

Please sign to oppose Chignik ACR 6 & 7

RC014

Alaska Board of Fisheries
Chair Märit Carlson-Van Dort
Via email dfg.bof.comments@alaska.gov

Undersigned King Cove Alaska Fishermen are opposed to Agenda Change Requests 6 & 7

The Board of Fisheries should not accept ACR 6 or 7 that would further restrict salmon fishing in South Alaska Peninsula Areas to address salmon escapement concerns in Chignik. The undersigned residents of King Cove agree with the ADF&G Staff Comments that these ACRs do not meet the standards of Board's policy for accepting ACRs.

Chignik late-run and total escapement objectives were met in 2021 and the weir was pulled early on August 17th. Total Chignik escapement in 2021 increased compared to the previous 3-year average. There is no conservation purpose to justify considering an out of cycle proposal.

These out of cycle proposals should be addressed through the regular process at the normal AK Peninsula/Chignik Finfish meeting of the Board. The Board opens the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands Management Plans every 3 years to address Chignik concerns.

Significant restrictions on our salmon fishing were made during the last 2 regular cycle meetings: in 2016 the Board established the Dolgoi area and set a 191,000 sockeye cap. In 2019, the Board realigned the set, drift and seine June schedules resulting in an increase of 73% more hours of open waters with no nets fishing in the South Alaska Peninsula region, and the Board closed the Dolgoi area to seine gear for all of June. South Alaska Peninsula fishermen are sharing the burden of conservation.

Local King Cove fishermen and our whole community would be directly negatively impacted by these further restrictions on salmon fishing in our region, the main basis of our livelihoods. Please reject ACRs 6 & 7 at this time.

Donald Newton

Benjamin York

Donald Reed

Justin Wilson

Robert Lee Gould

Jason Mack

Kevin Mack

Corey Wilson

Pat Walker

Don Hall

Wendy Wilk

James Bump

Charles Miel

Andrew Wilson