

Elijah
Jackson

RC 50

Good _____ Chairman Morisky and Members of the Board.

First of all, Welcome to Kodiak. We are grateful you made the trip and get to enjoy the first real winter Kodiak is experiencing in a very long time. My name is Elijah Jackson and I am here testifying in my capacity as Mayor of the village of Ouzinkie.

I am grateful to express the general attitude of concern for our community and its dependence on salmon fishing for the primary supplier of employment for our residents, and the impact proposals 63 through 66 before the board regarding changes to the longstanding salmon management plan.

Our community has had participants in every small boat fishery since prior to statehood. With the decline in alternative resources such as crab, shrimp, halibut, and cod, and the removal of free access opportunities under the IFQ and limited entry programs, our presence within the fishing community is dying. The participation of our residents is primarily as crewmembers whereas after the implementation of the limited entry program there were 20 actively fishing permit holders which is now reduced to a mere 3 permit holders with only 1 actively fishing. At one point in time, our fleet would anchor out and fill the bay, whereas now an almost empty boat lies quiet during the preparation of the salmon season.

Our concern lies in the premise that these proposals would solve a problem for the Cook Inlet fishermen. What are the problems? In any fishery there is an incidental effect on any given run, whether that effect comes from predation of ocean mammals, mortality from adverse environmental conditions, or harvest by another user group. Since before the Cook Inlet salmon management plans were created, Kodiak commercial fishermen have been a part of this small incidental harvest which has never created a biological concern to the Cook Inlet region. Targeted intercept of Cook Inlet bound sockeye was addressed in 1989 with the development of the North Shelikof Sockeye salmon management plan and the Kodiak Salmon fishery is prosecuted and managed focused on the harvest of local Kodiak Stocks.

The community of Ouzinkie respectfully requests the board reject these proposals as we fear they may kill off our final major employer in our community, the Kodiak salmon fishery.

Thank You.