

CHILKAT INDIAN VILLAGE



**An Indian Reorganization Act Village
Under Act of Congress June 18th 1934**
32 Chilkat Avenue Klukwan, Alaska
 HC60 Box 2207 Haines, Alaska 99827
 Phone: (907) 767-5505
 Fax: (907) 767-5518
 Email: klukwan@chilkat-nsn.gov

March 18th, 2022

To Alaska Board of Fisheries,

The Chilkat Indian Village (Klukwan) is writing in opposition to ADF&G new proposals 122 & 123. We strongly support USAG Proposal 124 that helps protect the Chilkat and Chilkoot river sockeye's sustainability. An early removal of a cap for the by catch of sockeye salmon will have severe negative effects on Chilkat escapement needs. Commercial Seine Fishing at Hawk Inlet has been proven to have severe negative effects to our subsistence way of life. We have had a several years of poor Chilkat Sockeye and King Salmon returns on the Chilkat River. We support Proposal 124 because it keeps the seine fishing caps at status quo, but prefer the Board of Fisheries have the sockeye cap extended [through August 10th](#) for the Seine fishery. Having an earlier release of the cap date at Hawk Inlet will lead to severe losses to our ability to having a meaningful salmon harvest in the upper Lynn Canal.

Our Tribal Members of Chilkat Indian Village (Klukwan) have subsisted on the King and Sockeye salmon of the Chilkat and Chilkoot Rivers since time immemorial. It is well known that the seine fleet needs stricter regulations to protect the migrating salmon. We have been watching the return levels of Sockeye, they have not met ADF&G escapement levels for the past couple of years. Our King Salmon runs have been a stalk of concern the past several years and now the Sockeye will be a stock of concern if they are not allowed to return to their spawning areas. Allowing or permitting the Seiners to loosen their caps earlier causing an increase of their by-catch will have a devastating long term effect to our traditional Tlingit way of life as subsistence users of the salmon.

Please, place proposal 124 into action for sustainability of Chilkat Salmon that migrate through Hawk Inlet for the Upper Lynn Canal fishery users: Subsistence and Commercial Gill Netters. Please consider the devastating effects of proposals 122 & 123 and vote them down.

Again, we ask your support for USAG Proposal 124. Help preserve Chilkat and Chilkoot Salmon runs for our next generation of Alaska residents.

Thank you for your consideration to our request.

Gunalchéesh,

Kimberley Strong
President