

RC385

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RC 266 – Chilkat Stock of Concern Action Plan

Dear Chairman Jensen and Alaska Board of Fisheries Members,

I'm Bill Thomas from Haines and a lifelong resident and a commercial fisherman since 1969. I served in the Alaska State Legislature for 8 years and had the Fish and Game Budget for 6 years, and very familiar with the Departments Mission Statement. This should be visible always while the Board is in Session. I sincerely believe that the Board of Fish is part of the Department and should follow the Statement.

In following your deliberations and the king salmon issue in Lynn Canal. The plan "B" that you are considering I recommend some amendments for consideration, first move the Southern Line of postage stamp South towards Amalga Harbor, giving gillnet fisheries more area, second give them 3 days with night closures. And move the line from Eldred Rock to Northern Sullivan line, I've fished that area for over 40 years and have only caught 4 spawners above Eldred Rock. Most of the time the spawners break through my net, because the net I use is for 6-8-pound fish, I don't believe many would fish in 15-A if you expand 15-C. Mainly because of the cost(fuel) of running down to 15-C (4 ½ hour run). Of course, there could be a sockeye run into Chilkoot.

Been following your meeting on my cell phone and commend you on well conducted meetings.

I don't envy your job, as bad as serving in Legislature, no one likes what you do, good luck I'll live with whatever happens worried about the economy of Haines and 65 resident fishermen and women.

Bill Thomas
Raven's Walk