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RC 150

Comments on proposal 209 and board generated RC-139:

Paired restrictions are not applicable in this situation because they are two different Fisheries and it is arbitrary and unfair to tie these two user groups together in regulation. We have the flexibility under the current plans for the department to regulate the prosecution of this fishery fairly. I understand it is the board that needs to do allocation but almost all decisions regarding this fishery have regulatory aspects when the decisions are made. The best course is for the Board to give the manager the ability to do his job and let them do it, with the best science and "IN SEASON" information. The language in the RC-139 is good direction in general terms but is too narrow of a scope and ties the manager's hands unduly and unnecessarily.

Run timing is different every year and through local knowledge I know that often times the kings' return long before and after the counters are in place. Until we can get accurate counts of these fish we cannot accurately or fairly make these decisions. We should require ADF&G to count through the month of august.

If we adopt this scenario the ESSN group will not be paired but unfairly harmed for no reason as the amount of fish they remove are relatively insignificant compared to the practices of Catch and Kill that is practiced in the river.

If this is adopted there will be no way to not over-escape the river resulting in additional loss for all concerned and the department will not have the information it needs to manage the run for the best results for all user groups. Over escapement costs us all twice in the form of lost opportunity and again with diminished returns in the future

These gear restrictions are untested, would cost the industry a huge amount of money and really do not benefit anyone. This is arbitrary information. Under the current pressure the ESSN group is doing everything possible to protect these fish. Aggressive rehabilitation through enhancement is our solution. Why do the in river groups oppose this?

The department has given the best numbers in their estimation that include all factors concerned. I do not think that this board should second guess the department and make changes to their recommended numbers especially when it will do such a great amount of harm, unreasonably born by one group. Remember, the visitor industry has many alternatives and will still be harvesting sockeye. They are not capable of stopping the run and we need the ESSN to break things up. This needs to be done especially in the early season but really throughout the season. It makes sense for us to do what we can to spread out the peak for as long as we can.

This effort is clearly an effort to starve out commercial fishing in Cook Inlet and advance the goals of the individuals that initiated the ballot initiative to eliminate gillnetting.