

RCS

January 16, 2013

Board Support Section

Alaska Department of Fish & Game

PO Box 115526

Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Dear Mr. Johnson and Board of Fisheries Members:

My name is Jan Woodruff from Eagle, Ak. My husband and I are subsistence fishers. My husband Don Woodruff has lived a subsistence lifestyle for over 37 years on the Yukon River. I have been involved with the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association for a number of years representing Y 5D and the Yukon Flats and my husband is on the Eastern Interior Federal Regional Advisory Council. I arrived too late to give public testimony due to weather.

Eagle is the last community before the Yukon enters Canada. We only have 2 species of salmon in our area, Kings and fall Chums.

Eagle area residents depend on the Kings for our winter people food and fall chum to feed our dog teams. We are one of the few remaining villages with a large amount of working dog teams. There are approximately 120 to 130 people that live in the greater Eagle area year round. There are 8-9 families using dog teams for subsistence activities. Due to our remote location & lack of winter road access, we depend heavily on our ability to harvest fall chum. We are concerned that a commercial focus of the fall chum could cause it to be overfished. All the families in Eagle take a very conservative mindset, both with the Kings and fall Chum.

In 1998-1999 during the fall chum crash, the families worked together to get grants to bring in fish from the hatchery in Valdez. This fish was not good quality for dog food, but we continued with this program for several years until the runs improved. This is something we chose to do instead of fishing the Chums.

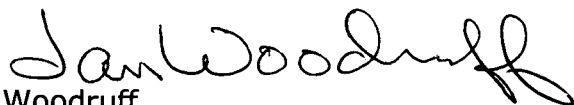
This past King fishing season, the fishing families in the area cut our fishing dramatically and we shared in what we did get. Many families put up what fall chum that were good people food, but by the time the fall chum arrive in our area most are soft & pale. Although we appreciated the offer from Mr. Sandone to ship lower river fish to us, there was only a handful of people who accepted this offer. And most of those people no longer fish every year.

The 10 or so fishing families strongly felt they did not want handouts, instead of being able to do our own subsistence activities. Many families have children, who are very much involved during fishing season. One family with 6 children felt it important for the children to be involved, from setting the net to doing the harvesting, even it was a short opening, rather than receive a free handout.

Living the subsistence lifestyle is our way of life and has been so for many years. Many of us who have chosen this lifestyle are not Native, but live the subsistence lifestyle for the respect and love of the way of life.

I do agree with one of the gentleman who gave public testimony yesterday asking why there were no Native elders on the BOF. In my involvement with YRDFA, I have met many elders that have much knowledge to share.

Sincerely,



Jan Woodruff

PO box 117

Eagle Ak. 99738