

Wally Hinderer Testimony - Board of Fisheries 2/20/23

Madam Chair and members of the Board;

My name is Wallace Hinderer.

I came to Chignik in 1961 and fished from 1963 to present.

1. In 1961 both sockeye runs were weak because of cannery fish traps and individual pressures present at that time.
2. A simple solution to save the fishery was put in place. It went as follows:
 - a. Fish 12 hours a day, 3 days a week through June
 - b. Fish 12 hours a day, 5 days a week in July/August
 - c. As fishing improved, regulations were relaxed.
 - i. Fishing time became 24 hours per day
 - ii. Openings were by field announcement
3. Beginning in about 1968, management used the following goals:
 - a. 400,000 sockeye by the end of June.
 - b. 200,000 sockeye for July/Aug.
4. Interception became a fact of life just prior to the permit system in 1975.
 - a. Cape Igvak received a 15% allocation
 - b. SEDM received 7.6% allocation
5. Once limited entry was implemented. 90 permanent permits were allowed. The number 90 was chosen, because it was believed that the fishery would support all the permits. To date, maybe 35 permits are fishing. Because in the years after receiving the permits, the fish were allocated away.
6. Management allowed interception to surpass 15% at Igvak during the season. This decision was justified by forecasts. The thought was that Chignik could catch up during the second run.
7. Then there were areas that few people knew of, except the fishermen. Defacto interception took it's toll in places like Dolgoi which was never open in June until 2004.
8. The stage for the Chignik Sockeye's 2nd decline was set.
9. No longer did we require a build up of salmon in the lagoon prior to a commercial opening.

10. Fish and Game started saying we had too much escapement. They lowered the escapement ranges and managed for the lower end of the ranges.
11. Less escapement=More fish returning. This kind of thinking is not a scenario that we ever used to restore a run in past history.
12. The Department speaks of combining both runs into one management model.
13. I feel this is wrong. Each run has its own genetic properties and return at different times. Their needs should be met individually.
14. Fish and Game needs to take full responsibility for managing these stocks more appropriately.
15. It took 15 years to rebuild the run back in the 60's and now the run is in decline again. I ask the Board Members to use their wisdom and courage to set the Chignik Sockeye on a trajectory of rebuilding.

I am in support of proposals

106,109,118,120,128,134,135,136,137,139,140,143,148,149 and 150.

I recommend deferring action on proposals 105 and 132.