

**BOF Testimony 2020, #40  
January 11, 2020  
Susan Payne**

**Introduction:**

**My name is Susan Payne. Along with my husband, we live in Kodiak and gillnet for salmon at Horseshoe Bay on the Westside of Kodiak with our two children, when they are not in Bristol Bay. We have been at Horseshoe Bay since 2002 and before that we were beachseiners also on the Westside. I submitted Proposal 76 and am submitting my comments given to you today.**

**Testimony:**

Management must fairly manage the fisheries for the benefit of all gear types using the regulations that have been developed over many years and work with fishermen to address concerns. Managers of yore addressed Cook Inlet and Chignik catch in the various Kodiak management area plans. These plans have worked well for decades.

Our fishing has changed over time and our fishing opportunity and success is being affected by environmental variability evidenced by changes in salmon migration patterns, run timing, salmon size, currents, ocean temperatures, winds, weather, droughts, and magnificent slime. The magnitude of these differences are intensifying and more variable. We should recognize this in the management of our fisheries and create highly flexible management criteria to give managers flexibility, perhaps less reliant on set dates, able to react to the unexpected.

Kodiak fishing is managed not only by regulations, but by the Pink Salmon Harvest Strategy, and since 2017 a new Biological Escapement Goal for both early and late Karluk sockeye. The higher BEG and the management strategy to hold us to the midpoint of the range is an added constraint to our fishing time. The Westside Setnet fleet can only fish in the Central Section. We bare the Burden of Conservation disproportionately for many of the proposed changes coming from Cook Inlet and Chignik..

Now for comments on individual proposals:

**For Proposals 69 and 70:** I am in favor of both these proposals to conserve wild pink salmon returns to minor systems while allowing us access to strong Karluk pink salmon returns. I prefer Proposal 70 because it allows for changes to Karluk pink run strength that may change in the future from even to odd years, and allows the flexibility for

change I spoke about in the preceding paragraphs. We are not trying to "grab fish", not possible as a stationary fishery, we are just trying to keep our nets in the water which is possible if runs are healthy. The managers said yesterday that the majority of the wild pink runs are caught in July. With climate change, these fish may have changing return times. We cannot afford to be closed in the Central Section as in 2010 because management did not protect the inner bay pink runs during those early July openers. We need to fish as many days as possible to make a season. Thank you to Chris Berns and the NW Setnetters for taking up these proposals, with all the work that entails. ADFG has been aware of this concern since 2011.

**For Proposal 76:** I submitted this proposal because I want to guarantee fair access in the Central Section for Karluk bound fish which is the unwritten intent. The local AC discussed this proposal along with the Department and I agree with their decision to oppose this proposal at this time, and I hope you will follow their guidance.

**Oppose Proposal 37:** This proposal assumes we are catching Cook Inlet bound Chinook only and that our catches of Chinook occur at the same time as Cook Inlet.

Thank you for your fair consideration.

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