

October 15, 2020

Chair and Board of Fish Members,

Please consider ACR 5. This ACR is to clarify for the Commissioner when to use the 600 ft in East side set net fishery.

I am asking that you at least consider the impact that the paired restrictions are having on our community's economy and the 600 ft still gives commercial fishermen opportunity to harvest targeted sockeye stocks. Please keep in mind that the gear that is used is used specifically to harvest sockeye.

The 2020 season saw little to no King salmon caught when this was used.

Pacific star fisheries implemented a program that if commercial fishermen released King salmon they would pay you for that King with proof being a video.

Reduction in gear depth has been another way that we are attempting not to harvest Kings.

The upper end of the escapement goal for the Kasilof River sockeye is 320,000 fish, it was exceeded by 245,000 fish this year, lost opportunity for the commercial fishermen, the local and State's economy. This is by far the largest number of fish over escaped into this system in years.

Additionally, this effected whether we would be able to harvest pinks. Since we were not fishing we were not allowed to harvest another abundant salmon with even smaller mesh size, again not targeting King salmon. When they pulled the counter they had already counted 1.4 million pink salmon escaped into the Kenai River. The pinks run through September the count ended August 28. 1.4 million pinks is 3 times as many as in passed years that number does not include what went in September.

I hope that you will consider supporting this ACR.

Please ask the question to the local management team that if the direction were clear to the Commissioner would the 600 ft have been used.

Thank you for your time.

Christine Brandt

Commercial Fisherman