

MAR 23 2000

Big Jim's Charters  
PO Box 210336  
Auke Bay, AK 99821  
(907) 789-0088  
[bigjim@ptialaska.net](mailto:bigjim@ptialaska.net)

March 13, 2000

Federal Caucus Comment Record  
c/o BPA-PL  
707 W. Main Street  
Suite 500  
Spokane WA 99201

re: NMFS All-H paper & Corps DEIS

I am writing to register my support for removing the four Lower Snake River dams, and in opposition to any reduction in the Southeast Alaska Chinook salmon allocation.

I am a long-time Alaskan resident, a sport fisherman, and a charter owner/operator. I was here when the federal court limited our Coho salmon in order to "enhance" the Washington tribes' abundance. That limitation on our fishing did nothing to the abundance in Washington State. The problem was not what we were doing, but, rather, both the fishing practices and the destruction of habitat in the Pacific Northwest.

According to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, there is very little interception of Snake River Chinook by sport anglers and/or commercial vessels. Their study indicates that of 10,000 released smolts, **ONLY TWO SALMON** are harvested by any user group in Southeastern Alaskan Waters.

The residents of Washington, Idaho, and Oregon have made a very clear choice to install dams on their rivers. There are lots of good reasons for doing this -- cheap electric power, readily available water for irrigation, etc. The down side of their decision is that the natural habitat for wild stock salmon has been deteriorated. The ability of the returning salmon to these marginal spawning areas has also been deteriorated by the many dams along the rivers.

Unless these situations are fixed, it won't matter how deeply the Southeast Alaskan Chinook allocation is cut, there will be no change in the destruction of the Snake River Chinook! It is not the Alaskan fishing that is the problem, it is the destruction of habitat due to the dams that is the problem. The residents of the Pacific Northwest need to decide between their dams or the Snake River salmon. Alaska should not be a factor in this decision, nor should Alaskans be penalized by this decision!

I strongly oppose any reduction in the Southeast Alaskan Chinook allocation! I support the removal of the four targeted Lower Snake River dams.

Sincerely,



Jim Preston

cc: Gov. Tony Knowles  
Sen. Frank Murkowski  
Sen. Ted Stevens  
Rep. Don Young