

RC 267

To: The Board of Fisheries

From: Mark Lockwood

RE: Opposition to RC 158

Date: February 11, 2014

This opposition is in reference to the Big River Salmon Management Plan RC 158. With this narrative, I hope to provide you some history of the Big River sockeye fishery, which began in 1989. This fishery was originally implemented to harvest a sockeye stock, which passed through this designated area prior to the seasons opening date. At the time of the opening, concerns about the potential intercept of Chinook salmon were mitigated by the adoption of 1000 Chinook limit. The set-net gears utilized were to be a single 35 fathom shackle at a minimum distance of 1800 feet. At present there are only estimated 29 nets fishing on Kalgin Island, and the Drift River Western District.

Proposal 134 seeks to open the Southern portion of Kalgin Island, and sets out to limit fishing days from the current three openings per week, down to two. We are against this proposal for reasons listed below.

This fishery worked well over the past 26 years, and the Chinook harvest has only been reached once. This has been done through careful management, and by utilizing only one net per permit. The Big River Fishery has harvested an average of 480 Kings per year, for the entire fishery, this is an accomplishment when all individuals work as a team.

Opening up half a stat area has never been done, such as asked for in the proposal. It appears grossly self-serving to open such a small area and directly benefits the initiator of the proposition; in essence his family and one other. Limiting the early fishery to this small section would inadvertently impact Packers Lake on Kalgin. The proposed area is directly in the vicinity of the river/creek entrance to Packers. The intent of this fishery is to target Big River fish. This proposal stands to impact the Packers Lake fishery heavily! It appears that the target fishery would be best serviced by keeping the Drift River Western District and the Southwest to Northwestern portions of Kalgin as originally proposed. The Packer's Lake early run is not in a position to absorb the impact of an early fishery with set nets at the corridor. I implore you to study this well before making a detrimental decision. We clearly need more data prior to an opening in this area. This would go also go against the original proposal, as it would impact a

River not designated for direct harvest.

The fisheries in the Western District and the Western side of Kalgin Island are not high volume. 4/5 of the involved families income would suffer due to limitations of this proposal, mine included. Speaking to the low volume, the average sockeye catch since 2005 is 17,355 fish per year, for the entire fishery.

Proposal 123 sets out to switch the days for normal fishery during the main season from Monday and Thursday, to Wednesday and Saturday; although I sympathize with my neighbor, (he had been told by the processors to quit fishing partly through the opening) we have never had a problem selling our fish throughout main season.

I appreciate your consideration of this opposition; It is respectfully submitted by myself and the following listees:

Sincerely,

Mark Lockwood

Michael P. Lockwood
Billy VanHuese
Earl Johnson
Tyler Johnson
Red Beeman

To: The Board of Fisheries

From: Heather Wainamo

RE: Opposition to RC 158

Date: February 11, 2014

This opposition is in reference to the Big River Salmon Management Plan RC 158. This fishery was originally designated to manage the Big River sockeye fishery, which began in 1989. Its main target is sockeye salmon. The management of the fishery took into account potential impact on Chinook salmon; This was addressed by limiting the number of Chinook caught and limited gear to one net for each held permit. Less than 30 nets fish in this early opener of the Kalgin Island, and the Drift River Western District.

Proposal 134 sets to open only a small portion of Kalgin Island, and sets out to limit fishing days from the current three openings per week, down to two. I am against this proposal.

If any changes were to be made, it appears that keeping the Western Drift River/Western side of Kalgin open appear to make the most sense.

I believe on average that the Big River Fishery has harvested an average of 490 Kings per year. The intent of this fishery is to target Big River fish. The proposal presented could impact other rivers not designated by this fishery. The presenter of the proposal does not appear to appreciate the low volume of this fishery and also appears to be pushing his own special interests.

I am also against reducing the days fished – and would like to propose they remain the same.

I appreciate your consideration of this opposition; It is respectfully submitted by myself and the following listees:

Sincerely,

Heather Wainamo