6 years on the Finance Committee where I Chaired the Sub-Committee that had the Department of Fish and Game Budget. And at the overviews and Sub-committee meetings the first overhead slide was the Department of Fish and Games Mission Statement-The Alaska Department of Fish and Game's mission is to manage, protect, maintain, and improve the fish, game, and aquatic plant resources of Alaska. The primary goals are to ensure that Alaska's renewable fish and wildlife resources and their habitats are conserved and managed on the sustained yield principle, and the use

and development of these resources are in the best interest of the economy and well-being of the people of the State. I bring this because I believe by some past actions of some that they may have forgot this or not familiar with the Mission Statement.

I have watched the fishery I participate in go from complete wild stock to almost total dependents on the hatchery fish from DIPAC. Last several years attract more boats from throughout Southeast to come here and even the seine fleet comes early for The Amalga Harbor opening. (glad I believed in Ladd Macaully early and was there to watch it be successful even if was labeled as a backroom dream of some gillnetters) Be nice to get back to natural stock. One year we had no natural stock show up and was told by one manager (possibly) in the room when I complained he told me to learn how to fish, but under mission statement it's not my job to get fish escapement up the river- it's The Department's Mission.

And now we in Haines are looking at tough restrictions, which I'll live through, but many may have to travel to other Districts. Juneau Sport fishermen, Haines subsistence fisherman are also looking at a bad year also because of the king salmon stocks. I been told that kings mill inside waters and everyone is being restricted why not make the seine fleet go back to brailing and sort immature kings on a sorting table (been told they do or did it in Washington State) or another way and fine heavily anyone who brings in a king. Even fining processer for buying the fish.

I support proposal 146, taking DIPAC and other private, non-profit off allocation of roles, this was done in Prince William Sound, so not a precedence.

I don't support proposal 155, lifting the sockeye cap at Hawk Inlet Shoreline.

I support proposal 156, moving cap date.

I support proposal 157 and 158, counting all Almaga Sockeye against Hawk Inlet Cap.

I support proposal 167 moving District 12 & 14 to within half mile shore.

I support proposal 141, fish rotation in Deep Inlet and Anita Bay on one to one.

As the Mission Statements goes do good for the people of Alaska and the economy. Also, a general comment which I noticed about certain blog comments about me threatening Fish and Game Managers and Staff, when I helped write your operating I would never had to threaten them I could have just removed them from the Budget so don't believe all anonymous blog comments. I could have done this easily while the Co-Chair of Finance for the Operating Budget, but added position and increased capital through The Great State of Alaska.

Thanks for allowing me input,

Bill Thomas
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Haines, Alaska