

Deliberations on submitted  
RC Action Plans / Costs /  
Orderly Fishery issues, etc.

Jeff Beaudion

RC176

The Board of Fisheries 2024 UCI meeting

Attn: Art Nelson, Chairman Wood

Re: Deliberations of RC 146, RC 155, RC 096, RC 148, RC 170

Kenai River late-run salmon stock of concern 'action plans'

Dated: 2/29/2024

Chairman Wood,

Please fully consider the action plans listed above have a Cost assigned to the prescriptive regulation use of solely 29 mesh depth nets. The cost to replace all 45 mesh gear for the Upper Sub-district set gillnet solely along the Eastside is \$8,000,000 - \$12,000,000 dollars. This cost is on the record in past meetings and these proposed regulation consequences will be \$8,000,000 - \$12,000,000 of loss, unusable gear, and the additional Cost to fully replace standard gear.

Most fishermen have a full complement of four types of size webbing for various salmon stocks. In addition Cook Inlet tides are notorious for huge cottonwoods breaking out of the offshore rips during storms, along with trees from high water run off events from the Kasilof and Kenai Rivers – all of which will destroy your nets at mid-tide. Fishermen are unable to recover their gear in time during these events as they occur quickly and unexpectedly. They must wait till slack tide to remove trees and deal with the situation safely. Please fully consider the unintended consequences (Safety at Sea) and consider to occur an orderly fishery from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm, as practiced for five decades in regulations.

For the record the Board of Fish in three different prior BOF meetings (prior to 2017) fully recognized the significant Cost to the Industry that would result in gear changes and Commercial Fisheries Division acknowledged it has no science based research to justify the use of 29 mesh depth nets vs. 45 mesh depth nets in regulation to “conserve kings”; Director Rabung is fully aware of these facts, as well. Kintama Research never used or performed a blind study on 45 mesh depth nets vs. 29 mesh depth nets last summer (limited project).

The Department's duties include - the best scientific information will be presented to the Board and Public in the Public Process; to aid the public and the Board in determining or weighing any regulation changes.

The aforementioned 'action plans' severely limit the use of gear, hours per week, time and area on forecasts, projections, when meeting or even exceeding the SEG or OEG on Kenai River late-run king salmon. These 'action plans' arbitrarily exclude my area completely from fishing on July 1- July 14<sup>th</sup> or within a described fishery (ESSN). My area has the lowest rate of large king salmon harvests along the eastside and I am excluded on time and area, methods and means to harvest Kasilof sockeye salmon stocks. The Department has the information as well as Director Rabung on per stat area harvest rates per 12 hour periods under all circumstances; full complement 45 mesh gear, time and area, half-mile openers, 600 foot openers, etc.

Jeff Beaudoin, Kasilof, Alaska