



# SITUK RIVER FLY SHOP

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February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015

RE: Proposal 164

Dear ADF&G Board of Fish

There is a proposal before the board to close sport fishing in the Yakutat Village Lagoon to a portion of our users. The lagoon sees a small silver salmon run in the fall. Most other areas of Yakutat that are on the road system have a limit of 2 silvers. Somehow the lagoon was overlooked and still retains a 6 fish limit due to the saltwater conditions.

The lagoon does not attract very many fishermen, but it does represent an exceptional opportunity to bring children and mobility restricted anglers to an area close to town. The city has created a walking trail along the back side of the lagoon to our totem park. With some minor development, this area can be made into Yakutat's only wheelchair-accessible fishery, but not if it is closed to those anglers.

I would like to see the board reduce the daily bag limit to 2 fish as with other road system locations, to protect this small resource. I do not support closing it to those over 18. I would be unable to demonstrate how to cast, or assist someone struggling to play their fish. The run in the lagoon has been improving over the past several years and there is no known biological reason to close it.

Reasons for closing the lagoon to sport fishing adults are "social" in nature and not biological. I would not be opposed to making the area catch-and-release only if there was a compelling reason to do so, however denying access to certain fishermen would be confusing and has no basis on protecting any resource. It is simply one user group of the area trying to block another user group.

Sincerely,  
Bob Miller

Commercial set-net fisherman and owner of Situk River Fly Shop



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