

RC223

To the Board of Fisheries,

I'm sending you comments on behalf of the Southeast Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (Council). These comments are in regards to Proposals 195 and 196.

The Council is comprised of 13 members from across the southeast region's villages, towns, and cities. We hold meetings twice a year and hold them in as many different communities as possible to hear subsistence users' concerns about fish and wildlife resources.

The Council has heard a lot of testimony about sockeye salmon shortages in stream systems in many parts of SE Alaska. There has been an extraterritorial jurisdiction petition by the people of the Angoon area in regards to subsistence needs for sockeye not being met. There are continued concerns from Craig, Kake, Klawock, Hydaburg, Petersburg, Wrangell, and other villages and towns around the region, noting problems with a lack of sockeye returns and increased competition from non-residents.

The ADF&G claims no conservation concerns, except on the McDonald Lake stock. This does not reflect those streams that aren't receiving stream walks or salmon counting. These systems have no escapement goals or carrying capacities. With the growing number lodges and the 'unguided' skiff rentals, the non-resident angler is taking unaccounted salmon from our streams. The mail-out surveys are marginal, at best, for estimating sockeye numbers being harvested.

As subsistence users, we must record every fish taken under a subsistence permit. Non-resident anglers have no obligation to report any amount of take.

The council feels strongly about this problem and would like the board to address this in some fashion to help make accountability more accurate. Thank you for considering these proposals.

Sincerely,

Michael Bangs
Council Chairman

Sent from my iPad