
Ms [REDACTED],

First of all, thank you for visiting the Kenai area last summer and talking to various set net fisherman. After such a depressing summer, it was nice to hear that someone actually cared about what was going on in our fishery.

I just spent over 3 hrs reading every last word of 757 pages of written comments regarding ACR 283. It is obvious that this is a very heated subject, one that seems to focus unknowingly on the lack of "tools in the management toolbox".

I'm a fisherman in the ESSN fishery north of Kenai in what is called the "East Forelands/Salamatof North" sub district (stat area 244-42). Our stat area historically does not catch a significant number of kings. In the board cycle prior to 2020, we (East Forelands) were exempted from the paired restrictions implemented in the Kenai Late Run King Salmon Management Plan. Without ever fishing us as part of the management tools for any significant length of time to gather catch data, our exemption was unexpectedly dropped in 2020.

Over the years, the East Side of Cook Inlet has been sub- divided into small management areas in an attempt to help managers target specific fish based on their species and native waters. This is not easy in a mixed stock fishery such as Cook Inlet. These areas in the ESSN currently include the Blanchard line, Kasilof half mile, Kasilof terminal, Kasilof 600', North K Beach 600' and recently, the East Forelands.

AF&G catch data shows that the East Forelands catches the smallest total number of kings of any of the East Side sub sections. 2019 catch results show only 55 kings of all sizes and origins, 2020 (data is not available on website), and in 2021 we only caught 25 kings of all

sizes and origins. On the last day of the 2021 season, the ESSN caught 36,600 sockeye and 72 kings. Of those kings, only 2 were caught in the East Forelands/Salamatof North district. Due to the East Forelands not being an available "tool in the tool box" and based on closure of the river for any and all king salmon fishing thereafter, we were all shut down for the season. After the ESSN was shut down, 1,241,800 more sockeye salmon than the UPPER END of the sockeye salmon goal were permitted to enter the Kenai with essentially zero contribution to the local economy. If the ESSN fishery was allowed to catch even 30% of those fish, it would have been \$4.1m back into the economy (30% of 1.2m = 360,000 fish x 5.75/lb each x \$2.00/lb dock price = \$4.1m). Last year the governor stated that Alaska must grab every economic dollar available to keep the state running but I don't see how allowing a \$4.1m+ surplus of fish to go up river unharvested supports that statement!

I am hoping that ACR 283 passes as I believe it gives the department another tool to use in catching sockeye while doing minimal damage to the kings. If however, you feel that there is too much pressure to not pass the ACR, I would ask that you consider amending it to give opportunity for the East Forelands/Salamatof North sub district to fish within the existing paired gear restrictions of 2 - 29 mesh nets or 1 - 45 mesh net per permit within 600' of shore.

If you could please let me know that you received this email and, if you feel that I need to send this along to the BoF in its entirety, please let me know also.

Sincerely,

Lance Alldrin
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