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Federal Caucus Comment Record

The Sumner Strait Fish and Game

Advisory Committee

P O Box 48 Point Baker AK 99927

Vice-chair - Joseph Sebastian 3-15-2000

A Recent poll of the Sumner Straits Fish and Game Advisory Committee showed overwhelming support of the option that promotes dam removal of the four Snake River dams.

The fact that irrigation and tug and barge traffic of wheat and grain, two false economies should prevail over natural and historic fish runs strikes our members as absurd, and flies in the face of common sense.

The Sumner Straits Fish and Game Advisory Committee is composed of Salmon Gillnetters, longliners, tour boat operators, Salmon Trappers, lodge owners, sport charter boat operators, subsistence users and ordinary people whose lives depend on the bounty of natural ecosystems. When it comes to the Salmon, all our lives are tied to its use, both in commercial enterprises and home based subsistence uses that include, smoking, canning, freezing, pickling and sometimes salting of the Salmon meat.

When false economies like dams, displace and degrade, natural, healthy, abundant and timeless systems like Salmon runs, whole unrelated segments of the population, even thousands of miles away like Alaska is, must suffer.

Our members livelihoods, and lives themselves are threatened by the continued perpetuation of wrong headed profit motivated schemes like the Snake River dams.

If it comes down to irrigation for desert grain farmers, or ~~natural~~ natural runs of Salmon, the Salmon were there first and should be restored to their rightful place in a world where man and beast both depend on the continued existence of such a perfect and harmonious creature like the Salmon.

While we recognize doing what is right is not always easy, in this instance, to not do what's right, leads a greater number of people and wildlife into a more impoverished world.

For the Sumner Straits Fish and Game Advisory Committee • Vice chair Joseph Sebastian