

Klawock AC Fish & Game Advisory Testimony 3.18.22

**Madam Chair and Board Members,
Thank you for your service!**

My name is Kurt Whitehead. I am the Secretary for the Klawock AC and I am here today to comment on their behalf.

We unanimously support our proposal 129 with comments that we've never caught sockeye during the coho fishing season because the run times are different.

Kurt read comments of concern from the Craig AC: There is a risk of unintentionally harvesting sockeye. Moved and seconded to approve.

Discussion:

Kurt asked: Is catching sockeye a concern while targeting cohos in the Klawock river?

Mike Kennedy: I've never caught sockeye while fishing for coho. It's too late for sockeye at that time.

Dennis Nickerson: The run times are different for sockeye and coho. They do not overlap. This is one reason we are proposing to reduce our season for the sockeye in proposal 130. The best time to catch sockeye in the Klawock river is the week of July 19 which is the middle of the season. In all the years he's been fishing he has never caught a sockeye while fishing for coho.

Brenda Leask: Agrees with Dennis and Mike, supports the prop and states that we are literally choking on coho here.

We unanimously support our own proposal 130 with comments that we change this proposal to the saltwater/estuary only and remove the river/lake.

Kurt read comments from the Craig AC about a concern of having state and federal jurisdictions overlap which is why they weren't in support. He recommended we support the proposal with a change that this proposal is the saltwater/estuary only.

Dennis Nickerson: Good point. we need to keep the state and federal jurisdictions separate. July 7-August 7 was the original season dates and we are willing to give up some days at the beginning and end of the season. We should amend our proposal to only be for the saltwater/estuary and not the river/lake.

Brenda Leask: As the subsistence user, we are taking a hard hit, having to NOT go harvest our traditional foods. We are the ones paying the price. Why aren't things in place to better monitor the predation of the sockeye? I think it's poor management.

Dennis Nickerson: Other measures being taken to address the low sockeye numbers are:

Full support from SSRAA for having a trout fishing day on the lake to harvest cutthroat. Cutthroat vacuum up the sockeye eggs in Three Mile Creek.

Habitat improvements on Three Mile Creek that include removing all the culverts and installing a bridge, a trail along the creek for better access to catch the trout, removing one of the logging roads blocking a tributary,

We took no action on proposal 134

Kurt read the proposal, gave background info. and noted some Craig AC members had concerns and said this makes sense if you are using a gill net but doesn't work if you are using a beach seine net in small areas.

Dennis Nickerson: This is already a stipulation on the subsistence permit but it is not a regulation. We use the bridge as a guideline. That's something we've always followed.

Brenda Leask: It already says this on our subsistence permit. This is irritating to me. If we can allow fishing lodges squatting at the mouth of our rivers, why are subsistence and personal user groups being singled out in this. This is insulting. It already states on our permits where we can and cannot go. You want to talk about obstruction or manmade objects, I can assure you it's not a gill net or anything else for that matter from the personal user or subsistence user. We have lodges squatting right in the mouth of our rivers and that's more upsetting to me than a gill net.

**Thank you,
Kurt Whitehead
Klawock AC Secretary**