

STATE OF ALASKA

**Department of Fish and Game
Boards Support Section**

Stan Zuray, Chair

**Tanana Rampart Manley
Fish and Game Advisory
Committee**

North Pacific Fishery Management Council
605 W 4th Avenue Suite 306

November 19, 2008

Anchorage AK 99501

To Whom It May Concern:

The Tanana-Rampart-Manley Fish and Game Advisory Committee represents people from those three villages in central Alaska. We are writing to you to let you know the Pollock fishery Chinook by-catch is having a severe effect on Chinook Salmon numbers in the Yukon River currently, and must be curtailed at once.

We feel that it is extremely irresponsible that the Bering Sea Pollock fishery continues to harvest such a huge number of Chinook Salmon as by-catch, particularly since the Yukon River Chinook salmon run is clearly under stress biologically within the river system. What this run does not need is indiscriminate harvest before it even gets to the mouth of the Yukon.

We ask that:

Chinook by-catch numbers must not exceed 30,000 for any reason. This is appropriate for conservation reasons, as well as for honoring a legally binding treaty that is now in force between Canada and the United States. Pollock fishing must stop if the numbers exceed 30,000: there must be no "soft cap" or other extralegal methods of allowing this greedy practice to continue.

We also want to voice our concern that bycatch of other species, such as chum salmon, be addressed immediately.

Succinctly put, the Pollock fishery as it exists now is a clear example of a "dirty" or wasteful fishery, and this bulk protein harvest is putting the Chinook run of the Yukon River, one of the world's last wild salmon runs, in jeopardy.

Please reply to this Advisory Committee about what actions the Council intends to take to address this problem.

Sincerely,
Stan Zuray, Chairman, TRM Committee



Cc/ National Marine Fisheries Service
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