

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES
PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND FINFISH

RC 008

DECEMBER 3-8, 2014

Letter in Opposition to Proposal 5 - "Close a portion of Main Bay to sport fishing"

My family and I as well as many friends have fished Main Bay for 15 years. The fishery has provided not only food for my family throughout the winter but has become a family tradition where my children have learned the value of gathering food and the meaning of subsistence. We have gathered in Main Bay with numerous other friends every 4th of July for as many years.

The salmon gather at the head of the bay and mostly within 30 feet of the MBH barrier as well as along and close to the banks. A regulatory marker beyond this would effectively shut down sport fishing in main Bay as there are very few fish to be caught after the gill nets have caught 90% of a run. We have been and remain in compliance with ADF&G regulations and check with them annually to verify this. I believe this proposal is more about eliminating a sport fishing "nuisance" than it is about hooks, anchors and injured fish as I'm sure the amount of wasted fish behind the barrier and damaged by nets is no doubt higher in numbers than by hooks. We have fished Main Bay only during commercial closures which usually occur twice a week in the last few years because of the feeling of being bullied and being netted in by the commercial fleets. I understand this is a place for people to make a living but it should also remain a place for family and friends to continue collecting a winter food source.

This proposal appears to me to be an all or nothing "they want it all and want us to have nothing" and stay out of their way.

Please consider my point of view and keep the Main Bay fishery open for sport fishing as is.

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