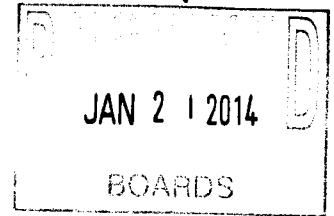


RC 7



January 12, 2014

Dear Chairman Johnstone and Board of Fisheries members.

My name is Greg Acord, my family and I have owned and operated a sport fishing charter service in the Mat-Su Valley since 1992. A significant portion of our income relies heavily on healthy Salmon returns to upper Cook Inlet. We also rely on Salmon as a major source of protein to sustain our family each year.

We are commenting in support of Central District Drift Management Plan Proposals 138,139,142,143 and 144. The Mat- Su Valley Fish and Game Advisory Committee is also in support of these proposals.

Please consider the following comments when reviewing these proposals.

Thank you.

- The Current Plan, despite stated intent, does NOT (1) ensure adequate escapement of salmon into Northern District drainages, and does NOT (2) provide sport and guided sport fishermen a reasonable opportunity to harvest Northern coho salmon over the entire run.
- In order to reasonably ensure adequate escapement of salmon into Northern District drainages and provide reasonable salmon harvest opportunities for all other user groups most, if not all, drift gillnet fishing targeting abundant Kenai and / or Kasilof River sockeye salmon stocks should occur in more discreet terminal harvest area(s) like the Board created at the 2011 Upper Cook Inlet meeting (Expanded Kasiloff and Expand Kenai Sections).
- Drift gillnet harvest in the Conservation Corridor (the mixed stock migration area west of the Expanded Kasilof and Expanded Kenai Sections) should be limited and only occur when mid-goal Northern escapement projections can reasonably be made for all Northern sockeye and coho stocks with established goal ranges.
- Without at least goal mid-point spawning escapements for Northern District salmon stocks on an average basis, there can be no reasonable harvest opportunity for all Northern District user groups.
- Currently Susitna sockeye have already been Board designated as a Stock of Yield Concern as measured by lost yield in the Northern District set net fishery, and at the 2014 Upper Cook Inlet meeting the Board should also be considering Little Susitna River coho salmon (which was below escapement goal 4 consecutive years) for stock of concern designation.
- Without changes in Central District drift fishery management neither of these Stock of Concern issues can be adequately addressed to: 1. boost spawning escapements to established goal levels and 2. Provide a reasonable amount of yield for all Northern District user groups.
- Upper Cook Inlet commercial salmon management should be more like Bristol Bay -- where the world's best discrete stock management of a wild salmon fishery occurs.

Sincerely,

Greg Acord

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