



From Jeffrey Demientieff <jeff_d_sr@hotmail.com>
Sent Friday, February 20, 2009 8:44 pm
To salmonbycatcheis@noaa.gov
Subject Salmon Bycatch EIS

Dear Dr. Mecum:

I am a subsistence fisherman in Holy Cross. I am writing to comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) on salmon bycatch measures in the Bering Sea management area. The high salmon bycatch numbers of recent years threaten our salmon and our way of life. Salmon serves a very important cultural and economic role in my community and throughout Western Alaska. Salmon provides a primary source of food for my family and the commercial salmon harvest provides the only means of income for many who live in the remote villages of the Yukon River. Salmon is a irreplaceable resource that must be protected.

The model utilized in the DEIS drastically underestimates the impacts to Western Alaska Chinook salmon stocks, and to Chinook salmon users. We recommend that the Council and NMFS should set a cap of 32,500 immediately to protect Western Alaska Chinook salmon.

Sincerely,
Jeffrey Demientieff Sr.
Holy Cross Tribe/Holy Cross, Alaska