

My name is Jackie Ostroot, daughter of Gene & Debbi Palm and the granddaughter of Erik & Tina Barnes. My family has been set-netting the Cook Inlet since 1962. The first time I came to one of these Board of Fish meetings was 25 years ago as a few-week-old baby in my mom's arms. I was born in the middle of the fishing season in 1988 and have fished every season - with the exception of one - since then. This little guy will be Erik's 1st great grandchild and the first of the fourth generation to continue on Erik & Tina's legacy.

I'm here with the intent to preserve King Salmon for all users... I personally have no issues with any fishery that is managed well. This includes sport fishing. Sport fishing and guiding play an important role in bringing in tourism and supporting the economy of Kenai and this great state! Having a great deal of interest in the hospitality industry, I hope you can believe my sincerity on this point. With that being said, I would also like to have the sport fishery, the Board of Fish, the guides, the Kenai River Sports Association, and the sports division of the Department of Fish and Game recognize that the primary reason for the dwindling king numbers rests in the river as a result of the removal of the largest, most productive fish. Finally, I don't want the East Side Set Netters to pay the price for what the sport fishery has done to the kings.

The escapement numbers for the Kenai River late run kings were met, but the make-up of the run was badly skewed. Roughly 70% of them were jacks and only 15% were females. I do not believe that interception or ocean temperatures can account for this is type of skewed return. This appears to be directly related to the trophy fisheries' selective harvest of the largest kings. I believe that hook and release in effect expands the trophy fishery and overall effort and has in fact led to the removal of nearly all of the 70lb, plus kings. No kings of that size were reported to be caught in the sport fishery in the last four years and only one in the last six.

The East Side Set netters can only affect the number of kings entering the river. We cannot selectively remove the large kings. Similarly we cannot increase the number of jacks within the run. And we don't affect the productivity of the spawn. These problems are caused in-river and therefore can only be solved in-river.

Studies on the effect of the removal of the large chinook go back as far as 1904. We are seeing the results of this today. The East Side Set Netters are not at fault. Don't make us pay for what has happened in the river.

Jackie Ostroot
Nikiski, Ak