

RC 223

2/08/2014

Dear Mr. Nizich,

We are writing regarding our concern for Board of Fish Proposal 209 "Establish paired restrictions in sport, personal use, and commercial fisheries to meet sustainable escapement goal (SEG) and modify sport fishing liberalizations when goal is projected to be exceeded, as follows" as amended by RC 151.

This proposal drastically affects our fisheries in Upper Cook Inlet, especially the East Side Set Net fishery.

We do not agree with this action but are especially concerned with the process. This proposal amended by RC 151 bypasses the public process and limited our opportunity to respond. This public process has been developed over many years and is recognized as one of the best regulatory processes in the world. RC 151 is a **board generated** amendment that did not give sufficient opportunity for review by Advisory Committees, fishermen or the public. Regardless of whether we agree on the decisions made here it is the process that must be followed.

This action has sweeping ramifications to the fishery and set precedence for decisions will be made for a large number of proposals that are coming under consideration. This action has already been used to this effect. This Proposal morphed from a proposal to an RC to a Plan. This plan effects too much to be implemented in this manner. This type of action was never intended to be put forward this way, in fact the process was developed so this could not happen.

We do not know what may be done to correct this action but felt that we should make your office aware as quickly as possible.

It is not right for a user that has been limited since 1972 with limited entry to be paired with an ever expanding virtually unlimited user group. We are all for conservation but it must be applied fairly and with due process.

Jeff Berger

Regional Director

Copper River Seafoods