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Alaska Board of Fisheries
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

RE: United Cook Inlet Drift Association Agenda Change Request

Dear Board of Fisheries Members:

I can't believe the Cook Inlet guys are talking about Cook Inlet Sockeye in the Kodiak area again. Where were the Cook Inlet sockeye last summer? We didn't see any! That's just the point, they're claiming that your genetic study proves that Kodiak is taking large amounts of Cook Inlet bound fish. All I can see is that the study shows that there were two weird years in 2015 and 2016. 2014 was about normal. We all knew something was going on with the ocean in 2015 and 2016. The pinks in 2015 were already darkening when they first hit the capes and we saw lots of dead birds. In 2016 the water was so warm I had a hard time chilling by RSW system and we didn't see many small fish like candlefish in the bays. The water temperatures had to impact where the Cook Inlet fish were traveling. Why would the Board of Fish want to stop Kodiak fishing because of high water temperatures?

I've fished in Kodiak all of my life. I've also fished out west and have been involved in the Bristol Bay fishery. It's the same everywhere I've been, sometimes traveling fish hit in at a particular spot and then you won't find them there for several years. If fishermen knew in advance where the Cook Inlet fish were going to be, we'd all be highlines every year. Just look at what happened at Cape Igvak in 2016. That kind of concentration of north bound Cook Inlet fish has never happened before--- and I've been involved in the Kodiak fishery for 60 years. That in and of itself should tell you that something unusual was going on in 2016.

The Board just needs to let the regular Board cycle play out. Don't approve this phony Agenda Change Request and don't try to do something out of cycle. Next time Kodiak salmon issues are on the agenda, let Cook Inlet fishermen make their proposals and we can respond to them on their merits. When I read this ACR 11, it's clear that the folks writing the proposal don't know anything about the Kodiak fishery. How are we going to harvest local fish going to Ayakulik, Halibut Bay and Karluk in the inner bays when there are no inner bays in proximity to these areas? This proposal just means over-escapement and lost harvest opportunities.

Thank you for considering my comments. I just hope the Board has the common sense to understand the genetic report in the context of two weird years and not over-react. The UCIDA Agenda Change needs to be rejected and the Board needs to stay on cycle for Kodiak salmon issues.

Very truly yours,
Emil Christianson, Sr.

