

20 Oct 15

Alaska Board of Fish

Re: ACR 6

Dear Board of Fish:

The Sockeye stocks in the Alitak District need conservation by regulation, they are in the tank. According to Kodiak F&G the ex-vessel value for a set net permit in the Alitak District in 2015 is \$13,036.

From statistics provided by the Kodiak F&G Year End reports: The Alitak District sockeye average harvest percentage of the Kodiak Management Area from 1976-2009 is 26.27%; The Alitak District sockeye average harvest percentage of the Kodiak Management Area from 2010-2015 is 11.05%.

I suggest two ways to conserve more fish into the Alitak District sockeye systems:

1. Remove the clause from the Alitak District Management Plan: "directing the department to harvest salmon to the extent possible in the traditional fisheries located in the Cape Alitak, Humpy-Deadman, Alitak Bay, Moser Bay, and Olga Bay sections. With this clause removed as many fish as possible would be escaped into Early Upper Station and the Dog Salmon Flats Section can be opened to regulate the escapement and jack removal.

2. Sockeye salmon in the Alitak District will start during the general pink salmon opening on 6 July. This will allow for as many fish as possible to escape into Early Upper Station. If a fishery is needed before 6 July on the strong stock Dog Salmon Frazer Lake run then an opening in the dog Salmon Flats Section will be allowed by emergency order.

As stated in the staff report on ACR 6: The late-run Upper Station BEG was achieved in 2014 and 2015. The BEG was met with little or no harvesting opportunity. I hope that the department is not managing the resource to achieve the BEG with little or no harvest opportunity and feel that they have successfully done their job. Historically the late-run Upper Station run has been the bread and butter of our harvest. Now it is a small part of our harvest.

We as fishers need the Board to take action to conserve the sockeye stocks in the Alitak District now.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter,

  
Rich Blanc  
Fisherman in the Alitak District for 48 years