

Cover sheet

RC From Gary L Hollier

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for statewide BOF

in Anchorage March 26 - April 2

Gary Hollier

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RC036

3/7/2022

Dear Chair Carlson Van-Dort and Members of the Alaska Board of Fish

I'm Gary Hollier, I am a lifelong resident of Kenai Alaska. I am a 50+ year Cook Inlet East Side Set Netter. I fish predominately on North Kalifonsky Beach (NKB-statistical area 244-32).

I am submitting this RC in support for BOF generated proposal 283.

I submitted three PC's to show some data that might have a bearing on proposal 283. At this time I don't have the PC numbers.

One PC showed the number of CFEC set net permits that registered for the East Side Set Net fishery (ESSN). In the PC it also showed the breakdown for permits per statistical area. On NKB, 244-32, there were 49 permits registered to fish the entire section from the beach out to the 1.5 mile limit. On 244-32 there are 29 beach nets that can fish out to 600 ft, which are operated by family operations that collectively own 41 permits out of the 49 registered on NKB. A 600 ft fishery is vital for these family operations to survive economically during these times of low King Salmon abundance.

Another PC showed the sockeye brood tables for the Kenai and Kasilof Rivers from 1968 till 2021. The return per spawner (RPS) ratio in the Kenai River since 1968 is 4.2. With brood tables completed from 2013-2016 the RPS is 1.75. This correlates with Kenai River sockeye escapements and in river goals that have been met or exceeded since 2011. In 2021 the Kenai River sockeye escapement was 2,441,825, more than twice the maximum in river goal.

The RPS in the Kasilof River since 1968 is 3.9. The last completed brood table years 2014-2017, shows a RPS of 1.5. Again the Kasilof River since 2011 has achieved or exceeded its sockeye salmon goals. For years 2020 and 2021, the Kasilof River exceeded the OEG.

Another PC showed fry data in the Skilak and Kenai Lakes, collected by ADFG. In both the lakes there were 52,981,990 fry in the fall of 2020. In the fall of 2021 there were 13,694,448 fry documented. Half of these fry, in 2021, were age (1) hold over's from 2020. As one ADFG staff stated this huge swing in fry should put up a red flag, about continually exceeding escapement goals.

With the potential closing of the EEZ to the Drift Fleet in Cook Inlet, it is reasonable to think that more sockeye will hit the ESSN beaches and increase escapements into the Kenai and Kasilof Rivers. Does the State of Alaska really want to see the results of exceeding the sockeye salmon goals in the Kenai or Kasilof Rivers so returns fail to replace themselves?

There are many different amendments that could be made to 283, yet I feel they should be addressed at a full Upper Cook Inlet meeting. At this State wide meeting I support 283 as written.

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On page 136 of Staff comments it states, "Based on king salmon run timing in years of low abundance, the escapement estimate would be between 13,500 and 15,000 fish late in the season and any potential harvest opportunity in the ESSN fishery would most likely occur in August."

After enduring low King Salmon returns and 50 years of fishing NKB, I certainly agree that any fishing under proposal 283 would occur in August.

Staff comments on page 144 stated that in 2020 the 600 ft ESSN fishery harvested 44 kings. On page 142, using the 11 year average Kenai River mainstem stock comp. relative to all fish % of .32, that equates to 14 large Kenai Kings harvested in 2020.

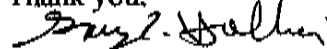
In 2021, 139 all King salmon were harvested in the ESSN 600 ft fishery, as published in staff comments. Using the same analogy 44 would have been large Kenai Kings.

The ESSN fishery has been declared a Federal Disaster in 2018 and 2020. Once the data is reviewed, the 2021 season might be declared a disaster also.

In August the Kenai River is closed to the retention of King Salmon. If the Kenai River King salmon SEG is achieved, proposal 283 would be a good tool for ADFG to have.

This proposal would help keep sockeye escapements within goals, set by the BOF, in the Kenai and Kasilof rivers. Additionally this proposal might enable the Processors the ability to 'Hang On' until King salmon runs can improve.

Thank you.



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Table 1.-Number of king salmon genetic samples collected by day and statistical area during fishing periods restricted to within 600 feet of the high tide mark in the ESSN fishery, Upper Cook Inlet, Alaska, 2020-2021.

2020 2020	King salmon samples	
	Large	Small
244-21		
07/07	2	1
07/16	1	2
07/21	1	3
244-22		
07/07	2	4
07/16	0	2
07/21	2	1
244-31		
07/07	0	1
07/16	0	3
07/21	1	0
244-32		
07/02	0	0
07/04	0	0
07/06	0	1
07/07	0	0
07/08	0	0
07/16	0	0
Grand Total	9	18

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2021	King salmon samples	
	Large	Small
244-21		
7/6	0	0
7/13	1	2
7/14	1	1
7/20	1	0
244-22		
7/6	0	1
7/13	0	0
7/14	3	7
7/20	1	2
244-31		
7/6	0	0
7/13	0	0
7/14	2	1
7/20	0	0
244-32		
7/1	0	0
7/3	1	0
7/5	1	0
7/6	0	0
7/7	0	0
7/13	0	3
7/14	0	0
7/20	2	2
244-41		
7/20	10	22
244-42		
7/20	0	2
Grand Total	20	43

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