

RC 017

From: Charles Allen AEC <ca@alaskaexpedition.com>

Date: Monday, August 29, 2016 at 7:32 PM

To: "'Marston, Brian H (DFG)'" <brian.marston@alaska.gov>, <info@alaskawilderness.com>, <tsiuriver@gmail.com>

Subject: RE: Tsiu Markers 2016

Hello Brian:

We attended the annual "Tsiu Stakeholders" meeting last Friday. Topics of interest to all parties were discussed. Unfortunately, no one from F&G was in attendance, nor did any representative from the commercial fisheries mention the plan to move the marker north from its' previous position established two years ago. I placed a call to Nicole (area manager) on Sunday morning and left a message that I would like to discuss the rationale for moving the marker, but we have not connected.

The marker was moved further north by what appears to be somewhere between 300—400 yards. Sport fishermen were first of all not warned about this move, and secondly, this has succeeded in compressing sport fishermen even closer to each other. This area was part of the small remaining area, approximately 700 yards long on the north end of the new "Tsiyat cut" where sport fishermen could fish without having to dodge the jet boats or move when a net was dropped. Therefore, this action took about 1/2 of the already small area.

I visited with Nicole's assistant yesterday morning on the river about the move and his comment to me was that "the area that the marker was moved to did not assist the commercial fishermen at all as the new area was mainly too shallow". That being the case, I suggest that the marker be returned to where it was for the last two seasons.

I did visit with both Greg Derrick and Tom Prijatle and all three of us are opposed to the move, especially in light of the heavy-handed nature of not discussing the move with the lodges first (the purpose of the meeting??). We had made good headway in bridging the gap between the commercial and sport fishers in the last two seasons. This move was, we feel, a slap in the face to all the lodges, sport fishermen, and by F&G own admission, did not really do anything to increase the commercial catch. It did succeed in really upsetting lodge owners and their fishermen. It seems this move has really stirred up a hornet's nest and will likely surface at the next Board of Commercial Fisheries. All for what?

Charles Allen
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