

## PUBLIC COMMENTS

John Martin	1
USF&WS	2
Mancy Hilstrand	3
Allen Tigert	4
Phil Brna	5
Don Yagura (California)	6
Currie Harbour (Colorado)	7
Dick Marshal	8
Gary Sinnhuber	9
Phillip Holienbek	10
Taro Satake	11
Steve Habor	12

# The Martins

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October 12, 2007

ATTN: BOF COMMENTS  
Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Boards Support Section  
PO Box 115526  
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Oct 10 2007  
BOARDS

Dear Sir or Madame:

I want to thank you for this opportunity to comment on the Lower Cook Inlet Finfish proposals for 2007. My main interest is in the Anchor River which I have fished for at least 25 years. First, I would like to say that ADF & G's and the Board's management of King salmon on the Anchor River is an example of outstanding management that could be used in text books. The near shore troll restrictions and the in river limit reductions have protected a fish population that was once considered as a stock of special concern.

Because of the number of kings returning to the Anchor River many believe that the fish are being underutilized. I beg to differ. Based upon the returns I would say that nothing is broken and nothing needs to be fixed. This is especially true when one looks at the environmental and social factors affecting the Anchor River.

Crowded fishing is the rule and the number of fishers seems to increase each year. Also, there has been an increase in snagging (using the Kenai red salmon technique of drag and snatch) in the river that wasn't seen before. Stream bank erosion has been a problem that resulted in efforts to protect some stream bank areas on the river. These are social issues but ones that you, as a board, must face.

How many fish do we need up the river? I suggest that with habitat degradation and global warming the number is greater than we have thought was correct in the past. Because "Stream temperature is an important physical factor of Pacific salmon habitat..." (Kyle and Brabets, Water resources investigations Report 01-4109, USGS) the Homer Soil and Water Conservation District and Cook Inlet Keeper have studied water temperatures in salmon streams of the Kenai Peninsula since 1998. They have found that the Homer airport daily weather record "reveals an upward temperature trend that began worldwide in 1977..." (inletkeeper.org) and that it has a close correlation to what has happened to stream temperatures. They found that in "...2002, temperatures exceeded Alaska's standards for "...egg and fry incubation on more that 50 summer days. By 2005, exceedences occurred on more than 80 days" (inletkeeper.org). My own anecdotal observations are that dollies, which we once found throughout the river in summer, now summer higher up before dropping back down in the fall. I assume this is to find cooler water.

With warming waters I would think we would want to maximize the number of fish available for spawning to make sure that those areas of the river which stay cool will have enough spawners to make for the loss of those that spawn in habitat that becomes too warm for successful incubation. Taking such a conservative view will benefit everyone in the long run. Again, nothing in the regulations is broken so why try to fix it.

Based upon the above reasoning I am opposed to the following proposals:

Proposal 1 "Open Anchor River king salmon fishery 6 days a week"

Proposal 2 "Open Anchor River king salmon fishery 5 days per week"

COMMENT# 1

Proposal 4 "Increase the annual limit for king salmon on the Anchor River and Deep Creek as follows: the new regulation would mention no limits to the number of fish taken yearly on the Anchor River and Deep Creek. By omission, the annual limit of 5 king salmon would apply..."

Proposal 5 "Allow catch and release fishing after retaining a king salmon on the Anchor River and Deep Creek..." This is a social/ethical issue. I oppose it because I believe it sends the wrong message on what is a sport fishery. Even with barbless flies one can often end up with a "bleeder". If you have already filled your limit then you have no option but to either let a bleeder go to die (ethically wrong for the sports fisher) or keep a fish in violation of the law. This also increases crowding on an already crowded fishery. I have fished in many states and it is the usual practice to quit fishing when you have reached your limit. As the Board of Fish of Fish I believe you have an obligation to set regulations that set an ethical tone.

Proposal 6 "Saltwater Area. Reduce the conservation corridor dates in the Early-Run king Salmon Special Harvest area around the Anchor River as follows: Lift the restrictions for the conservation corridor for the Anchor River on June 25. The vast majority of Chinooks bound for the Anchor are in the stream"

Proposal 7 "Saltwater Area. Reduce the closed area at the mouth of Anchor River from 4 miles to 2miles in the Early- Run King Salmon Special Harvest Area"

Proposal 8 "Reduce closed area at mouth of Anchor River and Deep Creek in the early-Run king Salmon Special Harvest Area..."

Proposal 9 "Reduce closed area at the mouth of Anchor River and Deep Creek in the Early-Run king Salmon Special Harvest Area..."

I have opposed all the proposals that seek to increase the number of salmon taken in the Anchor River since I believe that ADF&G has done an excellent job and has set regulations that will carry us through natural perturbations in the size of the king run. I do, however, support the following proposals:

Proposal 3 "Modify king salmon season opening date on the Anchor River as...The Anchor River shall be open for five 3-day weekends, starting on Saturday of Memorial weekend, and continuing for another four consecutive 3-day weekends." This proposal is more of a social issue and should not affect the salmon take. It returns the season start to the traditional Memorial weekend.

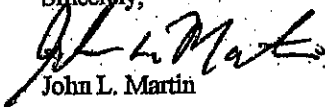
Proposal 13 "Prohibit use of weighted hooks in the Nick Dudiak Fishing Lagoon as follows: The use of weighted hooks and weights that follow hooks in the Nick Dudiak Fishing Lagoon as ...a bobber is utilized, no other gear (hooks, weights, etc) maybe used on the line between the floatation device and the pole." This is a social issue and I agree completely with the author on it and support it.

The following summarizes my support and opposition:

Proposal 1	Oppose
Proposal 2	Oppose
Proposal 3	Support
Proposal 4	Oppose
Proposal 5	Oppose
Proposal 6	Oppose
Proposal 7	Oppose
Proposal 8	Oppose
Proposal 9	Oppose
Proposal 13	Support

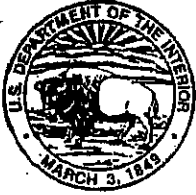
Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposals.

Sincerely,

  
John L. Martin

COMMENT# 1

2/



# United States Department of the Interior

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
→ Office of Subsistence Management  
3601 C Street, Suite 1030  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

RECEIVED  
OCT 17 2007  
BOARDS

FWS/OSM/lci proposals

OCT 15 2007

Mr. Mel Morris, Chairman  
Alaska Board of Fisheries  
c/o Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
P.O. Box 25526  
Juneau, Alaska 99802-5526

Dear Chairman Morris:

Per recent notification, the Alaska Board of Fisheries at their upcoming meeting scheduled to begin November 13, 2007, will deliberate 2007/2008 regulatory proposals that address Lower Cook Inlet sport, personal use, and subsistence fisheries. We understand that the Alaska Board of Fisheries will be considering approximately 22 proposals at this meeting.

The USFWS, Office of Subsistence Management, working with other Federal agencies, has reviewed these proposals and do not believe that adoption of any of these proposals will have an impact on Federal subsistence users and fisheries.

We may wish to comment on specific proposals if issues arise during the meeting which may have an impact on Federal subsistence users and fisheries. We appreciate the opportunity to comment on these important regulatory matters and look forward to working with your Board and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game on these issues.

Sincerely,

Peter J. Probasco  
Assistant Regional Director

cc: Denby S. Lloyd, ADF&G, Juneau  
Michael Fleagle, Chair FSB  
John Hilsinger, ADF&G, Anchorage  
Tina Cuning, ADF&G, Anchorage  
Charles Swanton, ADF&G, Juneau  
James Hasbrouck, ADF&G, Anchorage  
Elizabeth Andrews, ADF&G, Juneau

Jeff Regnart, ADF&G, Anchorage  
Rob Bentz, ADF&G, Juneau  
Marianne See, ADF&G, Anchorage  
Patti Nelson, ADF&G, Juneau  
Jim Marcotte, ADF&G, Juneau  
Interagency Staff Committee

COMMENT# 2



Allen Tigert  
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Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
 Boards Support Section  
 Box 11526  
 Juneau, AK 99811-5526

RECEIVED  
 OCT 22 2007  
 BOARDS

**Re: Comments on Lower Cook Inlet Finfish Proposals November 12-13, 2007 Proposals 1 - 9**

I have been fishing the Anchor River King Salmon season for the last 26 years, and rarely miss a weekend. The river is an amazing resource and the King Salmon run appears to be in very healthy condition at this point. Strong conservation regulations have kept it so even under ever increasing pressure from increasing numbers of people fishing both off shore and on the river during the season. Last year was the most crowded I have ever experienced on the Anchor during King season. A large percentage of the fisherpeople are tourists, who bring needed tourist dollars to the Anchor point area.

The 9 proposals affecting the Anchor River fishery appear to be a big step backward in conservation of the King Salmon resource and put the continued health of the river at risk. In general, I oppose any measure which reduces the conservation restrictions on the Anchor River.

Here are my comments on the individual proposals.

**Proposals 1 and 2:** Open the Anchor River king salmon fishery for 6 days per week, or open the Anchor River king salmon season for 5 days per week.

I strongly oppose these changes to the regulations. We must take into account the ever increasing pressure on the King salmon run, with more fisherman days occurring every year in both the river and saltwater areas. Increasing the days fishing is allowed cuts the time that the fish can move upstream unimpeded to 1/2 or 1/4 of the current free swimming time. It would also likely increase the number of fish taken very substantially. The current 3 day opening is working very well. In light of increasing pressure on the fishery, it makes no sense to raise the take and increase the vulnerability of the run.

**Proposal 3:** Go back to opening the Anchor River on Memorial Day and adding the extra weekend to the end of the season.

I oppose this change. The low water levels encountered the last weekends of the seasons during the past 5 years, in combination with the placement of the weir below the forks has made the salmon holding in holes at low water very vulnerable to the high fishing pressure. Adding a weekend at the end of the season would increase this problem. While the early weekend is often not ideal in weather or water conditions, it is always possible to find fish on the river.

As the water level goes down towards the end of the season there is a noticeable increase in the "Kenai River Sweep/Jerk" type of fishing resulting in many fish being snagged. This type of fishing is starting to appear much more frequently on the Anchor. In order to limit the effects of this type of "fishing" I would like to suggest 2 changes to Anchor River regulations.

**Suggestion 1:** Limit hook size to a single 1/0 hook in order to limit the effectiveness of the sweep/jerk fisher people. They often use minimally dressed dual 5/0 or 6/0 hooks with a large weight. These people snag large numbers of fish when stream flows are low and the fish are concentrated in specific holes in the river.

**Suggestion 2:** Move the weir upstream at least 1/4 mile from its current location so that the kings don't stack up at the bridge hole later in the season during lower flow times on the river. A couple years of data should be able to determine ratios of fish turning left at the forks in evaluating run numbers.

**Proposal 4:** Increase the limit for Anchor River and Deep Creek king salmon to 5

COMMENT# 4



**I strongly oppose this change.** Continually increasing pressure on the river makes it foolish to increase the limit. People who need fish for protein can supplement their king salmon with personal use red salmon fisheries existing in several other streams on the Kenai peninsula.

**Proposal 5:** Allow catch and release fishing after retaining a king salmon on the Anchor River and Deep Creek.

**I oppose this change.** Allowing people to continue fishing after keeping a king salmon will further increase crowding on the river. It would also eliminate the ability of fishermen to keep a fish that is bleeding badly due to hook damage if they already kept a fish that day. As long as bait (roe) fishing is allowed on the Anchor and Deep Creek, this is an important fish mortality consideration. It also makes enforcement of the one fish per day limit more difficult.

**Proposal 6, 7, 8, 9:** Proposals reducing the conservation or no fishing zones around the mouths of Deep Creek and Anchor Rivers.

**I strongly oppose these changes.** Salmon staging at the mouth of rivers may stay in the area for extended periods of time waiting for water temperature or flow conditions to become favorable for moving into the river. During this period the fish are very vulnerable to the offshore fisherman. When fish are gathered in an area, radios and fish finder gear make it possible and likely that large numbers of offshore boats will immediately move to the area where fish are concentrated. This could be devastating to fish staging to move into the Anchor or Deep Creek. This regulation works well as currently implemented.

In summary, I feel that the conservation measures in affect on the Anchor and Deep creeks are working well. The Department of Fish and Game has done a good job in designing a set of regulations that provide for good opportunity for sportsfishers both in the river and offshore while protecting the continued health of the resource. They don't need to be modified, especially in the direction of less conservation of the resource.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Allen Tigert  
10/21/07

RECEIVED  
OCT 22 2007  
BOARDS

RECEIVED TIME OCT. 22 4:09PM

COMMENT# 4

*Handwritten initials*

PHILIP J. BRNA  
5601 E. 98<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99507  
(907) 346-2131

RECEIVED  
OCT 24 2007  
BOARDS

October 21, 2007

ATTN: Board of Fish Comments  
Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game  
Boards Support Section  
PO Box 115526  
Juneau, AK. 99811-5526

RE: Lower Cook Inlet Finfish Proposals- Oct/Nov 2007

Dear Board Members:

I am providing comments on the following proposals: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9. All of these proposals involve reducing existing king salmon conservation measures in the Anchor River.

I have been fishing the Anchor River for 29 years and I also have a cabin on the river. I spend many days there during the spring, summer and fall and it is truly an amazing and productive little river. I believe the river is so productive because of the limits and restrictions that have been fought so hard for over the years. ADF&G is doing a great job of managing the Anchor and I am strongly opposed to reductions of any conservation measures. In fact, I think it may be time to consider additional measures because of ever increasing fishing pressure on the river and well as the warming water documented by Cook Inlet Keeper which is likely the result of global warming..

Several of the proposals talk about under utilization or waste of king salmon which enter the river. These fish are not wasted. They are an important component of the river ecosystem and they not only produce future generations of fish but they introduce a tremendous load of nutrients annually to the river. These fish are one of the reasons why the river is so productive. Others are cold, clean water and very limited human activity in the watershed like mining or logging. Even if there were additional fish which should be harvested, this cannot be determined based on three years of sonar/weir data. Three years does not provide adequate time to make harvest and allocation decisions.

I am opposed to the proposals as follows:

*Proposal 1: "Open Anchor River king salmon fishery for 6 days per week."  
And Proposal 2: Open Anchor River king salmon fishery for 5 days per week."*

The current system of opening the river for 5 consecutive, 3 day weekends has been working very well for many years. This management system has resulted in a

Phil Brna- Lower Cook Inlet Finfish Comments

COMMENT# 5



sustainable and productive fishery. The Anchor River fishery is NOT BROKEN so it does not need to be fixed. I am **strongly opposed** to these proposals.

*Proposal 3: "Go back to opening the Anchor River on the Memorial Day weekend and continuing for 4 weekends instead of opening the weekend before Memorial Day."*

I am **moderately opposed** to this proposal because I think that increasing water temperatures and lower river flows on the later weekends are resulting in increased mortality of king salmon as they stack up below the weir where they are susceptible to snagging. The proposal mentions that the weekend before Memorial Day is unfishable for at least 80% of the time. This is not shown in my logs. I have fished the river for all of the earlier weekends and while it is sometimes high, muddy, and cold some fish can always be caught. Also, the comment king salmon caught in clear water are of higher quality than those caught in muddy water is total nonsense. If the Board does decide to implement this proposal, I recommend that **no bait and single hooks only be allowed** on the 5<sup>th</sup> weekend to reduce the snagging which is becoming more and more common.

*Proposal 4: "Increase the limit for Anchor River and Deep Creek king salmon to 5."*

*Proposal 5: "Allow catch and release fishing after retaining a king salmon on the Anchor River and Deep Creek."*

I am **strongly opposed** both of these proposals. First, most people don't really need or use 5 kings and much would go to waste. Additionally, there are many families fishing the river and they would take the limit, and there are an increasing number of people fishing a seemingly unlimited number of proxies. If the harvest of fish is not limited now, we will be doing that in the future if escapement declines. Allowing people to continue fishing after retaining a king salmon will result in additional unintended mortality of king salmon. Currently, many people catch and release but when they have a bleeder they retain that fish and stop fishing. If they have already kept a fish this will not be possible. In most places, once you have caught your daily limit, the requirement is to stop fishing. This will also encourage more crowding on already crowded rivers. Again, the current system is working and there is no compelling reason to change it.

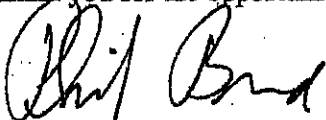
*Proposals 6, 7, 8, and 9: All proposals to reduce saltwater conservation at the mouths of Deep Creek and the Anchor River."*

I am **strongly opposed** to any reduction of the conservation or no fishing zones at the mouths of Deep Creek or the Anchor River. These zones have allowed a sanctuary area for king salmon and in addition to other conservation measures, they have resulted in healthy and sustainable runs of kings in these streams.

I would also like to suggest one additional regulation for these streams. An increasing number of "anglers" are using 2 large (up to 6/0 hooks) single hooks to line or

intentionally snag king salmon in these rivers. I recommend that the Board adopt a regulation to limit hook size to one single hook of no more than 1/0 in size.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.



Philip J. Brna

October 25, 2007

RECEIVED  
OCT 25 2007  
BOARDS

Attn: BOF Comments  
Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Boards Support Section  
P.O. Box 115526  
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

As an out-of-state sportsman, I wanted to express my feelings or opinions on Proposal(s) 10 and 11 pertaining to the opening of a 7 day fishery for hatchery kings on the Ninilchik River again, from mid-June through early July. I have had the opportunity to sample what a truly special fishery the Ninilchik is, even though it is virtually catch-and-release only, since I observed few hatchery kings. Yet this does not diminish, or detract from the quality of fishing that I experienced in June 2006 and again in latter June this year.

As this fishery is catch-and-release for all wild kings, this resource is preserved for future generations. I take particular care in ensuring these kings are gently released, in the water, following all of the established regulations.

The proposal to lower the daily (retention) limit for kings from two to one appears to have merit also, as this correlates with the daily limit on most of the other rivers I have fished on the Kenai peninsula also (i.e. Kenai, Kasilof, Anchor rivers, etc.). If adopted, this should also positively impact the overall numbers of surviving and spawning salmon in the river.

I feel making this fishery available to anglers also benefits the local (Ninilchik/Deep Creek) businesses and economy, as I personally have spent a fair amount of money at the local tackle shop (Deep Creek Sport Shop), eating breakfast at the Inlet Café, at Jersey Subs in Ninilchik (several times), filling up at the local gas stations, and so on.

I've had the opportunity to fish many places throughout the Pacific Northwest, and would rate the Ninilchik as one of my favorites, with some of the fondest angling memories for me and my son forged on this beautiful river.

Please give my comments consideration and I look forward to venturing back to Alaska next summer for another memorable vacation experience.

Sincerely,

Don Yagura  
9312 Boxelder Way  
Elk Grove, CA. 95758

COMMENT# 6



From: cgharbour@aol.com  
To: cgharbour@aol.com  
Subject: Fwd: Big changes proposed for the Anchor River  
Date: Thu, 25 Oct 2007 7:48 am

1-907-465-6094

Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game  
Boards Support Section  
P.O. # 115526  
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

RECEIVED  
OCT 24 2007  
BOARDS

RECEIVED  
OCT 25 2007  
BOARDS

Dear Sirs:

As an angler who travels great distances to fish, for not only the fishing but the quality of fishing and hope for years to come, I was rather dismayed by the new proposals for fishing on the Anchor/Deep Creek/Niniichik River drainage's.

Each year I fly up there in May from Denver, Co. to take part in this annual King Salmon ritual and as a fly fisherman who even when lucky keeps none of these magnificent fish, I find it appalling that the push is now for more fish to be caught, more hours to catch them and more places to catch them.

When is enough - enough!

Lets for once buck the trend of more fishing time, more fish caught, more places to catch them and give these fish a bit of a brake and time to procreate so we can have great fishing for many years to come. We do not need a duplicate of the Russian River, shoulder to shoulder, circus.

The weekend openings even though crowded it is still blissfully short and livable.

I suspect that the bottom line for these major changes is cash and the guides/charters and other associated persons involved in the business who want more days on the fresh and near salt, more clients and just more business. We have a finite resource here and lets just leave well enough alone; it's doing just fine thank you and if so I'll be back next year to rent cars, rent motels, buy plane tickets, buy meals and generally enjoy the unique beauty and pristine fishing of Alaska.

I do not fish nor travel to the Russian River charade, hell, if I want that I can go to New Jersey for Opening Day.

Respectfully,  
Currie Harbour  
9183 Pineridge Lane  
Boulder, Colorado  
80302

RECEIVED TIME OCT. 25. 5:57AM

PRINT TIME OCT. 25. 5:59AM

COMMENT# 7

RECEIVED  
OCT 25 2007  
BOARDS

I am submitting the following comments on proposals pertaining to Lower Cook Inlet.

Proposals 1 and 2.

Opposed. These two proposals would open the king salmon season on the Anchor River six days and five days a week, respectively. Currently the season is open Saturday, Sunday, and Monday for five consecutive weeks. This has worked fine for a number of years and provides for both adequate harvest and adequate escapement. These proposals would increase the number of open days from 15 days to 26 days and could result in unsustainable harvest levels.

Proposal 4.

Opposed. This proposal would increase the annual bag limit for king salmon on the Anchor River and Deep Creek from two fish to five fish. Two king salmon a year from these streams is enough. Other harvest opportunities exist to allow anglers to harvest additional king salmon (the Nindlchik and Kasilof rivers and the inlet fishery). This proposal could double the harvest and place the king salmon populations at risk. The use of proxies has become rampant on these streams which adds a further degree of risk.

Proposal 5.

Opposed. This proposal would allow catch and release fishing after retaining a king salmon on the Anchor River and on Deep Creek. The current regulation has the advantages of both reducing hooking mortality and stress on the fish and reducing crowding. Additionally, since many anglers fish with salmon eggs, an angler who had already retained a fish and then hooked a fish deeply would either have to release a badly injured fish or exceed the daily bag limit by retaining it.

Proposals 6, 7, 8, and 9.

Opposed. These proposals would reduce the areas off the mouths of the Anchor River and Deep Creek that are currently closed to trolling for king salmon. The marine fishery provides more than adequate trolling opportunities in the inlet. King salmon congregating off the mouth of these streams are very vulnerable. These populations would then be targeted seven days a week. Additionally, the more liberal bag limits pertaining to the marine fishery would then apply. These proposals could very well spell the collapse of the fisheries in these streams.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Dick Marshall  
37186 Cannery Road  
Kenai, AK 99611

Attn: Shannon  
LCI - BOF  
Public Comment

COMMENT# 8

BOF Proposal Comments

Oct.25, 2007

Board of Fisheries  
Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game  
Boards Support Section  
P.O. Box 115526  
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

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OCT 26 2007  
BOARDS

Proposals 1 & 2: I oppose these proposals, because they are too liberal. Perhaps the King Salmon stocks can support an extra fishing day per week, but not two or three extra days. I think an extra one day opening on Wednesday would be ideal.

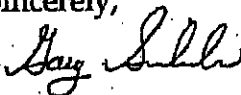
Proposals 6,7,8 and 9: I oppose all four of these proposals. Until river fishermen are allowed more than three days per week, or only nine days a year on Deep Creek, or 15 days a year on the Anchor River for King Salmon fishing, the protected areas at the mouths of these rivers should not be reduced.

Proposal 10: I support this proposal. Fish & Game basically submitted this same proposal three years ago, and it was rejected. If Fish & Game feels that a seven day a week hatchery fishery is warranted, without adversely affecting the wild King Salmon stocks, then we need to trust Fish and Game, and allow this proposal to become a regulation.

Proposal 13: I support this proposal. Tight lining or bobber snagging is epidemic at the lagoon, and it ruins the fishery for the minority of us that fish by conventional methods. The overall fishing experience will be greatly improved by eliminating the line snagging techniques.

Proposal 15: I support this proposal. Gill nets are placed too close to the opening of the lagoon, and significantly impact the lagoon fishery in a negative way. I don't think it was Nick Dudiak's intent when he developed the lagoon fishery, to see large quantities of lagoon fish swimming into the personal use gill nets.

Sincerely,



Gary Sinnhuber  
P.O. Box 1657  
Homer, AK 99603

COMMENT#

9

RECEIVED  
OCT 26 2007  
BOARDS

October 17, 2007

To Fish and Game Board and Mike Long

My name is Phil Holloway and we own and operate the  
Beachcomber motor RV park on the Nantuxuk River for the past  
thirteen years and an Alaskan resident for forty-two years.

I am still opposed to the proposal to open the Nantuxuk  
River for fishing straight through to the fifteenth of July  
each season. There was way to much pressure on the wild  
stock of salmon for catch and abuse. The few pictures I've  
enclosed are a small percentage of the fish being killed by  
irresponsible fishermen. I saw one fisherman gaff a 25 lb.  
wild king, with people on both sides of him. He pulled the  
fish to the bank, took the hook out, slide it back into  
the water. The angler did enjoy it after the tide went out  
of the river. I talked to several fishermen that said they  
caught five to ten wild fish before they caught a hatchery  
fish. I thought these were the fish (wild) we were trying  
to protect. Not to mention the bank erosion because of  
over fishing the river.

I would appreciate if you have the regulations the way  
they are for you can always have an emergency opening  
if needed.

Thank you

Philip A. Holloway

COMMENT# 10

RECEIVED  
OCT 26 2007

To the Alaska Board of Fisheries:

BOARDS

Please accept and consider this comment in strong opposition to the Central Cook Inlet (Anchor, Ninilchik, Deep Creek) proposals #1 through #12.

I have been an avid Alaskan sportfisherman for 20 years. After reading the proposed changes for the Anchor, Ninilchik and Deep Creek King fisheries, I felt compelled to voice my opposition. I have personal experience and knowledge from my many experiences fishing for King salmon, Silvers and Steelhead on these river systems.

Proposals #1-#12 have the possibility of changing the already crowded King Salmon season into the type of experience now found on the Willow King fishery and the Russian River during the red runs. The current regulations are working well in keeping a healthy king salmon run in the Anchor, Ninilchik and Deep Creek fisheries. I believe that these new proposals should be strongly opposed if we are to keep healthy King Salmon runs over the long term.

In addition, a longer King season would also mean more unintended catches of Kelts (sea-bound steelhead) during their Spring migration downriver. The increased fishing will increase the mortality of Steelhead since more will inevitably be caught with large King Salmon hooks. The longer season will not only diminish the quality of the King Fishery but also of the Fall Steelhead returns.

Please strongly consider this comment towards making your decision on the proposals. Thank you for your time and hard work.

Sincerely,

Taro Satake  
1712 W 11<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Anchorage, AK 99501  
(907) 644-0656

COMMENT# 11





Steve Haber  
300 Whispering Meadows  
Homer, AK 99603

RECEIVED  
OCT 27 2007  
BOARDS

Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Boards Support Section  
Box 11526  
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

**Re: Lower Cook Inlet Finfish Proposals Proposals 1 - 9**

I have a cabin on the lower Anchor River and have fished the river during the King season for the last 10 years. I would like to comment on the proposals for changes to the regulations for the Anchor and Deep Creek which I believe are steps on the wrong direction

**Proposals 1 and 2:** Open the Anchor River king salmon fishery for 6 days per week, or open the Anchor River king salmon season for 5 days per week.

**I strongly oppose these proposals.** Every year there are more people fishing and taking fish from the Anchor. Although the run appears to be healthy based on the data collected over the last 3 years, we don't know how much of a buffer there is to handle the ever increasing fishing pressure. The fish now have 4 days per week to traverse the open area and move upstream. We should not decrease this window of time.

**Proposal 3:** Go back to opening the Anchor River on Memorial Day and adding the extra weekend to the end of the season.

**I oppose this change.** The early weekend is sometimes not as productive as the mid season ones, but there are nearly always fish in the river to be caught. At the end of the season the quality of the fish is decreased, and they are more vulnerable on years (the last 3 or so) when there isn't enough rain and the river gets low. The weir appears to block fish from moving up when the water is low, which creates a jam up of fish at the bridge hole which are very susceptible to "lining" or snagging. Leave the season as it is.

We have noticed an increase in "lining" or outright snagging on the Anchor over the recent years. When the river is lower and fish are concentrated in narrow channels in their movement upstream this problem becomes much more apparent. I have talked it over with quite a few people and we have agreed that the Anchor can be fished effectively with a size 1 hook or smaller. Therefore I would like to make the following suggestion to limit the effectiveness of the snaggers and liners on the river.

**Suggestion :** Limit hook size to a single size 1 hook with a hook to shaft gap of less than 7/16 inches. This would make it harder for snaggers and liners to snag salmon, but have very little effect on people using legitimate fishing techniques.

**Proposal 4:** Increase the limit for Anchor River and Deep Creek king salmon to 5

**I strongly oppose this proposal.** Once again, we need to conserve the run so that it can consistently provide good fishing for people in the future, not have a few years of keeping lots of fish, then having diminished runs in the future.

**Proposal 5:** Allow catch and release fishing after retaining a king salmon on the Anchor River and Deep Creek.

**I oppose this proposal.** Since bait fishin is allowed on the river, fish are occasionally hooked deep in their throat and bleed out. If a person has already caught a fish and then has a bleeder, he (or she) cannot keep the fish and it is wasted. As long as bait is allowed on these rivers, the current rule of leaving the river after keeping a fish should stay in force.

**Proposal 6, 7, 8, 9:** Proposals reducing the conservation or no fishing zones around the mouths of Deep Creek and

COMMENT# 12

1/2

Anchor Rivers.

**strongly oppose these proposals.** Salmon gather at the mouths of the rivers and may wait there until water temperature or flow conditions to become favorable for moving into the river. The fish are concentrated there and are very vulnerable to the offshore fisherman. Large numbers of boats would move into these areas and could devastate fish gathered offshore waiting to move into the rivers. This regulation works well as currently implemented and should not be modified.

The Anchor's king run is in good shape. Please don't change regulations that are working well now. We don't want to take risks with the future of this amazing resource.

Thank's for reviewing my comments.

Steve Habor  
10/26/07



COMMENT# 12