

Mark Ivan

My name is Mark Ivan and I live in near Kalama. Many of my neighbors are fishermen, but not many fish are being caught these days. In my quest to bring facts to the table, I read many peer-reviewed research papers on the aquatic biodiversity of our oceans and the effects of climate change on our fisheries. This includes the Pacific Ocean all the way to the coast of Alaska and the Bering Sea where salmon spent a good part of their life. Washington fisheries are not the only ones in decline. This year, salmon returns in Alaska were so poor that many Alaskan communities are claiming fishery economic disasters and requesting government assistance.

As of August 12th, all sockeye, chinook, pink chum, and chum salmon fisheries are below projections with some areas completely closed to commercial fishing. This could happen to us and probably will. I reviewed the 2019 and 2020 Washington Coho Forecast Summary published by the Department of Fish and Wildlife. The forecast and actual returns for hatchery and natural coho salmon went from a little over two million in 2019 to just under one million forecasted in 2020, less than half. Runs will likely be just about 50% of the 10-year average. Every production unit is forecasting significantly fewer natural fish.

Although this is a snapshot and only represents 1 of the 19 species, the running 10-year average indicates nearly all species of salmon and steelhead are in decline. Many species will be on the edge of extinction by 2050 as a result of climate change, and here we are still considering the approval of a shoreline permit that will speed up global warming. I'm shocked, what are we thinking? I hope you see the SCIS for what it is. It's a scheme that under reports GHGs, sells the local jobs now for a climate emergency in the future that cannot be avoided anyway. Therefore, it is unacceptable outcome.

If this plan is approved, the port decline will be there ring in the bull's nose waiting to be pulled a sign of discretion. Please deny the shoreline project.