



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Public Safety

DIVISION OF ALASKA WILDLIFE TROOPERS
Office of the Director

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December 28, 2023

Chairman John Wood
Alaska Board of Fish
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811

Chairman and Board of Fish Members:

AWT recognizes that regulations are developed by the Alaska Boards of Fish and Game through the public process to support management plans. Management plans rely upon public compliance with regulations to achieve success. Enforcement is a crucial element needed to ensure long-term compliance with regulations by the public. The Alaska Wildlife Troopers request the board recognize that the division has limited resources and manpower and any new regulation scheme or area restrictions may place an additional burden on AWT. When the board considers proposals having to do with allocation or biological concerns, AWT is generally neutral in position and will not have a written comment.

Upon review of the proposals for the 2024 Kodiak Finfish meeting AWT provides the following comments for consideration:

Proposal 46 seeks to allow snagging of Sockeye salmon in Kodiak freshwaters. AWT opposes this proposal due to the challenges of enforcing the intentional snagging of other species in rivers while sockeye salmon are present. An affirmative defense to the act of snagging other species would be that the angler was targeting sockeye.

Proposal 58 seeks to establish closed waters to subsistence fishing outside the mouths of Danger and Cold Creek. AWT is neutral on this proposal, but if passed encourages the board to consider identifying GPS coordinates so it is clear to the public and enforcement.

Thank you for your time,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Derek DeGraaf".

Captain Derek DeGraaf
Alaska Wildlife Troopers