RC 027

Dale Carlson
P. O. Box 3
Chignik, Alaska 99564

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Alaska Board of Fisheries
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, Alaska 99811-5526

Subject: Improve Catch Reporting at Igvak

Dear Board Members,

I have commercial fished in Alaska waters since 1983 and have a Chignik salmon permit and operate the F/V TAJAHA, a 51 ft. purse seiner. My experience in the Kodiak salmon fishery is limited to a brief stent as a crew member on a Kodiak seiner many years ago.

As a United Chignik Salmon Fishermen board member, I am not in opposition to the Kodiak Cape Igvak fishery or the Southeastern District Mainland fishery in Area M as it affects Chignik. Those fisheries have an historic standing, and provided they do not expand or operate out of compliance with their respective management plan, they are acceptable. Certainly neither of these fisheries should be permitted to expand, and they need to be regulated closely to ensure that a harvest overage does not occur.

Unlike Kodiak which supports about 10- large sockeye runs, Chignik has but two and our local economy solely depends on our sockeye salmon fishery.

At the Kodiak meeting you will have an opportunity to correct an issue that has greatly bothered me and other Chignik fishermen. We hear from crew that have fished at Igvak that not everything is as it should be with respect to Igvak caught salmon being correctly assigned to that fishery. It appears that some boats report their catch to other areas in Kodiak solely for the purpose of "beating" the allocation – so I hear. There needs to be strict accountability in the Igvak fishery and indications are that this is not always the case. To correct this please consider placing a landing requirement on the Igvak fishery or alternatively reducing the Igvak allocation from 15% to say 13% to account for catch discrepancies.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dale Carlson