



43961 Kalifornsky Beach Road • Suite F • Soldotna, Alaska 99669-8276
(907) 262-2492 • Fax: (907) 262-2898 • E Mail: kpfa@alaska.net

January 6th, 2014

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

RE: Kodiak Finfish Regulatory Meeting 01.07-10.14

Chairman Johnstone,

The Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association (KPFA) is a sixty year plus non-profit 501 (c) (6) organization that works for '*ensuring the sustainability of our fishery resources*'. We believe that managing for the best productivity is the first mandate to deliver our state's constitutions promise of resources *maintained and developed for maximum beneficial uses*.

Today, we travel the 100 miles from the central Peninsula to express our deep concern over the fate of Cook Inlet bound Chinook. We are alarmed at the apparent almost 100% increase from 2012; the 33,973 harvested by the Kodiak fleet in 2013. If you are to include that with the 7,500 average sea-run sport harvest you will understand why the Department just recently estimated between 40 - 44 k in total.

The Igvak discussion previously presented by a Kodiak commercial fisheries manager stated that 3,960 kings were harvested with some 350,000 sockeyes representing some 17 deliveries? That is about a 1% ratio. In Cook Inlet, with 736 setnet permit holders; small businesses, family enterprises; our long term ratio is less than 2 tenths of 1 %. Our fisheries are shut down and we consistently have met our king salmon escapement goals year after for the late run Kenai and Kasilof Rivers. 1,000 kings make a tremendous difference to the lives of many in CI.

We support proposal 92 for a State defined State waters observer program

We have reviewed some data that would leave us to believe that some that 250 million Chinook fry are released in the North Pacific on a yearly basis. Estimates of fry to adult return vary widely for hatchery stocks, somewhere between 1 and 10 %. More likely the

lower figure, but it would be incredulous to not consider the impacts on our Alaskan native stocks of kings, besides, they all shop at the same grocery store. They just travel a different way home.

Current Federal observer programs are not meeting their mark. In a letter dated 09.03.13 from NMFS to the NPFMC, answers to requests and a progress report of 16 weeks of the 2013 observer program are detailed. The letter states, "*While a 11% sampling fraction was anticipated, a lower sampling fraction (4 to 9.5%) was actually achieved. Changes to the Annual Deployment Plan that reduce sampling fractions should be avoided because they reduce confidence in the resulting data.*"

We support the genetic testing of all Chinook stocks caught in the central and western GOA regions and the KRMA. We have **no current** stock identification program for Chinook that will assist managers and users in determining the best course of action to remedy the crisis. Until that time, the end users in CI; the commercial fishermen, the sports fishing community, the personal use fishermen and subsistence users will bare the full burden of conservation with no solutions for the future.

We Support proposal 99

We do agree that this is an important tool for the setnet fishermen in a given area as it was and is a way to bolster the economic viability of a given region and assists the fishing families with maintaining cohesiveness. However, we support self determination and understand that "one shoe does not fit all". We would expect that the BOF members would maintain their previous policy that they would consider the merits of this "tool" by region.

Thank you,



Paul A. Shadura II

Board Director

The Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association