

RC0038

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**RE: Proposal 9**

Chairman Morisky, Members of the Alaska Board of Fisheries,

I am writing these comments in support of Proposal 9. Given the widespread concern over any other king salmon stock, I was surprised that there was not overwhelming support for an even more conservative limit than this. It was testified that the success rate for the Homer Winter King Derby is one in six. If only one person in six successfully lands a Kachemak Bay feeder king on a given day, it stands to reason that it would take one person a total of thirty fishing days to land their five fish limit, if this proposal passes. One fish landed per six fishing days. If that's the case, the limit would be almost impossible to catch, for most of us. Who has the time, money, and good luck with weather to line up thirty full days on the water, this winter, with the sole purpose of catching a king salmon? The limit could be imposed without any real effect on the fishery. What concerns me, is the fact that the vast majority, over ninety nine percent, of the fish's native streams are unaccounted for. We are fishing king salmon, without limits, on stocks whose origin is almost entirely unknown. While some people seemed to claim that all the unknown stocks were of hatchery origin, others have said that genetic studies linked these fish to rivers as far away as Kamchatka and Sacramento. The Department of Fish and Game biologists did not substantiate either of those claims, only that their study indicated that fewer than one percent of the chinook caught in the area were of Cook Inlet origin. Not knowing where they came from doesn't sound like a responsible reason for unlimited fishing. Rather, we ought to be more conservative in order to protect the resource. It is evident that there is increased effort and harvest in this fishery.

The dates in the original proposal may need to be changed to properly align with other current regulations and seasons. With that correction, I fully support this proposal. A more conservative limit is probably appropriate.

Matt Haakenson