



Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Board of Fisheries
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Alaska Board of Fisheries
May 16, 2014

Teleconference meeting regarding
Kuskokwim Salmon Management Working Group
April 11, 2014 Petition

Meeting Summary

The Board of Fisheries met by teleconference on Friday, May 16, 2014, to consider a petition for an emergency regulation submitted by the Kuskokwim Salmon Management Working Group (KSMWG) to amend Kuskokwim area subsistence gear regulations in 5 AAC 01.270(c) to eliminate drift gillnet as a legal gear for fish other than salmon. The KSMWG was concerned individuals were using drift gillnet gear to selectively harvest king salmon. Seven board members were present. Public listen-only teleconference sites were available at the Department of Fish and Game offices in Juneau, and the Legislative Information Offices in Anchorage and Bethel. The meeting was streamed live on the internet, accessible at the Board of Fisheries website.

The purpose of the meeting was to determine whether the petition met the requirements needed to find an emergency. Board members asked questions of staff and discussed information. Subjects included recent action by the Federal Subsistence Board to significantly close subsistence fishing in the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge, which is effectively most of the impacted area, and the potential impact of fishing beyond the non-federal areas.

In a 0-7 vote on a motion to find an emergency, Board members concluded the federal action effectively handled the concern of king salmon overharvest and that pressure on king salmon beyond the refuge would be minimal. Therefore, the petition did not meet the requirements of the Joint Board Petition Policy, 5 AAC 96.625(f) in that an emergency must be an unforeseen, unexpected event that either threatens a fish or game resource, or an unforeseen, unexpected resource situation where a biologically allowable resource harvest would be precluded by delayed regulatory action and such delay would be significantly burdensome to the petitioners because the resource would be unavailable in the future.