



**Kodiak Island
Borough**



City of Kodiak

March 2, 2017

Glenn Haight, Executive Director
Alaska Board of Fisheries
Boards Support Section
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, Alaska 99811-5526

Submitted via hand delivery
By a representative

Re: Comment for Board of Fisheries Upper Cook Inlet Finfish Meeting

Dear Mr. Haight and Members of the Board of Fisheries:

The Kodiak Management Area (KMA) salmon fisheries are the oldest mixed stock fisheries in Alaska, with a hundred-year history. The harvests in the KMA are not new nor expanding, and harvest patterns have not recently changed.

Finfish managers in the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) have for decades known that sockeye bound for Cook Inlet have been a component of salmon harvests in the KMA. Therefore, ADF&G managers have incorporated this biological fact into the KMA's management plans, and the existing, historic, and traditional harvest of sockeye in the KMA reflect this established precedent. Furthermore, recent genetic studies do not reflect new knowledge, and instead corroborate this well-known facet of salmon management in Kodiak. Therefore, the information presented in January within the Genetic Stock Composition report (FMS 16-10) should not trigger abrupt consideration of management changes.

Any sudden change to the KMA's management plan based on information that has been readily available for many years would be disruptive and potentially catastrophic to the thousands of individuals and their families whose livelihood depends on responsible and stable salmon management in the KMA. The economies of the City of Kodiak as well as the rural, urban, and village communities of the Kodiak Island Borough are already struggling with downturns in the pollock market and weak pink salmon returns, and any curtailment of KMA salmon harvests would have a direct and negative impact to our entire Borough.

At the recent meeting of the City and Borough's Kodiak Fisheries Work Group, harvesters asked for our support to respectfully request the Board of Fisheries (BOF) to not take up any hasty

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reactions stemming from this recent genetic study, and instead work towards the continuation of balanced and science-driven approaches. Additionally, if the BOF decides to form its own working group comprised of representatives of stakeholder sectors, we ask that Kodiak area harvesters and other impacted groups are included as equal partners.

All of our communities in Kodiak are salmon-dependent communities, and decades of effective State management have maintained healthy returns that contribute to the backbone of our Archipelago's economy. Please remember these comments as you consider this issue, and thank you for your continued support of the people of Kodiak and your public service.

Sincerely,



Daniel A. Rohrer, Mayor
Kodiak Island Borough



Pat Branson, Mayor
City of Kodiak