

Mac Minard

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Subject: RC

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Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan

Additional Information:

The Little Susitna Coho stock qualifies as a stock of yield concern. The Little Susitna Coho did not attain the SEG in 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012 & 2016. Please note that in 2011, 2012 & 2016 the Coho sport fishery was highly restricted by emergency order. **This stock is on the brink of attaining a stock of concern status, which will create problems for all fisheries. THE SAFEST DECISION IS TO CONTINUE TO MONITOR & IMPLEMENT THE CONSERVATION CORRIDOR.**

I guide on the Little Susitna River within Susitna Flats Game Range. This section of river is pristine. There is no development along the river in this section, such as on the Kenai River. The next 50 plus miles upstream of the Game Range contains no development. The Little Susitna River primarily flows through a remote setting and has the potential to be a major fish producer-- if fish are allowed to enter the river system.

➤ The Jim Creek Coho stock qualifies as a stock of yield concern.

What is happening in our fisheries is not sustainable. The Department does not count Coho in most valley streams. Within the last 7 years, myself along with other local guides agree that Coho abundance is lower than Kings on the eastside / Parks Highway Susitna streams. Kings are counted and their numbers are seriously down—our Coho fishery is in serious trouble. These eastside streams have no documented Pike present and there is, no major habitat issues.

The Deshka River Coho returns have been significantly less than the Deshka River King returns.

Conservation of northern district Coho stocks is needed to rebuild Coho stocks to healthy numbers, to avoid future restrictions and management problems for all fisheries.

Lack of Coho, returning to the Matanuska Valley, have crushed local businesses and the tourism economy. I have lost several customers because of the absence of the reasonable opportunity to harvest Coho in the Matanuska Valley.