

## **PROPOSAL 7**

### **5 AAC 58.030. Methods, means, and general provisions - Finfish.**

Prohibit snagging and spear fishing for king salmon in Seldovia Harbor and Lagoon until June 24 as follows:

The solution is simple. Just prohibit snagging kings in the Seldovia Harbor and Seldovia Lagoon, until June 24. In other words, reinstate the old regulation with the addition of diving and spear fishing. Appropriate wording:

### **Snagging and spear fishing for king salmon is not allowed in the Seldovia Harbor, Seldovia Lagoon Channel and Seldovia Lagoon until June 24.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** SNAGGING OF RETURNING HATCHERY KING SALMON SELDOVIA. Since 2020 regulation changes allowed snagging of king salmon from the Seldovia Harbor to the Seldovia Lagoon. In discussion with a local ADFG fishery biologist this was inadvertently done in an attempt to simply regulations. This regulation prohibiting snagging reaches back to the 1980s, when I first started fishing there. The reason was to provide a window for anglers to use non-snagging methods to harvest stocked kings returning to Nick Dudiak Fishing Lagoon, Halibut Cove Lagoon and Seldovia Lagoon. I was told the regulation also arose from safety concerns of snagging in a confined area and to also maintain a sporting fishery.

Before the 2020 regulation changes snagging was prohibited in the Seldovia Lagoon and nearby areas, Homers Nick Dudiak Lagoon and Halibut Cove Lagoon until June 24. This was also reasonable as remaining kings mainly quit biting. That way people could still get kings. By then most people had got the kings they wanted by sport fishing methods and less people were fishing. This made snagging less dangerous.

Now that snagging is allowed year around, south of the designated line from Anchor Point to Point Pogibishi, except for the Nick Dudiak Lagoon, the fishery for stocked Seldovia kings is very changed. Below is a summary of the reasons not to snag until June 24.

1. Seldovia kings were not open to snagging until June 24, which allowed for a sport and local fishing experience.
2. Snagging quickly kills all of the returning kings. The locals, of which I am one, and tourist have a greatly reduced chance of catching kings. People fly into the airport walk over to the northwest edge of the runway and quickly snag the kings and leave. How does this help the local economy?
3. Seldovia's economy is now heavily dependent on tourism and this king run brings people in to sport fish. I know companies that send employees and clients to Seldovia to fish these kings and also fish with local charters. They spend money in local restaurants, bar, food and lodging etc..
4. In 2020 when it was proposed to stop stocking kings in Seldovia and allocate the fingerlings to Homer there was strong local and outside objections. ADFG then dropped the proposal because of the strong interest to keep stocking the Seldovia kings.

5. The City of Seldovia has considered trying to raise money to stock additional kings and possibly silvers.

6. Kings do not bite when people are snagging close to you. That forces people fishing to also snag if they want a king.

7. Snagging is very dangerous from the Seldovia Bridge. The bridge is often quite crowded on the top and below with people fishing for kings and tourist watching the action.

8. Now some divers are spear fishing in the Lagoon. It just a matter of time until some are inadvertently snagged. Some just swim right under your boat and you're not even aware they are there. These people could easily be snagged in vulnerable areas like the throat.

If snagging is prohibited in Anchorage Ship Creek and nearby tidal areas and the Homer Nick Dudiak Lagoon, why should it be allowed in Seldovia Lagoon, harbor and channel.

**PROPOSED BY:** Thomas Dunagan

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