

Proposal 43

The effects of the state producing commercial opportunity for hatchery fisheries has made for great opportunity for them and many hard working families, - and at the same time it has destroyed significant subsistence and commercial economy and opportunity for village fisheries and processors in places like the Yukon River drainage. We can debate all day whether hatchery fish compete with wild stocks among ourselves, but it is open, continual and independent review of all this that is needed. Since my first hatchery meeting here in Anchorage in 2000 I have felt too many times there has been a systematic unwillingness to do that.

I look at proposal 43 as an extreme measure and response to a very bad situation that should never have been allowed to get to this point. A situation where a healthy wild stock family orientated economy that supported itself was replaced using state monies and wrong changes in the wanton waste regulations.

I hope in the future for regular, independent and unbiased review of what we have done and where the hatcheries need to go.

For the above reasons I will be voting in favor of Proposal 43.

Thank you Mr. Chair
