

To: Board of Fish

From: Michael Chase

Kasilof, AK. 99610

Ladies and Gentlemen on the board of fish;

My name is Michael Chase, I am a setnetter in Cook Inlet at Humpy Point. I want to support proposal 283. I represent myself and my neighbors.

I had the opportunity to testify at the Egan center on Sunday, March 27. I again learned how fast 3 minutes can go by and it did not help that I was a bit nervous. As I was driving home tonite I was replaying in my head what I did not get the time to say in the meeting. I thought I would take this opportunity to use this format to finish my testimony.

Proposal 283 might give us the opportunity to harvest some of the excess reds that have been flooding the river the last 2 years. It may not be used, but, It gives the possibility of allowing us the chance to fish the abundance of reds that run late in July. This is only a baby step in the possible resuscitation of our fishery that is gasping for breath. The last 2 years we have had no hope of getting to fish this abundance and have sat on the beach and watched as our season went by untouched.

Having the Red run be attached to the king management plan has been devastating to us. While I hear people say we are the problem and the reason the kings are in decline,,,, I look at our records and cannot understand where that reasoning comes from. The east side setnetters have been blamed for the king problem and thusly sanctioned over and over with stricter and stricter rules for 30 years. We have born the brunt of the sanctions over and above any other user group. Let's think about this for a minute,,, The kings are in danger..... lets restrict the setnetters,,,,,, the kings are still in trouble,,,,, lets restrict the setnetters more,,,,,, the kings are still in trouble ,,,,,, on and on it goes. After 30 years we restricted to near extinction. Amazingly the kings are still in trouble and it appears to be getting worse. Is it possible that you are penalizing the wrong group!??

Let me try to paint you a picture: It is like a boy gets a broken leg from stepping in a hole in a field and the people come around and say let's fix this by putting a cast on that boy over there standing on the corner. When that doesn't work they say we need to cast the other leg on the boy at the corner. When that doesn't work to fix the broken leg of the first boy the decision is made to cast the arms of boy on the corner. The boy on the corner is crippled (his muscles are atrophying and he cannot function normally). Now the boy is in a coma. He is still alive but just barely. Meanwhile the first boys' leg is still broken and other boys have stepped in the hole and are getting broken too. Let's call the boy on the corner the setnetters, the boy with the broken leg the kings, the other boys are the reds and other species, and the hole the "problem".

I do not know what the entire problem is ,, it is more than likely multifaceted,, but, I do know that the setnetters have shouldered an inordinate amount of blame over the years. It's time to try to resuscitate the setnet fishery and Proposal 283 is a baby step in that direction.

Respectfully:

ML Chase