

Hawk Inlet Seine Catch. From Stuart DeWitt

Board I ask that you look at these circumstances and reexamine your proposal 122 vote. Last year seine was open in District 12, south of latitude of Point Couverdon, within 1 mile of the Admiralty shoreline on August 2 and 3. Sockeye catch estimated was 10,100 and actual catch came in closer to 13000. As you can see in attached harvest estimate data hawk inlet shoreline was not singled out leading me to believe in skewed data RC177. If Hawk inlet data isn't singled out how can we be so sure of graphs and numbers that don't directly address the issue. After this opening the seine area along Admiralty shoreline was open only south of Point Marsden for the rest of the season. The following weeks gillnet area 15-C was closed for two weeks. My question is why was the seine line moved south 8 or so miles if sockeye catches were not a concern. It's because they are a concern and Seine management knows this is a very touchy topic! When genetic sampling was occurring 2015 42% of the sockeye caught were found to be of the Chilkat stock. Why the genetic sampling programs were stopped I don't know but should be reintroduced to gain invaluable information for this mixed stock fishery. The cap date was set for end of July for almost 30 years prior to the seine gillnet agreement in 2018. As Mr. Wood said a deal is a deal and the implied deal was for it to go back to the original time frame. Along with Chilkat stocks possibly becoming a stock of concern if it misses goal another year, I believe there is much more to this issue than meets the eye. Please reconsider your votes and move the Hawk Inlet cap date back to the end of July. Lastly I realize these catches are after the July date but just want you to see what an impact they could have if given more opportunity at earlier dates. They can catch a lot of fish by accident in a hurry this was only 18 boats. They are very mobile fleet and with potentially less opportunity in the southern areas this could really become a bigger issue. Thank you for your time and efforts.

Stuart DeWitt