

February 21, 2023

Madam Chair, Board Members:

My name is Robert Heyano, I'm a life long resident of Alaska and a commercial Bristol Bay Fisherman.

I support Proposals 134-139-140. I was able to attend the AYK meeting and heard the testimony of the AYK people to the impacts that low salmon populations have had on their lives. It's a sad day for this great State to not have enough salmon for a limited subsistence fishery. These proposals are designed to pass fish to the AYK region and still provide harvest opportunity to the Area M harvesters

I support Proposal 120. I believe that the concept drafted in Proposal 120 would provide additional salmon to the people of Nelson Lagoon.

I'm opposed to Proposals 121-122-123-124. Opening Cinder River Section to Area M permit holders. We know from past studies there is a high percentage of Bristol Bay sockeye present in the Outer Port Heiden and Ilnik Section commercial harvest. It's probably reasonable to assume that there will be a high percentage of Bristol Bay sockeye in the proposed Cinder River Section.

I was at the 1990 Board of Fish meeting when Area T permit holders were eliminated from fishing the outer Ilnik Section and the Outer Port Heiden Section was closed to both Area T and Area M permit holders. What I recall happened was that both Area M and Area T drift permit holders compromised, Outer Port Heiden will be closed to both permit holders, Area T permit holders gave up fishing in the Outer Ilnik Sections. The concept of a closed area for both Permits was to create a buffer Zone between the Area T and Area M. Part of the reason for this compromise can

be found in the 2010 ADF&G Annual Management Report. "The number of Area T permit holders fishing in the overlap area increased from 16 in 1976 to a high of 122 (104 drift gillnet and 18 set gillnet) in 1992. Prior to 1990, Area T permit holders were allowed to fish in the entire Ilink Section during August and September. In 1986 Area T fishermen started operating in Ilink Section during August and September." The other part of the reason was that Area T fishermen observed the Area M fishermen moving into the Ilink Section in larger numbers. They also learned that a large percentage of the harvest consisted of Bristol Bay sockeye.

Also, in the 2010 ADF&G AMR is mentioned "In 2007, the board re-opened a portion of the Outer Port Heiden Section to Area M permit holders from Jun 20-July 31."

I support Proposal 143, with the language found in RC-71. It's my understanding the method describe in RC-71 would provide a more accurate count of immature salmon.

I look forward to participating in the Committee of the Whole Group 5 North Alaska Peninsula Salmon.