

## **Eastern Aleutian Fisheries Coalition**

- Alaskans have participated in the South Alaska Peninsula Salmon Fishery for generations. If fisheries close, thousands of Alaskans will lose their livelihoods for no benefit.
- While some claim that the South Alaska Peninsula Salmon Fishery must be shut down or severely reduced to ensure the survival of other fisheries, the science simply doesn't support this plan of action.
- Recent NOAA and ADF&G research strongly suggests poor marine smolt survival is likely linked to changing oceanic conditions and lack of available food—not the South Alaska Peninsula Salmon Fishery.
- According to NOAA, extreme warm ocean temperatures during the years 2016 – 2019 when juvenile AYK chum were rearing in the ocean are a major reason for adult declines to AYK rivers in 2020 and 2021.
- Warm ocean waters resulted in poor prey density as well as poor prey quality (low fat content), which contributes to poor growth and survival.
- ADF&G reports that South Alaska Peninsula June harvest rates were 2.1%, 3.6%, & 6.9% in 2007, 2008, & 2009 respectively, for the entire CWAK group which extends from Bristol Bay to Norton Sound. This is an average harvest rate of 4.2%, a tenth of the (factually inaccurate) percentages cited by those seeking to shut down the fishery.
- Even though the science does not show that commercial fishing activity is to blame for the salmon declines, fishermen took voluntary actions last season to minimize potential for impact, small as it may be, on AYK chums.
- The entire Alaska Peninsula community – King Cove, Sand Point, Cold Bay, Akutan, False Pass, and Nelson Lagoon – are culturally dependent on salmon fishing.
- Subsistence is part of the fishery.
- Almost everyone in these communities fishes commercially or works in a support industry for fishing.
- The economies of these six communities die without salmon fisheries.
- Salmon declines are complex, and accurate representation of data and science must be central to any decision regarding fishery closures.
- Maintaining the status quo for the current ADFG Alaska Peninsula management plan by opposing the previously-mentioned proposals would be best for the fishermen and fisheries of the South Alaska Peninsula region and the communities that depend on them.