

HB

251



Representative Ralph Samuels

House District 29

House Bill 251

Sponsor Statement

House Bill 251 would allow the Board of Fisheries to assign additional fishing privileges to persons who hold two commercial fishing entry permits in the same salmon fishery. This could bring market forces to bear reducing permits in those fisheries where permits are underutilized.

This legislation does not force the purchase or sale of entry permits. It is not a mandate for fleet consolidation; but, rather, another tool that could assist specific fisheries in dealing with their respective challenges.

Proposals to allow additional fishing privileges would be submitted to the Board of Fisheries for their consideration. The board would still be constrained by all other statutes and regulations governing them. Escapements, conservation, and allocation needs would be considered in any proposal that would come before the board.

House Bill 251 does not mandate any changes in commercial fisheries management. It simply provides the ability for the board to have another tool.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2005 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 1
 Bill Version: HB 251
 (H) Publish Date: 4/11/05

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____ Dept. Affected: Fish and Game
 Title An Act Authorizing the Board of RDU Administrative Services
Fisheries to Adopt Component Boards Support
 Sponsor Representative Samuels
 Requester House Fisheries Committee Component No. 148

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
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CHANGE IN REVENUES ()						
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FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type--Do not abbreviate)						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2005) cost: 0.0

Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2006 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Passage of this legislation would have no fiscal impact.

Prepared by: Sarah Gilbertson
 Division: Legislative Liaison
 Approved by: McKie Campbell, Commissioner
 Agency: Alaska Department of Fish & GameHB

Phone 465-6137
 Date/Time 04/07/05 8:35 a.m.
 Date 4/7/2005

-----Original Message-----

From: Mike & Kate Saunders [mailto:Saundersosa@aptalaska.net]

Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2005 11:11 PM

To: Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux

Subject: Permit stacking 251

Rep. LeDoux:

This bill is a re-run of a BOF proposal 284 of a couple years ago which I fought as President of Lynn Canal Gillnetters Assn. We had a special meeting on it that was one of the best attended meetings that we have ever had and we were almost unanimous in our opposition of it

The idea that one fisherman can buy advantage over another is repulsive to me. If a fisherman wants to own an extra permit and wants to fish it he can buy another boat and put his son or uncle or wife on board. That should be the limit of owning two permits.

For a fisherman to own two permits to get to fish more days of the week than the fisherman who owns only one, is a violation of the trust we entered into with the State of Alaska when we bought our entry permits.

(I paid \$100,000.) The same is true if there to be advantage in respect to open area. If certain areas are open more days or only to owners of two permits, then, not only is the richer man who has the liquid assets available going to be able to out compete his brother who is tied to the dock because he only has one. But those ginalized in this manner will begin a downward spiral, because they are going to get to fish less than they are now. This isn't good for the fleet. To give some guys a bonus for having money in their pockets and the rest of us the shaft. Isn't right.

This applies to extra gear as well.

If you are interested in views in opposition to this legislation then you need seek no farther than letters opposed to BOF proposal 284 which was rejected by the BOF because of all the opposition. It was this same ugly idea.

Sincerely yours,

Mike Saunders

From: Rena Balzer [rena_balzer@fishgame.state.ak.us]
Sent: Friday, April 08, 2005 1:36 PM
To:
Cc: 'Sarah Gilberison'; 'Landa Baily'
Subject: Mike Saunders' Request Regarding "Permit Stacking"

Kim,

I've just faxed over to you the specific proposals Mr. Saunders was referring to. The cover letter contains the following:

"I've tracked it all down I believe! Mike Saunders had the wrong proposal number, but having the author of the proposer helped. It is Proposal 378 and 379. I have enclosed those here, which at the bottom of each proposal you will see a list of Names followed by either PC XX or AC XX number in the "Oppose" column. Those are the written comments received on these proposals that opposed the issue.

Mr. Saunders may have mentioned that the Board of Fisheries (BOF) voted these proposals down due to large opposition? I have also enclosed the official vote record indicated that the BOF actually voted to take NO ACTION on these proposals due to not having the statutory authority. This may explain why it is now in the Legislative process

If you would still like copies of these written comments faxed to you, please let us know ASAP to enable time to pull them and get them to you before the hearing on Monday morning."

Rena M. Balzer
Publications Specialist II
Division of Boards Support. Dept. Fish & Game
Ph: 907.465.6097
<http://www.boards.adfg.state.ak.us/>

PROPOSAL 378 - 5 AAC 33.310. FISHING SEASONS AND PERIODS FOR NET GEAR.
Amend this regulation to provide the following:

Alaska Department of Fish and Game will manage the Southeast Alaska gillnet fisheries by having an opening split in half to be first fished by a vessel having only one permit (A permit), then allowing the vessels that have two permits (A and B permits) to continue fishing the second half of the opening.

PROBLEM: In order to create more viable salmon fishery in Southeast Alaska, allow the stacking of Southeast salmon gillnet permits on vessels so that a person who buys an extra gillnet permit (B permit) will be able to fish twice as much. This would involve a different management scheme that would create opening twice as long. If you have two permits (A and B), you will be able to fish the whole opening and if you have one permit (A) you would only fish the first half of the opening.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? By not eliminating salmon gear and/or stacking permits in Southeast Alaska it will be to the demise of our salmon industry due to the glut of salmon on the world market.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All commercial gillnet salmon fisherman.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Richard Eliason

(HQ-02-F-104)

FAVOR

OPPOSE

McCoy Taylor PC1

Mike Saunders/Lynn Canal Gillnetters PC2

17 Southeast Drift Gillnet Permit Holders PC3

RI Eliason PC5

United SE AK Gillnetters PC10

Norman Hughes PC12

SE AK Fishermen's Alliance PC16

Sitka AC1

Upper Lynn Canal AC4

Petersburg AC6

Ketchikan AC9

Capt. Cal's Charter PC28

FINAL ACTION: Carries Fails Tabled No Action See Prop. # _____

ABSENT _____ **ABSTAIN** _____

DATE _____ **TIME** _____ **TAPE #** _____

PROPOSAL 379 - 5 AAC 33.310. FISHING SEASONS AND PERIODS FOR NET GEAR.
Amend this regulation to provide for the following:

Salmon may be taken with purse seines and gillnets in the following locations only during fishing periods established by emergency order that will generally begin on Sundays. A gillnet may be fished only if the operator has both a current Southeast Alaska seine permit and Southeast Alaska gillnet permit. (The seine permit must have been an active permit within the last two years prior to stacking.)

PROBLEM: In order to create more viable salmon fisheries in Southeast Alaska, stacking a Southeast seine permit onto a Southeast gillnet boat and allow the gillnetter to fish in seine areas within Southeast Alaska. This would reduce effort in both the seine and gillnet fisheries by eliminating a Southeast seine permit (and unit of gear) and by allowing a gillnet boat to fish outside his traditional area. Being that seine gear is a lot more efficient than gillnet gear, it would leave more fish in the water for the other gillnetters and seiners and allow more and opportunity to make a living.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? By not eliminating salmon gear in Southeast Alaska, it will be to the demise of our salmon industry due to the glut of salmon on the world market.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All commercial salmon fisherman.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? The seine permit holders who have not fished their permits in the last two years.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Richard I. Eliason Jr.

(HQ-02-F-105)

FAVOR

SE AK Fisherman's Alliance PC16

OPPOSE

United SE AK Gillnetters PC10

Norman Hughes PC12

Sitka AC1

Upper Lynn Canal AC4

Petersburg AC6

Ketchikan AC9

FINAL ACTION: Carries _____ Fails _____ Tabled _____ No Action _____ See Prop. # _____

ABSENT _____ **ABSTAIN** _____

DATE _____ **TIME** _____ **TAPE #** _____

PROPOSAL #

378

Date: 2/27 Time: 2:08p

ADOPT AMEND NO ACTION TABLE

FINAL ACTION DEFER

Motion: Andrews Second: _____

YES NO ABSTAIN ABSENT

Engel	_____	_____	_____	_____
Andrews	_____	_____	_____	_____
Morris	_____	<u>W/O</u>	_____	_____
Dersham	_____	_____	_____	_____
Jensen	_____	_____	_____	_____
R. Nelson	_____	<u>objection</u>	_____	_____
A. Nelson	_____	_____	_____	_____

Amendment: _____

board has no authority

CARRIES FAILS _____

DATE: 2/27/03 TIME: 2:08p

PROPOSAL #

379

Date: 2/27 Time: 2:08p

ADOPT AMEND NO ACTION TABLE

FINAL ACTION DEFER

Motion: Andrews Second: _____

YES NO ABSTAIN ABSENT

Engel	_____	_____	_____	_____
Andrews	_____	_____	_____	_____
Morris	_____	<u>W/O</u>	_____	_____
Dersham	_____	_____	_____	_____
Jensen	_____	_____	_____	_____
R. Nelson	_____	<u>objection</u>	_____	_____
A. Nelson	_____	_____	_____	_____

Amendment: _____

board has no authority

CARRIES FAILS _____

DATE: 2/27/03 TIME: 2:09p

PROPOSAL #

382

Date: 2/27 Time: 2:10p

ADOPT AMEND NO ACTION TABLE

FINAL ACTION DEFER

Motion: Engel Second: Wilson

YES NO ABSTAIN ABSENT

Engel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____
Andrews	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____
Morris	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____
Dersham	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____
Jensen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____
R. Nelson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____
A. Nelson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____

Amendment: _____

CARRIES 70 FAILS _____

DATE: 2/27/03 TIME: 2:15p

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Proposal 368

Motion/Second to support proposal 368. Ty Barkhoefer/Moe Johnson. Discussion: The Department opposed to section (b) and commented that it would be disruptive to the fishery and community, and they are neutral on the allowcative part of this proposal. Bill Paden who is on the NSRAA board commented that this is a job for NSRAA and that they spend a great deal of time dealing with redrawing the lines a few years ago. Bill opposes this proposal. Ty Barkhoefer a gillnet fisherman comments that he is opposed to this proposal. Question by John Murray. 0 Yes, 13 No. Motion failed.

Proposal 378

Motion/Second to support proposal 378. Bill Paden/Ty Barkhoefer. Discussion: The Department commented that this proposal wants to allow gillnet fisherman with two permits to fish twice as much as a gillnet fisherman with one permit. Bill Paden asked the Department if this proposal would cut a fisherman with one permit in half? Ralph Guthrie commented he read this proposal, as having a two-day opening than a fisherman with two permits would get another two-day opening. John Murray commented that the author of this proposal should take this up with the legislature. Question by Dennis Longstreath. 6 Yes, 13 No. Motion failed.

Proposal 379

Motion/Second to support proposal 379. Noel Johnson/Moe Johnson. Discussion: The Department is neutral but has concerns with figuring out catch data. Question by Bill Paden. 0 Yes, 13 No. Motion failed.

Proposal 380

Motion/Second to support proposal 380. Ty Barkhoefer/Bill Paden. Discussion: This is about historical averages dealing with wild stocks and not to change percentages between gear groups. The Department has significantly altered the seine fishery because of different market value and these changes have enhanced the value of the fish. Eric Jordan commented that the gillnetters were looking for different management and he is concerned with the way things are managed now. He is in support of this proposal. Moe Johnson the department already manages thing this was. Question by Bill Paden. 10 Yes, 1 No, 2 Abstain. Motion carried.

Proposal 384 and 385

Motion/Second to support proposal 384 and 385. John Murray/Bill Paden. Discussion: Dennis Longstreath commented that the actual numbers need to be negotiated with Canada. This can be passed now or later because this is just a formality. Ralph Guthrie commented that this is only a partial proposal because only the gillnet fishery is in this proposal, he also commented that if only one user group is address only one fishery will be allowed. Motion to amend by Dennis Longstreath/Second Bill Paden. Amendment to read "In proposals 384 and 385 that in addition to the gillnet fleet, the seine and troll fleets be included. Question to amendment Bill Paden 13 Yes, 0 No. Amendment passed. Question on proposal as amended by Bill Paden. 13 Yes, 0 No. Motion carried.

Proposal 391

Motion/Second to support proposal 391. Bill Paden/Noel Johnson. Discussion: John Murray asked how do you tell between wild stocks and hatchery sockeye. Eric Jordan commented that

AC. COMMENT# 1

To: Alaska Board of Fish

I am a Southeast Drift Gillnet Permit holder residing in the Chikot Valley and I fish Lynn Canal.

I am opposed to Board of Fish Proposal #378 for many of the same reasons Lynn Canal Gillnetters Assn. President Mike Saunders outlined in his letter against the proposal. I support Mike in his efforts to defeat this proposal.

Signed: Gene M. Albrecht

P.S.

RECEIVED
DEC 10 2002
BOARDS

COMMENT# 3

To: Alaska Board of Fish

I am a Southeast Drift Gillnet Permit holder residing in the Chiikak Valley and I fish
Lynn Canal.

I am opposed to Board of Fish Proposal #378 for many of the same reasons Lynn
Canal Gillnetters Assn. President Mike Saunders outlined in his letter against the proposal.
I support Mike in his efforts to defeat this proposal.

Signed: Larry Jorgelait

Larry Jorgelait
P.O. Box 515
Haines, AK 99827
907-766-3360

P.S.

COMMENT#

3

RECEIVED
DEC 10 2002
BOARDS

To: Alaska Board of Fish

I am a Southeast Drift Gillnet Permit holder residing in the Chiikat Valley and I fish Lynn Canal.

I am oposed to Board of Fish Proposal #378 for many of the same reasons Lynn Canal Gillnetters Assn. President Mike Saunders outlined in his letter against the proposal. I support Mike in his efforts to defeat this proposal.

Signed: NORMAN MUGHES
STORMISURF@YAHOO.COM

P.S. AS A PERMIT HOLDER I AM
OPPOSED TO THIS PROPOSAL.
MY OPPOSITION TO THIS IS BASED
ON THE FACTS OF THE PROPOSAL.
NOT THE PEOPLE OR PERSONALITIES.

RECEIVED

DEC 10 2002

BOARDS

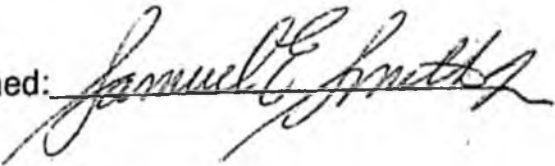
COMMENT# 3

RECEIVED
DEC 13 2002
BOARDS

To: Alaska Board of Fish

I am a Southeast Drift Gillnet Permit holder residing in the Chilkat Valley and I fish
Lynn Canal.

I am oposed to Board of Fish Proposal #378 for many of the same reasons Lynn
Canal Gillnetters Assn. President Mike Saunders outlined in his letter against the proposal.
I support Mike in his efforts to defeat this proposal.

Signed: 

P.S.

COMMENT# 3

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Signed: Mr. Coy Taylor

P.S.

RECEIVED

DEC 27 2002

BOARDS

COMMENT# 3

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I am oposed to Board of Fish Proposal #378 for many of the same reasons Lynn Canal Gillnetters Assn. President Mike Saunders outlined in his letter against the proposal. I support Mike in his efforts to defeat this proposal.

Signed: Tim Stewart

Box 58

Haines 99827

P.S.

COMMENT# 3

RECEIVED
DEC 23 2002
BOARDS

To: Alaska Board of Fish

I am a Southeast Drift Gillnet Permit holder residing in the Chilkat Valley and I fish Lynn Canal.

I am oposed to Board of Fish Proposal #378 for many of the same reasons Lynn Canal Gillnetters Assn. President Mike Saunders outlined in his letter against the proposal. I support Mike in his efforts to defeat this proposal.

Signed:



Lee F. CLAYTON

FIV/SAGA

Box 135
Haines

AdF+668896

P.S.

I HAVE GILNETTED SALMON IN
SOUTHEAST ALASKA SINCE 1958
I AM A 3rd GENERATION COMMERCIAL
FISHERMAN

RECEIVED
DEC 23 2002
BOARDS

COMMENT# 3

RECEIVED

DEC 16 2002

BOARDS

To: Alaska Board of Fish

I am a Southeast Drift Gillnet Permit holder residing in the Chiikat Valley and I fish
Lynn Canal.

I am oposed to Board of Fish Proposal #378 for many of the same reasons Lynn
Canal Gillnetters Assn. President Mike Saunders outined in his letter against the proposal.
I support Mike in his efforts to defeat this proposal.

Signed: Russ Walton

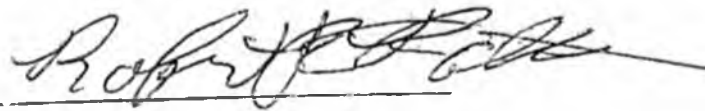
P.S.

COMMENT# 3

To: Alaska Board of Fish

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Lynn Canal.

I am oposed to Board of Fish Proposal #378 for many of the same reasons Lynn
Canal Gillnetters Assn. President Mike Saunders outlined in his letter against the proposal.
I support Mike in his efforts to defeat this proposal.

Signed: 

P.S.

RECEIVED
DEC 13 2002
BOARDS

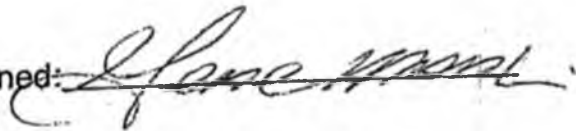
COMMENT# 3

To: Alaska Board of Fish

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I am oposed to Board of Fish Proposal #378 for many of the same reasons Lynn Canal Gillnetter Assn. President Mike Saunders outlined in his letter against the proposal. I support Mike in his efforts to defeat this proposal.

Signed:



P.S.

RECEIVED
DEC 13 2002
BOARDS

COMMENT#

3

To: Alaska Board of Fish

I am a Southeast Drift Gillnet Permit holder residing in the Chiikat Valley and I fish Lynn Canal.

I am oposed to Board of Fish Proposal #378 for many of the same reasons Lynn Canal Gillnetters Assn. President Mike Saunders outlined in his letter against the proposal. I support Mike in his efforts to defeat this proposal.

Signed: *Steve Muntz*

P.S.

RECEIVED
DEC 13 2002
BOARDS

COMMENT# 3

To: Alaska Board of Fish

I am a Southeast Drift Gillnet Permit holder residing in the Chiikat Valley and I fish Lynn Canal.

I am oposed to Board of Fish Proposal #378 for many of the same reasons Lynn Canal Gillnetters Assn. President Mike Saunders outlined in his letter against the proposal. I support Mike in his efforts to defeat this proposal.

Signed: Thomas B. Williams Jr
F/V OCEAN WAVE

P.S.

RECEIVED

DEC 12 2002

BOARDS

COMMENT# 3

RECEIVED
DEC 30 2002
BOARDS

630 Bullion Dr
Fairbanks, AK 99712
December 26, 2002

Alaska Board of Fish
ADF&G Board Support
PO Box 25526
Juneau, AK 99802

Attn: Dianna Cote

I am a Southeast Drift Gillnet permit holder and I fish Lynn Canal.

I am opposed to Board of Fish Proposal #378 for many of the same reasons Lynn Canal Gillnetters Association President Mike Saunders outlined in his letter against the proposal.

I am a member of Lynn Canal Gillnetters Association and I support Mike in his efforts to defeat this proposal.

Murray L. Clayton



COMMENT#

3

Escapement Goal-BEG at the original figure of 2500-5000 that the committee built the plan on. MOTION PASSED 7-1 VOTE

New business

- 1. LETTER TO GOVERNOR MURKOWSKI: Shane Horton moved, Mike Ward 2nd to write a letter to GOVERNOR MURKOWSKI describing the last year and the committee's frustrations with the process and ADF&G, passed unanimously. Shane Horton and Norm Hughes volunteered to be on committee.**
- 2. ADF&G FISH PROPOSALS -- BOF Meeting of 20 -24: comments due 2-06**
- 3. the committee voted on the following proposals:**

PROPOSAL 368 -- MOVE TO ADOPT BY Norm Hughes, 2nd by Mike Ward, withdrawn.

PROPOSAL 378 -- MOVE TO ADOPT BY John Katzeek, 2nd by Mike Ward, failed unanimously 0-8.

PROPOSAL 379 -- MOVE TO ADOPT BY Shane Horton, 2nd by Rocky Hickman, failed unanimously 0-8.

PROPOSAL 381 -- MOVE TO ADOPT BY Mike Ward, 2nd by Shane Horton, passed unanimously 8-0.

PROPOSAL 388 -- MOVE TO ADOPT BY Mike Ward, 2nd by SHANE Horton, passed unanimously 8-0.

PROPOSAL 347 -- MOVE TO ADOPT BY Mike Ward, 2nd by Rocky Hickman to modify this proposal as follows: rather than increase the Bag limit on Dolly Varden from 2 to 5, increase it from 2 to 4, based on increasing pressure observed by local Sport Fish personnel, passed unanimously 8-0.

PROPOSAL 392 - MOVE TO ADOPT BY Norm Hughes, 2nd b Mike Ward to modify this proposal from the 15,000 sockeye down to a 10,000 sockeye limit for Seiners in this area.

Norm Hughes requested that the board support his appointment to the REGIONAL FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE BOARD; WE WILL TAKE IT UP AT THE NEXT MEETING IN ABOUT TWO WEEKS WHEN WE HAVE ELECTIONS. THE PLANNING COMMISSION IS WAITING . TIME TO adourn.

A Journment 7PM

SUBMITTED BY Mike Ward Mike Ward, Sec. 2-05-03

AC. COMMENT# 4

- #356 Failed 0-8 This proposal is not specific as to where it would apply. It looks region wide. We weren't interested in applying this everywhere.
- #357 - 359 Failed 0-8
- #360 Carried 7-1
- #362 Carried 6-2
- #362 -363 Failed 0-7 one member out.
- #364 Failed 0-8
- #365 Took no action out of our area.

We recessed for the night at 10:30 PM.

The Petersburg Fish and Game Advisory Committee reconvened At 7:00 PM ,February 5,2003. Attending from the ADF&G, were William Bergman, Troy Thynes, Brian Lynch and Doug Fleming. Cora Crome represented the Petersburg Vessel Owners. Seven (7) committee members were present. We were short of a quorum but decided to consider these proposals anyway.

- #366 Failed 0-7 We don't agree with taking opportunity away from one group to raise another groups %.
- #367 Failed 0-7
- #368 Failed 0-7 Gillnetters are not out of their range and this would not help trollers very much.
- #369 -370 We considered this Issue when we voted on proposals 210-211. Our comments are the same.
- #371 Carried 7-0 This was supported by the ADF&G.
- #372 Failed 0-7 Same as #371 but the Lat/Lon is not correct.
- #373 Carried 7-0 There was some concern by sportfishermen that the June 1 starting date could effect sportfishing. We also want to be sure that sportfish caught in the Terminal Harvest Area, do not count against the Pacific Salmon Treaty quota.
- #374 - 376 Carried 7-0
- #377 Failed 0-7 This is the last year fish will be returning to Earl Wess Cove. It is already being managed this way.
- #378 Failed 0-7 We do not think the Board (BOF) has the authority to do this.
- #379 Failed 1-6
- #380 Carried 7-0
- #381 Carried 7-0
- #382 Carried 6-1 A minority oppinion felt that this and other proposals pertaining to a Drift Gilnet fishery for King Salmon do not need to be acted on until a fishery is authorized through the Pacific Salmon Treaty.
- #383 Failed 0-7 This could already be authorized by (EO) authority. The ADF&G is opposed. When Sockeye fishing is occurring, this area would be open to harvest Chum salmon.
- #384 Carried 4-3
- #385 Carried 4-3
- #386 Carried 6-1 Same comments as #382
- #387 Failed 1-6
- #388 Failed 0-7 We feel that present management is working and adequate protection is given to affected stocks.

AC. COMMENT#

6

Proposal 377 – T.Fisher moves to approve, R.Moyer 2nd.

D.House – Department is opposed. Proposal is unclear. It needs to be rewritten.

Vote: Favor 1 – T.Fisher

Against 5

Proposal 378 – T.Fisher moves to approve, R.Moyer 2nd.

D.House – Department is neutral.

K.Duckett – From audience – Board of Fish does not have the authority to do this.

Vote: Favor 0

Against 6

Proposal 379 – T.Fisher moves to approve, R.Moyer 2nd.

D.House – This would allow a person who holds a gillnet and a purse seine permit to gillnet in purse seine areas.

Vote: Favor 0

Against 6

Proposal 380 – 390 – T.Fisher moves to approve, R.Moyer 2nd.

K.Duckett – From Audience - The change in the Seine Management Plan to seven days a week is causing a concern as far as allocation of fish to the gillnet fleet.

D.Castle – The purse seine fleet does not think that the allocation of fish to the respective users will be altered. Poor egg values is the reason for the shift to a four day on, one day off season. Processors want to even the flow of product through their facilities.

K.Duckett – From Audience – Everyone is in sympathy to improve quality and improve efficiencies but all gear groups need safeguards.

K.Andrews – She has concerns with this proposal. Seiners have the ability to harvest large amounts of fish within a very short time span.

D.Castle – There is a need to look at time and area closures.

R.Moyer - The Clover Pass area was very poor for cohoes this year because of the intense seine pressure. There was a dramatic drop in sport catches whenever the seiners fished near by.

K. Andrews – We need mechanisms to look at allocations and wild stock escapements.

Vote: Favor 5

Against 1 – D.Castle

Meeting set for Thursday, January 30, 2003

Meeting brought a close at 9:00 P.M.

Secretary Rudy Franulovich

This idea of stocking licenses is
ludicrous. It is discriminatory
in the fact that at this time
in the history of our fishery this
would be allowing the few that
have money to take advantage of
those that don't.

Most of the gillnetters that
live in Haines own homes,
pay property taxes, buy groceries
from our local store (I store man
as we lost the other one), fuel their
boats here and generally support
Haines. Lets not try to cut the
number of supporters of our
town down in number.

Coffee shop talk I've heard is
almost completely against this.

The only suggestion I have on
this fishery is lets be conservative
in our opening and make sure
we rebuild our escapement levels
so when prices rebound we will
have fish to catch.

Of course this comes from a man
who has fished here, thirty years

COMMENT# 1

only

Page 1 of 2

another decade or two and we
be able to give more insight
toward future comments.

Thank You
McCoy Taylor

McCoy TAYLOR

BOX 506

HAINES, ALASKA

99827

907 766 2143

COMMENT# 1

Page 2 of 2

**Written testimony for Board of Fish
Proposal #373
Against the Proposal
From: Mike Saunders, Pres. Lynn Canal Gillnetters Assn.**

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NOV 29 2002
BOARDS

To: Esteemed Board of Fish Representatives,

Proposal #373 allowing stacking of S.E. Gillnet Permits so that two could be held by the same individual, and; also mandating the Dept. of Fish and Game to manage gillnet fishing periods by splitting the openings so that the individual owning two, (A & B) permits is allowed to fish twice as long as the individual who holds one, (A) permit, is one of the most disturbing pieces of social engineering that I have yet heard of.

The author of this proposal is attempting to mislead the Board when he states in the proposal that, if adopted, it "would create an opening twice as long."

Gillnet openings in Southeast Alaska are already managed by the Dept of Fish and Game to allow maximum harvest days to the fleet while still allowing for required escapement levels of wild stocks.

What will happen is that the fisherman who owns one permit, (A), (most of the fleet), will get to fish half the time he currently does under existing regulations. The fisherman who buys a second permit, thereby owning two, (A&B) permits will get to fish the entire opening that we all get to fish now, only a bunch of us will have to be tied up at the dock.

Under the "What if nothing is done" section of this proposal, the author states that the result of nothing being done will be nothing less than, "the demise of the Salmon Industry due to the glut of salmon on the world market."

This is not true and in fact this proposal does nothing nor claims to do anything about the glut of salmon on the world market. All this proposal does, if enacted, is put more fish in a few fish holds and less fish in a lot of fish holds.

The proposal does not address the question, "Will the quality of the resource harvested or products produced be improved?"
They would not be.

The answer to the question, "Who is likely to benefit?" being stated as, "all commercial gillnet fishermen", is not true. A few fishermen would benefit by having an unfair advantage over the rest of the fleet.

In fact, I asked the author of this proposal at lunch during a break at the Fall 2002 NSRAA Board Meeting whether or not he was trying to buy an advantage over the rest of the fleet and he said, "Yes." That is the whole point of his proposal.

Under "Who is likely to suffer?" The proposal says, "no one."

This is also untrue. Every S.E. Alaska Drift Gillnet Permit holder who does not purchase a second permit will suffer as their fishing time will get cut in half.

In order to compete fairly in the fishery everyone would have to buy a second permit. And not every one can afford to do that. Some won't out of principal. Some will file lawsuits. Some won't realize what is going on until it is too late. Some will mistakenly think they can still compete in a rigged game.

COMMENT# 2

1 of 3

What would happen eventually is that the value of the single, (A) permit will be downgraded. It won't be an (A) permit anymore. The (A&B) permit will become the more valuable A permit and the single permit will be the less valuable B permit, much like the Power Troll and Hand Troll permits in that fishery.

This is the worst sort of buy back scheme possible with the most human fallout any such scheme I could imagine would have. Even if it were the venue of the Board of Fish to engage in this sort of social engineering, surely, the Board must see that this proposal does nothing to address the failings of the Salmon Industry, but; in fact, uses that pretense as a guise for a few fishermen to engage an unfair advantage over the rest of the fleet.

Sincerely yours,
Mike Saunders
Pres. Lynn Canal Gillnetters Assn.

COMMENT#

2

2 of 3

Proposal 378

Gillnet permit
stacking

Lynna Canal Gillnetters
Assn. - (Heimes)

Voted - 100 - unanimously

COMMENT#

2

3 of 3

To: Alaska Board of Fish

I am a Southeast Drift Gillnet Permit holder residing in the Chiikot Valley and I fish Lynn Canal.

I am oposed to Board of Fish Proposal #378 for many of the same reasons Lynn Canal Gillnetters Assn. President Mike Saunders outlined in his letter against the proposal. I support Mike in his efforts to defeat this proposal.

Signed: Dean Ruby

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DEC 26 2002

BOARDS

P.S.

F/V ROGUE
Box 1012
Haines, AK 99827
907 723 2429

This is simply a reallocation of the Resource to a few that can afford it. If this happens all will suffer (mostly)! I know I will. It's coming to skinny seasons and losing half of my fishing time and having to compete with the ones who own two permits would not be good.

COMMENT# 3

To: Alaska Board of Fish

I am a Southeast Drift Gillnet Permit holder residing in the Chiikat Valley and I fish Lynn Canal.

I am oposed to Board of Fish Proposal #378 for many of the same reasons Lynn Canal Gillnetters Assn. President Mike Saunders outlined in his letter against the proposal. I support Mike in his efforts to defeat this proposal.

Signed: Larry Craig Hogwood

P.S.

This proposal is one of the most dumbest thing's I have ever heard of. This will only hurt myself and all other fisherman. I can already fish all I want why would I want to spend more money to fish the same fish.

COMMENT# 3

RECEIVED
DEC 17 2002

12/17/02

To: Alaska Board of Fish

BOARDS

I am a Southeast Drift Gillnet Permit holder residing in the Chiikak Valley and I fish Lynn Canal.

I am oposed to Board of Fish Proposal #378 for many of the same reasons Lynn Canal Gillnetters Assn. President Mike Saunders outlined in his letter against the proposal. I support Mike in his efforts to defeat this proposal.

Signed: R BOYCE
RICHARD BOYCE
F/V ELEANOR S 43505

P.S.

FISH PROPOSAL #378 FAILS TO ADDRESS ANY PROBLEMS THAT OUR SALMON INDUSTRY HAS. #378 DOES NOT: REDUCE OVERALL SALMON TAKE, DOES NOT INCREASE QUALITY, DOES NOT INCREASE MARKET. IN FACT ALL #378 DOES IS GIVE A DISPROPORTIONATE SHARE OF FISH TO HOLDERS OF 2 PERMITS, AS AN EXAMPLE, IF 10% OF FLEET BUY EXTRA PERMITS, THEN 90% STILL FISH SAY 2 DAYS, WITH LOW CATCH RATE DUE TO LOTS OF BOATS, BUT 10% THAT FISHERS SECOND 2 DAYS ENJOYS HIGH CATCH RATES DUE TO REDUCED GEAR IN WATER. SINGLE PERMIT HOLDERS ARE FURTHER PENALIZED BY LESS BUILD UP TIME FOR NEW FISH TO THE AREA.

COMMENT# 3

PLEASE VOTE NO ON #378

To: Alaska Board of Fish

I am a Southeast Drift Gillnet Permit holder residing in the Chilkat Valley and I fish Lynn Canal.

I am oposed to Board of Fish Proposal #378 for many of the same reasons Lynn Canal Gillnetters Assn. President Mike Saunders outlined in his letter against the proposal. I support Mike in his efforts to defeat this proposal.

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BOARDS

Signed:

Tim J Taylor

P.S.

As a Limited entry Permit Holder currently still making Payments on a decreasing value permit having to buy another permit to remain competitive could quite possibly drive me into Bankruptcy. This proposal would benefit fishermen with other means of income who could afford a second permit.

Tim J Taylor

COMMENT#

3

Alaska Board of Fisheries
Attn: BOF Comments
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Proposal 378 Salmon

First and foremost we would not want to disrupt any existing gillnet fisheries in southeast, but to allow ADF&G some latitude to give whoever has an extra permit some type of extended time. Extended time that ADF&G usually won't give when there is the normal fleet of gillnetters. I would like to say the proposal 378 is just an idea that needs to be greatly expanded on, for instance the proposal as written states that it would give a person that has two permits double the fishing time than that of a person that holds one permit. After input from fellow gillnetters we realize that double the fishing time would be asking too much and it would be tough for ADF&G to manage, especially when some weekly openings are 5 days long to start with. The scenarios that can be in place for people that have two permits could be endless and very creative. Last year maybe the person with the extra permit could have fished extra days in area 8 even though it was closed to the whole fleet for conservation reasons. This type of arraignment would be perfect for fishing area 11 & 15c, targeting DIPAC chums. Other issues involve some type of area registration for the person with two permits, mainly for areas that are within a few hours of running. If a person registered in area 11 for his extension area he would not be allowed to travel to area 15 to fish the extra days, this giving ADF&G a better handle on their management strategy for the extra days. Some concern is that there may not be enough extra permits to go around for people to buy leaving them on the dock while a portion of the fleet continues fishing. Another way to look at this is what happens in a supply and demand situation? Most likely if you could not find an extra permit your current permit value would increase making you a benefactor of the proposal without the extra investment. Other areas of concern would be the Special and Terminal Harvest areas (Deep Inlet, Anita Bay, Neets Bay, Boat Harbor, Limestone Inlet, etc) would not be affected by this proposal.

Hopefully this letter clears the air about the intentions of proposal 378. I know it's easier to lie and distort the facts, like some of the opponents of proposal 378 have been doing on the North End. I ask that you at least try to digest it before you trash it.

PS I talked to the Division of Investments the other day about permit financing. State value on a permit is 27k, they will loan on 100% of the 27k at 7% for 14 years, your yearly payment would be \$3000.00, pretty cheap investment for a few extra days.

Thank you for your Time and Service,

RI Eliason jr

RI Eliason jr
719 Sirstad St
Sitka 99835

COMMENT# 5

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FEB 04 2003
BOARDS

United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters

PO Box 23378 Ketchikan, AK 99901 (907) 247-2471 Fax (907) 225-0241 Email: usag@gci.net

February 2, 2003

Ed Dersham, Chair
Board of Fisheries
P.O. Box 25526
Juneau, AK 99802-5526

Dear Mr. Dersham:

The United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters Association represents commercial fishermen whose primary source of income is derived from drift gillnetting for salmon in Southeast Alaska. We respectfully submit our position and perspective on Proposal 316, Proposals 368 through 374, and Proposals 376 through 392 that are of primary concern to our fleet. The proposals and our comments are:

Proposal 316: This proposal would increase the number of chinook in the sport allocation from its present 20% to a proposed 30% by reducing the allocation to the troll fleet. It might also reduce the number of treaty chinook allocated to the net fleets. We do not think that more chinook should be reallocated away from the troll fleet to an ever-expanding charter sport fleet. We are also opposed to any change in the allocation that presently goes to the seine and gillnet fleets. In the years that the net fleets do not catch their entire allocation of chinook, we are in favor of the department distributing those unused fish to the troll fleet. Our main concern about losing a portion of our allocation of chinook is that when we exceeded our limit in the past, the department has instituted 'night closures' and reduced fishing area and time. The chinook salmon represent a small portion of our income and when these restrictive measures are applied they disrupt our targeted chum and sockeye fisheries, resulting in a far greater detrimental impact on our incomes. Therefore the net fleets need their allocation of chinook to remain the same even if that allocation is not fully utilized so that our targeted fisheries will not be adversely impacted. We catch most of our chinook early in the salmon season and have no problem with unused fish being caught by the trollers later in the year so that Alaska's full allocation of treaty fish can be utilized.

Proposal 368: This proposal would change the boundaries of the Deep Inlet Terminal Harvest Area and the conduct of the common property harvest in the terminal area. The proposal would increase gillnet and troll access to the terminal area and reduce seine access. The reason presented for the change is that the goals of the Southeast Alaska Enhanced Salmon Allocation Plan are not being met. We support the Allocation Plan and recommend that the Board of Fish (BoF) consider this proposal from the perspective of the implementation of that plan. In the early spring of 2002 when this proposal was being drawn up the final allocation numbers for 2001 were not available. The data for 2000 showed the gillnet fleet to be below its target range for that year and for the 5 year rolling average. This would have been the first year the fleet was outside its range and corrective action favoring the fleet would not normally have been considered until after the fleet was outside its range for three five year periods in succession. Also in 2000, however, the

Comments on Board of Fish Proposals
February 20 to March 2, 2003 Meeting in Ketchikan

troll fleet and the seine fleets were outside of their respective allocation limits. The troll fleet significantly on the low side and the seine fleet significantly on the high side. Based on this situation, shifting fish to the gillnet and troll fleets from the seine fleet as this proposal would do could reduce the amount the seine fleet was over their range; reduce the amount the troll fleet was under their range; and bring the gillnet fleet back within their range.

We now have 2001 data available and we have a somewhat different perspective. The point number for 2001 for the gillnetters shows us to be above our target for the 2001 season and within our range for the 5 year rolling average period. The point number for 2001 for the seine fleet is within their target and the troll point number while significantly improved, is still somewhat below range. If we continue to experience the conditions in the fishery that produced the 2001 allocation figures, we conclude that the gillnet fleet does not require a change to this terminal area at this time.

We would also take this opportunity to say that we believe it is best that proposals relating to the management of the terminal harvest areas come from the aquaculture association that is responsible for the terminal area's management in conjunction with the Department of Fish and Game. We also believe the Southeast Joint Regional Planning Team should make proposals concerning the management of terminal areas to achieve balance in the allocation program.

Proposals 369 and 370: These proposals attempt to minimize the potential conflict that may develop between the existing crab fishery in Anita Bay and the increased activity from the gillnet and seine fleets accessing fish returning to this terminal harvest area. Proposal 370 would close the entire inner portion of the bay from June 15th to June 25th. Proposal 369 extends the time of the closure to July 10th but reduces the area that is closed to allow the salmon net fleet's closer access to the net pen area where returning salmon will home. After July 10th the entire bay would be open to salmon fishing. The disadvantage of this arrangement is that some fish will home to the net pen area inside the line and remain in that area inaccessible to net fishermen even if crab gear is not in the bay. Those fish will lose quality rapidly and will be very low value when finally taken in the fishery after July 10th. The advantage is that potential gear conflicts will be avoided, at least in the inner part of the bay where most of the crab fishery is conducted. We are in favor of trying this compromise and recommend that the BoF approve these proposals.

Proposals 371 and 372: Both of these proposals expand the Anita Bay Terminal Harvest Area. This action is requested as the salmon that were being released in the Earl West Cove Terminal Area are now being released in Anita Bay. Also Anita Bay is now receiving an additional 6 million summer chum fry that were previously released in Neets Bay as part of the Southeast Sustainable Salmon Fund program. The original boundary was to allow the Burnett Inlet Hatchery a small area for a cost recovery fishery. The expanded area is required to allow the seine and gillnet fleets room to conduct a rotational common property fishery. The larger terminal area will also allow returning fish to be harvested quicker which will produce a higher quality product. We support the expansion of the Anita Bay Terminal Harvest Area and think that proposal 371 submitted by the Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (SSRAA) is the better of the two proposals.

Proposal 373: The salmon that were released at Earl West Cove are now being released in Anita Bay. This includes chinook, summer chum, and fall coho salmon. This proposal revises the timing applied to the terminal area and the species involved. We support this proposal.

Proposal 374: The SSRAA Board of Directors approved establishment of an early rotation in the Neets Bay Terminal Harvest Area for the net fleets to access chinook salmon that were not

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intercepted in the common property fishery. In past years these fish have been cleaned up by the cost recovery fishery and used for cost recovery. The SSRAA Board wanted to get more of these fish in the hands of fishermen if possible and established the early rotation. We support this proposal and ask the BoF to approve it.

Proposal 376: The SSRAA Board wanted to assure maximum opportunity for the net fleets late in the salmon season and assure complete cleanup of the fall chum and coho returning to Nakat Inlet. They did this by instituting an open fishery after September 17. We support this proposal.

Proposal 377: This proposal will allow for a continuous rotation in the Eastern Passage Terminal Harvest Area (Earl West Cove). The advantage of this rotation is that it provides the net fleets with more fishing time to access to the fish returning to the terminal area. It also allows for quicker harvest of the fish when they enter the terminal area and therefore produces a higher quality fish. Another advantage of increasing harvest opportunity with the continuous rotation is that the quicker harvest of the fish reduces the potential for straying. We support this proposal.

Proposal 378: We do not believe the implementation of this proposal is within the jurisdiction of the Board. AS 16.43.140(c) reads as follows: "(5) consolidation of the fishing fleet for a salmon fishery; however, a person may hold not more than two entry permits for a salmon fishery under this paragraph, but the person who holds two entry permits for a salmon fishery may not engage in fishing under the second entry permit." We think this would prohibit the type of action contemplated in this proposal. This is however, a point of interest for our fleet and we are attempting to determine what our members think about this and similar kinds of ideas for fleet reduction.

Proposal 379: This is an interesting proposal that would reduce the size of the seine fleet by allowing a gillnet permit owner to stack a seine permit on a gillnet permit and then fish gillnet gear in seine areas when they are open to seining. We believe that if this proposal were to be seriously considered that the seine fleet would ask for the same opportunity to stack a gillnet permit on a seine permit and then be allowed to fish seine gear in gillnet areas. The end result of these actions would be the complete loss of the historical separation between the two gear types. This separation is necessary because of the gear conflicts that may develop when the two gear types are fished together. The much greater size and efficiency of seine gear would place the gillnet fleet at a distinct disadvantage if this kind of arrangement were instituted. We understand that there is a great deal of economic stress in our fisheries at this time, but we don't believe that this would result in an overall constructive change. We are opposed to this proposal and ask the BoF to reject it.

Proposal 330: The United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters Association (USAG) submitted this proposal in an attempt to address the changes taking place in the management of the seine fishery. We fully appreciate the economic stress that the seine fleet is encountering as we are facing those exact same problems. In the past, commercial fisheries have been managed to assure obtaining the required escapement goal for the respective species or systems while providing the fleet an opportunity to catch any harvestable surplus. Management regimes have not been adjusted based on economic considerations except perhaps spreading openings to allow facilities to handle the volumes harvested. Last season was the first season where adjustments were made in management to improve quality, increase fishing time, reduce packer expenses, and attempt to provide a steady flow of fish to processors to improve overall efficiency and economy. We support these kinds of changes, which we hope will improve the quality and economy of the salmon industry. We do feel however, that it is inappropriate that these kinds of decisions only be discussed with one fleet when the changes can and do affect the other fleets. We therefore believe that when the Department is considering such changes it should include the other affected fleets in

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the decision making process. We would like assurance that these changes in the seine management plan will not change the allocation balance between the gear groups. We are also concerned that the burden of conservation where required will continue to be born by the groups with respect to the historic sharing of the stock. This proposal presents a policy framework for the Department to make these kinds of economic management decisions. The involvement of other affected groups should be added to and included in the policy. We hope the Board will consider the development of such a policy statement.

Proposal 381: USAG submitted this proposal to allow the Department to adjust the start time for gillnet openings to a time that best fits the needs of the specific area. One immediate benefit could be more timely delivery of the first days catch. As the system is currently structured with openings beginning at noon, a packer will normally hold Sunday's fish until after the Monday night deliveries in order to get an economic volume for a return to the plant. Processing would normally begin on Tuesday morning. If our fishery were permitted to open at 5:00 or 6:00 am in the morning, with the good fishing that normally occurs on the first day due to the buildup of fish between openings, enough volume could possibly be delivered Sunday evening to permit a packer to return to the plant for processing Monday morning. This would result in higher quality fish with a longer shelf life. We ask the Board to pass this proposal. If this proposal is passed, we would like to work with the Department in such forums as the fall gillnet task force meeting to establish the preferred opening time for each area.

As a second consideration, we considered asking to eliminate the requirement for the opening to begin on Sunday. This could allow the openings to be tailored to the requirements of the specific area. We did not request this however, favoring instead to take a staged approach and see how the elimination of the noon start time is received and if it contributes to a more efficient fishery.

Proposal 382: USAG submitted this proposal. We are trying to get away from the regulations that require us to have specialized, non standard and expensive nets for special situations. The abundance figures for chinook salmon show the stocks to be on the increase and some systems are exceeding their escapement goals. If we were able to reestablish our fishery on some of these stocks, we would like to be able to use the nets that we use in other fisheries. This proposal would allow that to happen. We ask the Board to approve this proposal.

Proposal 383: This proposal will allow the gillnet fleet to target enhanced chum salmon returning to the Anita Bay Terminal Area. The problem with opening this area is that some Stikine River Sockeye will be caught while fishing for the chums. The Transboundary portion of the US-Canada Salmon Treaty controls the number of Stikine Sockeye that Americans can catch. In years of low abundance of Stikine Sockeye, our first priority would be to allow the District 6 gillnet fishery to proceed in as normal a manner as possible. The second priority would be to use any remaining fish to support fishing in the area covered by this proposal, rather than having a directed sockeye fishery elsewhere in District 8. To further conserve sockeye we are suggesting that a 6-inch minimum mesh restriction be applied to this area when such conservation is necessary.

Proposals 384 and 385: These two proposals were submitted by USAG. They would reinstate the directed gillnet fisheries for chinook in District 8 (Stikine) and District 11B (Taku Inlet) respectively. The chinook stocks for these systems are rebuilding. The gillnet fleet historically had a fishery on these chinook which was discontinued due to the need to conserve and rebuild the stocks. Now that the stocks are recovering, we feel it is appropriate to put these fisheries back on the books. The reestablishment of these fisheries will give our Alaska representatives at the treaty negotiations the opportunity to ask for a larger share of these transboundary chinook. It is difficult to ask for fish

COMMENT# 10

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for these historic fisheries when they no longer exist in regulation. These fisheries also represent the last opportunity for an American fleet to harvest our portion of the returns when abundance conditions warrant. We request that the BoF reestablish these fisheries.

Proposal 386: USAG made this proposal. As in proposal 382 above, we would like to standardize the requirements for our nets so we do not have to provide for numerous expensive special nets. The standard length for gillnets in District 11 is 200 fathoms and we propose that this standard be applied to all situations.

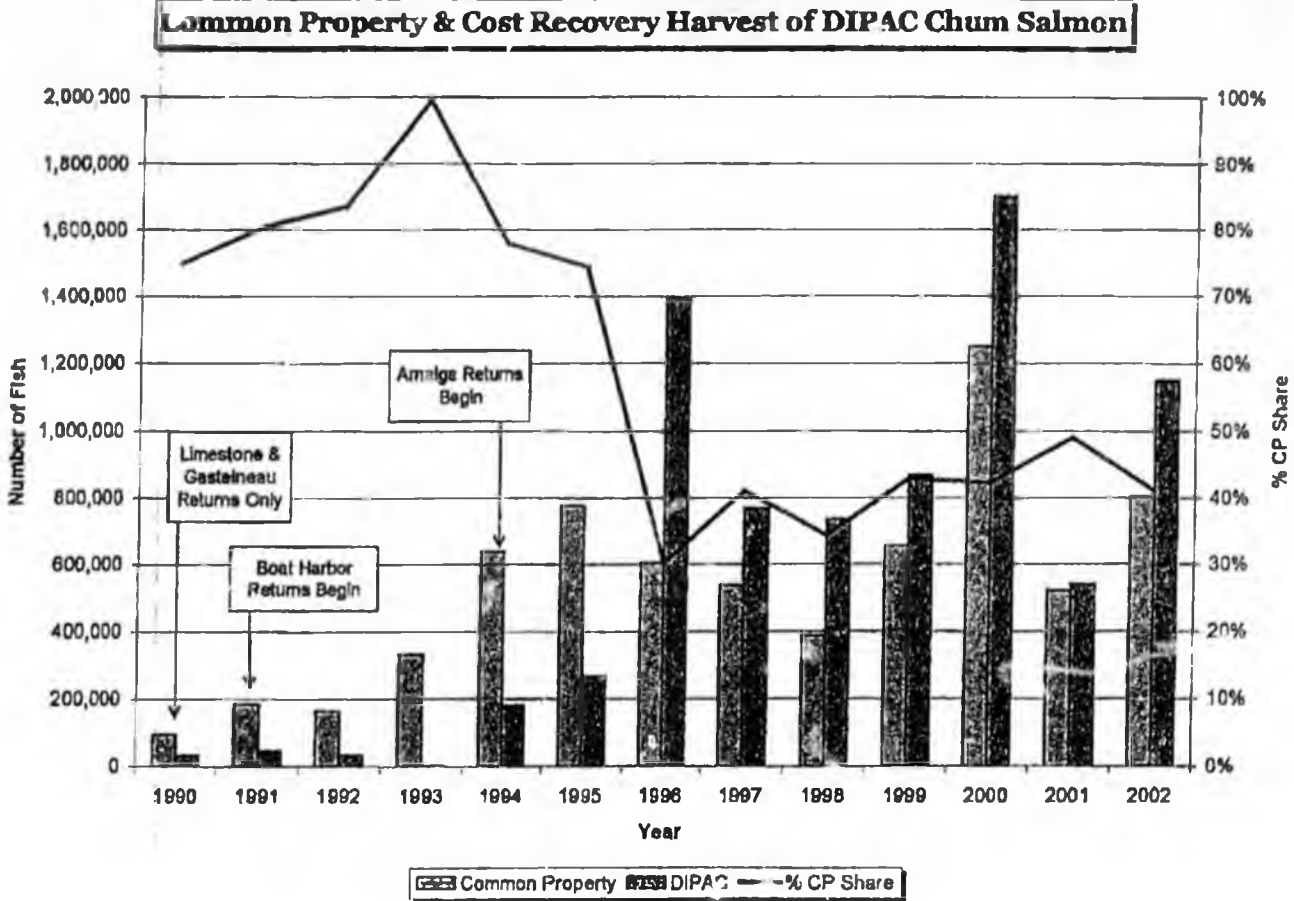
Proposal 387: USAG has no position on this proposal.

Proposal 388: This proposal which we submitted addresses the issue of sockeye bound for gillnet districts 11 and 15 being intercepted by the seiners fishing the Hawk Inlet Shoreline in accordance with the seine management plan for this area. This is the same issue that proposals 391 and 392 addresses. Our comments on those proposals will refer to the comments made for this proposal.

The gillnet fleet in district 15 has been restricted by time, area and mesh restriction to help conserve Lynn Canal Sockeye. The 2002 management plan for the drift gillnet fishery in upper Lynn Canal states the following; *"Section 15-C will open for two days beginning 12:01p.m. Sunday, June 16. If the Chilkoot River weir count is less than 4,500 sockeye salmon through June 13 the eastern side of Section 15-C will be closed north of the latitude of Bridget Point. If the Chilkoot Lake or Chilkat Lake sockeye salmon returns are poor, there will be 6-inch minimum mesh size restrictions in section 15-C. This gear restriction will be implemented to minimize the harvest of sockeye salmon while targeting summer hatchery chum salmon. If the Chilkoot River weir or Chilkat river fish wheel counts continue to be very poor and effort levels are higher than average, it is also possible that additional areas of Section 15-C may be closed."* The area biologist report on the 2002 season presented at the Gillnet Task Force meeting held November 19, 2002 in Sitka contained the following information on page 1: *"The total sockeye salmon harvest of 82,009 fish was 53% of the recent 10-year average (Table 2). A total of 24,300 Chilkoot Lake sockeye salmon were harvested based on scale pattern analysis, 67% of the 10-year average. The commercial catch of Chilkat Lake sockeye salmon based on scale analysis was 47,285 fish, 49% of the 10-year average."* Then on page two of the same report it states the following: *"The fishing effort in Lynn canal during the summer season was concentrated in section 15-C where the fleet targeted returns of hatchery summer chum salmon from the Amalga and Boat Harbor remote releases. The eastern side of Section 15-C was closed north of the latitude of Point Bridget to protect expected poor returns of Chilkoot Lake sockeye salmon from the start of the season through Statistical Week 30 (July 21). Six-inch minimum gillnet mesh size restrictions were implemented in Section 15-C, except for the Boat Harbor area to minimize the catch of Chilkoot Lake sockeye salmon while harvesting hatchery chum salmon."* Clearly, from the above information, extensive conservation restrictions are being placed on the gillnet fleet in lower Lynn Canal to conserve upper Lynn Canal sockeye. The numbers above show that the catch is well below the 10-year average and that the conservation is warranted. The chart on page 6 which was developed by Douglas Island Pink And Chum Aquaculture Association (DIPAC) to show their contribution to the common property fishery in their area. The chart clearly shows the impact of the restrictions the department has placed on the gillnetters in Lower Lynn Canal after 1995. Prior to those restrictions the gillnet fleet was harvesting about 80% of the available DIPAC production. After the restrictions the gillnet fleet is only harvesting about 40% of available DIPAC production. This represents a tremendous economic impact on our fleet. To help mitigate the impact of the restrictions the department has put on the gillnet fleet in lower Lynn Canal, USAG believes that it is very reasonable to ask the seine fleet to

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help share the conservation effort for these sockeye stocks. This is why we submitted this proposal and ask for your approval of it.



There are other issues present in this situation. In a poor survival year, if the seine fleet took their 15,000 sockeye, this could so weaken the run that the gillnet fleet could be restricted more than indicated in the previous paragraph. Even with the 6 inch mesh restriction in place for the gillnet fleet, because of the small harvest of sockeye that does occur when using these nets, we could be further prevented from fishing in areas of lower Lynn canal which would further restrict our access to hatchery chums returning to Amalga harbor. The seine fleet has good access to their Hidden Falls fishery that time of year which is unaffected by any fishery in front of it. We do not think it is reasonable for the seine fleet to fish in front of us to the extent of potentially restricting our access to hatchery chum production that was designed and intended for our fleet to catch.

Another issue we believe should be considered is the practice of managing an intercept mixed stock fishery such as this for pink salmon that have low market value and of which processors only want a restricted number of fish. This situation was evident last season in the x-vessel price of pinks and the catch limits that were placed on pink salmon fishermen. The real reason for interest in this fishery is seine access to sockeye and chums bound for districts 11 and 15 and the fishery should be managed from this perspective.

Proposal 389: This proposal highlights one problem with the new rotation outlined in the 2002 seine management plan. During times of pink salmon abundance the new management plan for

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the seine fleet will deviate from the historic time ratio of two days on and two days off in favor of four or more days on and one day off. This proposal asks that during those times when the seine fleet is on the new rotation, the seiners be removed from the border area around the Foggy Point line that separates the seine and gillnet fleets in that area during the two days the seine fishery would have been closed under the old 2 on 2 off plan. This is to provide the gillnet fleet some opportunity to catch the 'backout' or ebb fish that we had previous access to during the time the seine fleet was not fishing.

This is typical of many boundary areas between the two net fleets in districts around Southeast Alaska. It is the prelude to the many proposals that may be offered in the future if there are not appropriate management adjustments that accompany the new seine fishing rotation. We believe that not only must the overall allocation balance between the fleets be preserved, but also the integrity of specific fishing locations and line fisheries must be preserved under the new seine system.

Proposal 390: This proposal has the same intent as the USAG proposal number 380. The comments we made for proposal 380 are equally applicable to this one.

Proposal 391: This proposal addresses the same issue as USAG proposal number 388 only from the perspective of the seine fleet. They want more opportunity to intercept sockeye and chums bound for gillnet districts 11 and 15 and we want to restrict their access to these fish. The comments we made for proposal 388 are directly applicable to this proposal.

There is however one additional consideration applicable to this proposal that should be considered. Sockeye that are bound for the Snettisham hatchery pass through the Hawk Inlet shoreline area. This is the rationale behind this proposal. The way the Board of Fish structured the Snettisham terminal area fishery requires that the escapement goal for Speel Lake is achieved before gillnet fishing can begin directly on the hatchery fish returning to Snettisham. This means that the more Speel fish that are caught in the Hawk Inlet Shoreline seine fishery the longer it will be before the Speel receives its escapement and the longer the gillnetters must wait before they can fish the Snettisham terminal area. This represents opportunity lost, because once the sockeye enter the hatchery recruitment area, they are unavailable to our fleet. If only wild fish are counted as proposed by the seiners, they will be able to fish longer during this time and intercept more of these Speel Lake sockeye.

The sampling and counting of the sockeye actually caught in the Hawk Inlet shoreline fishery has also been a problem. Mixed loads delivered to processors in other areas increase the likelihood that the fish which are caught in this fishery are not adequately accounted for. This is one reason the Department has submitted proposal 392. The additional burden requiring the determination whether the fish that are counted are wild fish or hatchery fish introduces more opportunity for error into the count. The greater the opportunity for the seine fleet to fish the Hawk Inlet shoreline, the less will be the opportunity for gillnetters to access Amalga Harbor hatchery chums and Snettisham hatchery sockeye. Both of these programs were designed to benefit the gillnet fleet just as the Hidden Falls program mainly benefits the seine fleet. We ask the Board to reject this proposal in favor of proposal 388.

Proposal 392: This proposal addresses some of the same issues we have discussed in proposal 388 and 391. We know it is difficult to determine where fish are caught and how many were caught at specific locations when a boat may fish a number of areas during a given opening. We think this will help to correct this situation. We ask the Board to approve this proposal.

Comments on Board of Fish Proposals
February 20 to March 2, 2003 Meeting in Ketchikan

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these proposals.

Sincerely,



Kenneth Duckett
Executive Director

COMMENT# 10

368-supports. we believe that this is a win for the trollers while not affecting the days the gillnetters fish in deep inlet.

378-against. creating two classes of gillnetters is not a good way to consolidate the fleet.

381-supports. allows for more flexibility on start time and could improve fish quality.

387supports.

388supports. help in conserving soceyes in Lynn Canal.

391-against. does not conserve soceyes in Lynn Canal.

392-supports.

Norman Hughes
Lynn Canal Gillnetters Association

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COMMENT#

12

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FEB 06 2003

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Hey Art here I go again. These are my personal comments.

274 support it as written with addition of new beg from F&G. range 1750 to 3500. I worked hard at meetings in haines last spring to build a consensus with all users of the resourse. This will work well.

316 NO. giving un used kings to sport is no good. Just because we don't catch the limit doesn't mean we won't. If we get the limit it can stop us from catching other salmon in season.

368 support. THis will give trollers more access to chums and cut the seiners while not cutting into the gillnetter days in deep inlet.

378 NO. Not a good way to rationalize the fishery. Two classes of fishers in same gear group is no good.

379 NO. This will make a mess af f&G data gathereing.

380 Support. Keeping gillnetters in the loop when seiner change management style is good.

384 Support The fish are back and we are ready to fish them.

385 Support. The kings are back and we are ready to fish them.

388 Support. For years gillnetters in 15c have been trying to conserve chilkoot sockeye. 6 inch nets, less days a week. This has contributed to a reduced catch of dipac chums. Right now dipac gets 65% and we get less than 35% It should be the other way around. We lose fishing time to conserve on chilkoot. The seiners should share the burden too.

391 NO The seiners have been out of there allocation for years they don't need more fish.

392 Support

Norman Hughes

COMMENT# 12

FEB 06 2003

BOARDS

Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance

9369 North Douglas Highway
Juneau, AK 99801



Phone 907-586-6652

Fax 907-586-5648 E-mail: seafa@gci.net

February 6, 2003

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Board Support Section
Attn: Board of Fish Comments
PO Box 25526
Juneau, AK 99802-5526

RE: Board of Fish salmon/finfish proposals

Chairman Ed Dersham and Board of Fish Members,

The Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance would like this opportunity to comment on salmon and finfish proposals before you at the February 2003 Board of Fish meeting in Ketchikan. We are a non-profit membership group formed in 2000 to represent the interests of our members involved in the salmon, crab, shrimp and longline fisheries. Within our salmon division, the largest majority of salmon fishermen are involved in the drift gillnet followed by trollers and a few salmon seine fishermen who are involved in other fisheries we represent.

Proposal #282 - Support. We support this proposal to allow additional access to hatchery chinook by increasing the amount of treaty fish that may be caught during the spring hatchery openings. The troll fleet is out of balance in the SE Enhanced Allocation Plan and this proposal would allow additional access to hatchery chinook, which would help address the troller's imbalance.

Proposal #285 - Support. We support this ADFG housekeeping proposal that would allow the Dept flexibility and clarify when and how the spring troll fisheries are opened and closed.

Proposal #286 - Support. We support this ADFG proposal to open additional waters in District 14 since there are no conservation concerns in this area.

Proposal #287 - Support. We support this ADFG proposal to clarify if the waters in front of salmon streams are open during the spring fisheries.

Proposal #291 - Support. We support this ATA proposal that allows the Commissioner to open by EO authority a hatchery chum salmon fishery in the Neets Bay area.

Proposal #293 - Support in concept. We support this proposal to reopen area in District 11A to trolling that was closed in the past for the conservation and rebuilding of the Taku River chinook stocks. The language in this proposal states that Chinook may be taken only in a section of District 11 A while the intent was to reopen a portion of District 11A and still keep open Districts 11B, 11C & 11D.

Proposal #294 - Support. We believe that due to the troller's being so low in the SE Enhanced Allocation Plan that they should be allowed some opportunity to target enhanced chums returning to the DIPAC facility.

Proposal #295 - Support. This proposal would allow additional opportunity to access the chum salmon that will be returning to the Anita Bay release site. ADFG can close by EO authority portions of the area if a conservation concern for any stocks in the area occurs.

Proposal #301 - Support. We support changing the ending date of the summer coho fishery to Sept 30th. ADFG can close the fishery early by EO authority if necessary to protect stocks that the Dept has concerns about escapements.

Proposal #302 - Support. We support this proposal to allow additional access to hatchery coho after September 30th. The troll fleet is below their allocation goals in the SE Enhanced Allocation Plan. This might provide additional opportunities to access hatchery fish and help the trollers within the allocation plan.

Proposal #304 - Support. We support this proposal by ADFG to use escapement projections as part of the criteria for the ten-day coho salmon troll fishery closure.

Proposal #305, 306, & 307 - Support. We support these proposals to delete the regulation regarding the eight days on and 6 days off. ADFG has stated that this regulation does not serve any conservation or management needs.

Proposal #308 - Support. We support this proposal to open additional area to trollers. This would allow the drag to extend to an area with an anchorage. This stretch of coast can be dangerous if the weather comes up.

Proposal #311 - Oppose. We would be willing to discuss this proposal with the Dept during the committee process.

Proposal #313- 322 - Oppose. We oppose these proposals to change the allocation between the sport and troll fleets. The troll fishery should not be punished for the unrestricted growth of the charter and guide fishery in SE Alaska.

Proposal #323 - Oppose. We oppose the proposal drafted by the King Salmon Task force. While there are good ideas within this proposal, it is obvious that the charter/guide representatives outnumbered the resident sports fishermen.

Proposal #366 & 367 - Oppose. Both of these proposal deal with troll/seine openings within the Hidden Falls THA. We support the status quo that allows the trollers opportunities to harvest chum salmon to help balance the troll fleet in the Se Enhanced Allocation Plan. At the same time we acknowledge that the Hidden Falls seine fishery is extremely important to the seine fleet and based on the number of boats fishing this area determines how much other area on small stocks the Dept may open to the seiners.

Proposal #369 & 370 - Support. These proposals were a consensus proposal to proactively deal with the potential conflict between salmon and crab fishermen in Anita Bay.

Proposal #371 & 372 - Support. Both of these proposals increase the Anita Bay THA. We support increasing the THA but suggest that the Board of Fish or staff check and see that the lines given are accurate and moving the THA to the mouth of Anita Bay.

Proposal #373 - Support. We support this ADFG housekeeping proposal that brings the Anita Bay management plan current with the species being released at Anita Bay and the dates contained in the plan.

Proposal #374 - Support. We support this proposal submitted by SSRAA which would allow Neets Bay to be opened prior to July 1st by clarifying the regulation.

Proposal #375 - Support. We support this proposal submitted by SSRAA to allow troll fishing to occur when appropriate and not be bound by restrictive dates set in regulation.

Proposal #376 - Support. We consider this proposal to be housekeeping as this proposal changes the regulation to reflect the way Nakat Inlet has been managed the last three years.

Proposal #378 & #379 - Both of these proposals take statutory changes. While it is likely those changes to the statutes may occur in the next year or two we believe that the statute change should occur prior to having a discussion with the fleet. Both of these proposals have contributed to many discussions within the fleet and forcing some members of the fleet to look at current conditions and what the future of the fleet should look like. At this time there is no consensus on whether a majority of the fleet is in support or opposed to this proposal or similar ideas.

Proposal #381 - Oppose. While the change in this proposal would provide ADFG the flexibility to change the starting time of the fishery, there are a lot of considerations that should be dealt with prior to changing the starting time. Such as is it appropriate to have different districts starting at different times. Will changing the starting time of the fishery increase the conflicts between the gillnet and sport fisheries. Who will determine what the starting time should be and what will be the process? ADFG or a couple of fishermen, the processors? While it would be nice to start the first day earlier such as the suggested time in the proposal 6:00 am, what will be the effect in ending the fishery early in the morning at 6:00 am. Nor do we understand the justification given in the proposal that changing the starting time of the fishery increases the quality of the fish.

Proposal #382 - Support. This proposal would allow a fisherman to use their current net if a king fishery is ever established. In today's market for gillnet kings and the cost of net it would be prohibitive to most fishermen to participate in the fishery if they had to have a special net in order to participate.

Proposal #383 - Support. This proposal establishes corridor areas in the District 8 to allow gillnet harvest of Anita Bay returns with 6" minimum mesh restriction while protecting weaker sockeye stocks. ADFG has stated at Advisory committee meetings that they are neutral on the allocative aspects of this proposal but is opposed to this proposal because they feel that there will be an unacceptable harvest on wild stocks and that it would be against the mixed stock policy. In the mixed stock policy under (d) it states that the board will restrict new or expanding mixed stock fisheries unless otherwise provided for by management plans or application of the board's allocation criteria. This proposal is asking for a District 8 management plan so that the Dept may open this area and allow the opportunity to harvest the fish when they are in better shape rather than harvesting the darker fish out of the terminal harvest area when they are less desirable. The other regulation that should be considered while discussing this proposal is AS 16.10.440 (a) Fish released into the natural waters of the state by a hatchery operated under AS 16.10.400-16.10.470 are available to the people for common use and are subject to regulation under applicable law in the same way as fish occurring in their natural

state until they return to the specific location designated by the department for harvest by the hatchery operator. We take this statute to mean that with the chums that will be starting to return to the Anita Bay release site are considered surplus wild fish that harvest opportunities should be granted on as long as it does not create a conservation concern on another stock. 6" minimum mesh restrictions on the gillnet fleet have been quite successful in the District 11 and District 15 fisheries to harvest chums while protecting weak sockeye returns. The Crescent Lake sockeye run was rebuilt from a depressed state in the 1990's with the use of 5-1/4" gear for part of the week and allowing additional harvest opportunities during the week with 6" gear rather than completely restricting the fishery down to two days a week. 6" gear has also been used to protect the Chilkoot sockeye in lower 15C while allowing the harvest of chums returning to Amalga Harbor and the Chilkoot has met the lower escapement levels the last two years after several years of being below the desired lower escapement ranges.

Proposal #384 & 385 - Oppose. We oppose these proposals based on the information provided to SEAFSA by ADFG. We hope that the Board of Fish will write a letter to the Commissioner of Fish and Game stating that they will take this proposal up out of cycle as soon as harvest sharing arrangements were made with Canada and a complete proposal is drawn up by ADFG that makes provisions for all gear groups that shared in the conservation of the stocks while they were being rebuilt as they did with the corresponding subsistence proposals at the January Board of Fish meeting in Sitka.

Proposal #386 - Support. We support this proposal to clarify the regulation. This change will not make much difference unless a king fishery is established at a later date that starts prior to the third Sunday in June in which case this proposal is allowing for a longer net to be used in the fishery than was allowed in the past prior to the fishery being closed for conservation concerns. See comments on proposal #382.

Proposal #387 - Support. We support this small line change to help avoid the reef at Pt. Arden on incoming tides. We do not believe that the movement of this line will significantly alter the amount of fish that will be caught - they will just be caught in a slightly different area.

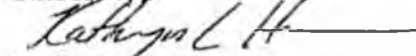
Proposal #388 & #391 - Oppose. We oppose both of these proposals that are asking for changes to the sockeye cap harvested North of Point Marsden in July. Proposal #388 asks for the cap to be lowered based on the overharvest of the Chilkoot and Speel sockeye returns. According to ADFG data the Speel Lake sockeye have met their sockeye escapement goals and the Chilkoot has met minimum escapement goals for the last two years. Based also on the information we

saw from the Dept we don't believe that Proposal #391 should be changed from counting all sockeye to counting only wild sockeye as they have only in one year gone over the 15,000 cap and in most years have harvested less than $\frac{1}{4}$ of the sockeye cap leaving room for enhanced fish to be harvested before they reach the cap of 15,000. The bulk of the pink return goes through in August, as do some of the enhanced fish returning to the Snettisham Hatchery. This shoreline was the cause of many of the battles between the seine and gillnet gear groups in the past. We have had a plan in place for approximately 10 years now that has helped diminish the conflict between the gear groups and allowed them to work successfully together on issues for the betterment of the region. We do not wish to see any changes that will once again stir up the conflicts and bickering between gear groups.

Proposal #389 - Support. This proposal is asking for protection from long-term changes with the advent of the new seine management plan. We don't feel the need to have this in regulation if the seine fishery is going to continue to be managed on a 2 day on 2 day off scenario but with the new seine management plan where the Dept tries to offer some fishing all week long providing a closed corridor through part of the area to allow the fish to get into the inside waters allows the gillnet, charter, troll, sport and subsistence users an opportunity on the stocks before they are all intercepted. We believe that seine gear can be extremely effective when used continually in front of the other users and some particular hook off points are more effective in catching all fish transiting an area than others. While we compliment the current area management staff for this district in their ability to know just how much effort can be placed where, we have to realistically not expect him to be there forever and feel it is best to put in place protections for other users and the resource while the managers who know the district the best are still available. While we know that last year the fishery was managed to not affect the gillnet fishery and in fact worked to the advantage of the gillnet fishery when you look at the historical allocations but 2002 was not a typical year. What will happen when seiners are allowed to harvest salmon without catch limits and there is enough processing capacity to take all fish?

Proposal #392 - Support. We support this ADFG housekeeping proposal that puts in regulation how fish and game determines which fish are counted towards the sockeye cap in July, North of Point Marsden.

Sincerely,



Kathy Hansen

Director

COMMENT#

16

To: Alaska Board of Fish

I am a Southeast Drift Gillnet Permit holder residing in the Chiikat Valley and I fish Lynn Canal.

I am oposed to Board of Fish Proposal #378 for many of the same reasons Lynn Canal Gillnetters Assn. President Mike Saunders outlined in his letter against the proposal. I support Mike in his efforts to defeat this proposal.

Signed: _____

Mark Light

MARK Light

P.S.

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COMMENT# 29