

Proposal 256

Dear Chairman Wood and Members of the Board of Fisheries,


My name is Jimmy Coopchiak, and I submitted proposal 29 at the last Bristol Bay Finfish meeting, which is why we are discussing proposal 256 today.

As mentioned in public comments, the Nushagak River Chinook are designated a stock of concern (SOC), but the Togiak River Chinook are not. While this statement is accurate, it is not a relevant comparison, because it has not been possible to designate Chinook a SOC in Togiak since the escapement goal was repealed in 2012. Without an escapement goal, the Chinook populations of the Togiak River are not eligible to be designated stocks of concern as outlined in the policy for management of sustainable salmon fisheries. (Fair et al.) (5 AAC 39.222). At the last Bristol Bay Finfish meeting, it was abundantly clear that there is a major concern for Togiak Chinook salmon stocks. Nothing has changed in that regard. I am grateful for the decision the Board made at that meeting and hope the original intent is not lost when the Board makes their decision on proposal 256.

The sockeyes, pinks, and cohos are all still running during August and can provide ample opportunity for anglers to use bait downstream of Geshiak Creek during that time. I am not in support of adjusting those dates to allow the use of bait during July. I believe these comments reflect the opinion of the signatories in RC014.

Please help protect Togiak Chinook stocks and keep the original intent of your decision at the last Bristol Bay Finfish meeting.

Thank you for your time and public service,



Jimmy Coopchiak