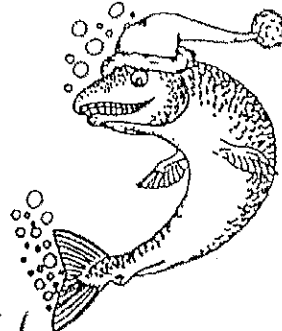


Interior Alaska Fish Processors  
dba  
**SANTA'S SMOKEHOUSE**

2400 Davis Rd.  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701  
(907) 456-3885  
FAX 456-3889



11 July 2012

Fr Virgil Umphenour  
To Monica Wellard

I am submitting a one page petition. It meets the criteria in that a large surplus of summer chum will be precluded due to conservation of Chinook salmon. If it is accepted & passed then the fish wheels can be manned & any Chinook salmon can be immediately returned to the river unharmed.

Thank You,

Virgil

Mr. Virgil Umphenour  
878 Lynnwood Way  
North Pole, AK 99705-5339

11 July 2012

Fm Virgil Umphenour Ph 456-3885

To Board of Fisheries

Petition

New regulations adopted by the BOF in March of 2012 allow the department to open summer chum salmon directed commercial fishing periods in subdistrict H-A during times of chinook salmon conservation with fish wheels only. Fish wheels must be manned at all times during operation and all chinook salmon caught in the fish wheels must immediately be released to the water alive.

The current chinook salmon run is the lowest on record. The Chena & Salcha rivers are the largest producers in the Yukon. Unless the regulation passed for subdistrict H-A is amended to include district 6 there may not be a commercial fishery for summer chum salmon. Currently the Salcha river is at flood stage & salmon cannot be counted. The long range forecast is for lots of rain & it is ~~too~~ highly likely the Chena may also have the same problem.

This situation meets the boards policy in that the chinook salmon run is way below the pre season forecast & the summer chum run is above the pre season forecast. Unless this petition is adopted the department will have no choice but to not allow a commercial fishery for summer chum until after the chinook have passed. This would be after the 3/4 point of the summer chum run when the quality of the fish is not as good.

Respectfully submitted

Virgil L. Umphenour