

TO: Federal Caucus Comment Record 14 Mar 00

(or)
Alaska Department of Fish and Game

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From: Ron and Janey Reed

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Petersburg, Alaska 99801 DEPT. OF FISH & GAME
COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

Subject: SE ALASKA CHINOOK FISHERY
AND ENDANGERED SALMON
RECOVERY

Sirs:

Give the Alaska fishermen a 'break! For nearly 20 years since 1983 we Alaska Salmon fishermen have taken big time cuts through greatly reduced catch numbers, drastically reduced seasons, and area closures to help bring back the endangered Columbia-Snake chinook salmon. We have been consistently treated as the sole cause of the fish deficit problem. This idea needs to cease.

In the past several years, other impactors such as Canadian Salmon fishermen have finally taken the big cuts we have already undergone.

* Now, it's the hydro power dams turn for big time cuts!

① Hydro power dams on the Columbia-Snake system kill 3 times the number of Snake River spawners as do Alaska fishermen.

1 | ② These dams are responsible for up to 95% of Snake River fall chinook mortality - Alaska fisheries

1. | are responsible for LESS THAN 1% (in fact
only $\frac{1}{4}$ of 1%)
- ③ A federal proposal would shut down
SE Alaska salmon fishing by 50-75%.
Given the previous data this would be highly
unwarranted. This shutdown could destroy
the viable SE Alaska troll fishery. We
have already taken our drastic cuts over
the last 17 years. It's the hydro power
dams turn now!
- ④ The Federal agencies should focus their
efforts on fresh water habitats allowing
safe passage for all endangered Snake
River salmon. (Also, extensive hatchery
and/or spawning bed enhancement)

Alaska fishermen underwent substantial
concessions through conservation measures
agreed to by the State of Alaska under the
Pacific Salmon Treaty. The National Marine
Fisheries Service issued a biological
opinion in December 1999 that our
harvest levels meet Endangered Species Act
requirements.

Alaska fishing is not the problem! In past
years Alaska fishermen - often the trollers -
have ended up at the focus of the problems as
a convenient scapegoat.

Let's not be sidestepped anymore by
the other greater impactors. Alaska
fishermen have done more than their
fair share in the maintenance and
recovery of Columbia-Snake chinook salmon.

Sincerely,
Ronald D. Reed