

Feb 2, 2014

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board,

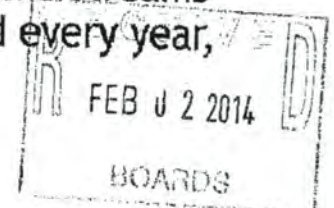
My name is Craig Schloesser. I'm a 35 year resident of Alaska and 24 year veteran of the Cook Inlet Drift fishery. I was signed up to speak and missed my opportunity, I apologize for that. I've commercial fished about every fishery there is in Alaska, with the exception of King Crab, with no other income except Permanent Fund Dividends.

I have a son, who owns his own permit and boat in Prince William Sound, who I am so proud of for following in my steps. He's married to a local girl who's father seines in the Sound. My daughter is married, with an 8yr old daughter who is my inspiration for writing. My daughter and husband also fished Cook Inlet. They had to skip the last two yrs because of health issues but are getting back in this year.

I support my associates on the issues and ask the board to please realize that we have been cut back from fishing since 1990 when I bought in. All the while the sport guides and lodges have grown unchecked and for the most part, unregulated. The drifters have been cut back so much while the sport fleet of trollers in the Inlet, the guides and sport fishers can fish 7 days a week. And yet they want More.

It has been said by members of the sport fishing groups that their goal is to get rid of commercial fishing in Cook Inlet and their constant misinterpretation of the facts is meant to help achieve that goal. Ucida has bent over backwards to create a workable solution, And yet, after getting us shut down and restricted year after year, the Sport Fishermen continue to want More.

I am tired of being used as a scapegoat, The pressure on the streams and rivers that haven't reached there goals has increased every year,



while Fish and Game has made little, to no effort to curtail the pike population. They have not enhanced and maintained river passage for salmon in many streams. I know people in the Wassila area that are allowed to jet boat to the headwaters of many rivers and creeks and snag kings, reds and silvers every year in spawning grounds. The wastage of fish in the rivers is shameful. Catch and release is rampant in these systems, often with a complete disregard for the fishes well being. For instance, such as pulling the fish out of the water onto the bank first. I have seen this first hand many many times in many rivers. I've gotten into heated talks with these people, Since I to love to sport fish along with my son and daughter, I have fished many of these streams and rivers myself.

I live in Anchor Point, In the house where my children were born. I have seen first hand the damage the troll fleet out of Homer, Anchor Point and Ninilchik have done to the Kings returning to the Anchor River, with as many as 25% of the kings caught belonging to the Anchor River, while we are being shut down half way through our season with no more restriction on the Sport Troll Fleet than to move back another half mile from the river boundaries. Fish and Game shows no concern about the Troll fishing which goes on 12 months a year, many friends fish this and most people do not report all the fish caught. People catch upwards of a 100 fish a year per boat, many times. It is unchecked.

Scale samples and genetic testing by Fish and Game could help the Anchor River and foremost the Kenai river. We don't know if the fish being caught by the troll fleet are Kenai fish, Anchor River, Kasilof or Upper Inlet fish.

In the early days of halibut I.F.Qs , the halibut commission increased the quota by 25% in one year based on a new study that found the halibut to be older at a smaller size. This lead to a re-assessment of the biomass and the increased quota. I believe a similar assessment of these kings would help Fish and Game do a better job. It is conceivable with water temperature changes and other unforeseen

factors, this is happening.

Kodiak seiners caught 36,000 kings last year. No Genetic testing. The sport fisheries in Kodiak are increasing every year. Again, without any testing for Kenai kings. Each of these fisheries could greatly impact the return of kings to the Kenai. Out in the Aleutians, Kings are caught in the trawl fisheries, with sampling just starting. There are numerous other guides along the mainland who target Kings in Shelakof Straits.

The decision to close Settnetters because of Kings is just a convenient excuse for the Sport fishing agenda.

Please consider these other fisheries as possible causes.

Look at the Drift fleet restrictions we have seen over the past 25 years as the cause for men and woman like me to say, Enough! I can't exist with any more!

Thank you for reading this. I will look forward to any questions.  
Sincerely,

Craig Schloesser  
907-299-1928  
Box 356  
Anchor Point, AK  
99556