

March 4, 2017

RC 184

Chairman Jensen;

SOKI would like to respond to **RC 158, Committee B:**

**Proposal 84**

***Support***

**Proposal 131**

***Support withdrawn with departments intent to establish a demarcation line without the need of regulation.***

**Proposal 132**

***Support***

**Proposal 133**

***Support***

**Proposal 123**

***Support*** – Commercial harvest of an underutilized resource.

Under **Sec. 16.05.251 a)** For purposes of the conservation and development of the fishery resources of the state, there is created the Board of Fisheries...

**“Development” defined.** – “Developing” connotes management of a resource to make it available for use.

The Board has direction under **5 AAC 21.354. Cook Inlet Pink Salmon Management Plan** (a) The purpose of this management plan is to allow for the harvest of surplus pink salmon in the Upper Subdistrict for set and drift gillnet.

**Proposal 124**

***Support*** – This option would allow a reasonable opportunity to harvest abundant, surplus pink salmon, a primarily commercially targeted species.

The current harvest action points do not lend well for an orderly or historic fishery.

New information on this select run is that the substantial increase in size has created a new premium market for pink salmon as indicated by the current Alaska Salmon Price Index report.

The head size of a Kenai River pink is commensurate to the average size of sockeye as it is relative to the high average weight of these genetically large sized “world class” pink salmon.

We believe if given the opportunity to harvest these special fish that unique niche markets will continue to expand.

**Proposal 125**

**Support** – We are adamantly opposed to mesh size restrictions. There is no known analysis that has been done on effective mesh size for Cook Inlet pinks. However, commercial setnet fishermen on the ESSN beaches have historically not changed their normal mesh size for pinks, even in the 60's when pink runs were extremely abundant. Restrictions placed on commercial fisheries that serve no purpose or cannot be scientifically supported hinder the effectiveness and the efficiency of the minimal time allotted.

Fishermen know how to catch and have perfected their expertise over time.

**Proposal 126**

**Support**

**Proposal 127**

**Oppose** – 5 AAC 21.363 Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan gives guidance to managers and the board in pursuing sustainable goals. While being highly subjective because of the inability for sports division to enumerate in season the actual mortalities (harvest) it does give inriver users a reasonable expectation of success.

**Proposal 128**

**Support** – Section VIII of our state constitution gives direction in managing our resources for maximum benefits to the state. Maximum sustainable yields is the default all fisheries managers strive for unless otherwise directed. This statement reinforces that directive.

**Proposal 129**

**Support** –

**Proposal 130**

**Support** –

**Proposal 142**

**Support** –

**Proposal 143**

**No recommendation** –

We appreciate your consideration of our recommendations.

Thank You

Paul A. Shadura II

Spokesperson