

January 11, 2020

Chairman Reed Morisky
Alaska Board of Fisheries Members
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Re: Economic Importance of Maintaining Kodiak's Salmon Fishery

Dear Chairman Morisky:

I am writing you as an individual, not as an elected official, to voice my opposition to Proposals 58-66 and 37, which you are considering at this weekend's Board of Fisheries board meeting.

As a 20-year resident of Kodiak, I have seen good economic times and bad, and I've been paying attention long enough to recognize how our community prospers in times of strong fishing, and collectively suffers when it's poor.

Through my experience in local government. I understand our responsibility to provide basic services and infrastructure, including public education, all on a balanced budget. In two years of public service I've seen fish landing tax revenues plummet because of salmon disasters and similar collapses of groundfish such as cod. It seems that fishing families have been rolling from one disaster into another for the last three years. With deep cuts from the state, including a \$2.6M shortfall in school bond debt reimbursement, Kodiak is in a difficult spot.

My 8-year old son and 6-year old daughter have been visiting our neighbor's Uganik setnet site each summer since they were babies. My oldest is starting to take part in the work. As a parent of aspiring fishermen, I've affirmed my belief that fishing requires discipline, perseverance and instills a work ethic that is hard to replicate elsewhere. I am convinced that many Kodiak kids become successful in life not in spite of growing up fishing, but partly *because* of it. I've seen how one can supplement her income with a stint fishing, making it possible to raise a family on teacher's pay. No doubt, we have retained some good people because of it.

I am not a fisherman, but like everyone else in this community my family and I would be deeply affected such a loss to Kodiak's share of the salmon fishery. It's not a few dozen king salmon we should be talking about. It's the pink and sockeye runs that seasonally flood these waters, the fleet that has been built and rebuilt many times over the past century to harvest it, and the community that has formed around that tradition.

Best Regards,



Andy Schroeder