

**Testimony Before the  
Alaska Board of Fisheries Anchorage, Alaska  
February 2013  
John Jemewouk**

A Mr. Chairman and Board member, my name is John Jemewouk.

I'm a 61 year old resident of Elim and a commercial fisherman since 1964. I was chairman of the Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation from 1992- 1994 and a member of the Norton Sound Fish and Game Advisory Committee. I am a Business owner in the village of Elim. I own a store that is impacted by the fisheries and economic gains and losses by your decisions today.

I'm here to testify in regards to the shortage of fish and the emergency orders that have been limited our ability to sustain our fisheries. ADF&G (*Special Publication No 12-29 Norton Sound Sub district 1 and Sub districts 2 and 3 Chum Stock Status and Action Plans , 2012; a Report to the Alaska Board of Fisheries by Jim Menard and Daniel J. Bergstrom, December 2012*) Reference Table 5.- Sub districts 2-3 (Golivan and Elim) historical management actions. This justifies my stance that changes in the fishery happened because starting later and letting more fish go by helped us in escapement. I'm in favor of the proposals that reduces time and area in the June fishery in Area M. Personally I feel since WASSIP reducing time and area restrictions will only help our escapement. I support Proposal 183 by the Southern Norton Sound Advisory Committee for the sole purpose of reducing interception..

Table 5.--Subdistricts 2 and 3 (Golovin and Elim) historical management actions.

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- 1961 Districtwide fishing schedule established as two 48-hour periods per week.  
Commercial fishing allowed in marine waters only.  
100-fathoms maximum length allowable gillnet gear.
- 1962 Formation of 6 managements (SD).
- 1969 Beach seines allowed in Subdistrict 2 as commercial gear for pink salmon by EO.
- 1977 Kwiniuk River escapement goal of 20,000 chum salmon established due to low returns in 1975 and 1976.
- 1979 Kwiniuk River escapement goal of 25,000 chum salmon established due to low returns in 1975 and 1976 and to rebuild the stock.
- 1980 Management authority to restrict gillnet mesh size to 4.5-inch maximum allowed the ability to open pink salmon directed commercial fishing periods.  
Subdistrict 3 commercial fishing period duration reduced in half.
- 1985 Commercial seasons determined to be opened by EO between June 8 and June 20, and close by regulation on August 31.  
Subdistrict 3 returned to the standard two 48-hour commercial fishing periods per week schedule.  
Half of Subdistrict 3 closed to commercial fishing due to low chum salmon returns.
- 1986 Four commercial fishing periods closed in Subdistrict 3 due to low chum salmon returns.
- 1987 Five commercial fishing periods in Subdistrict 3 due to low chum salmon returns.
- 1988 Management authority to restrict gillnet mesh size to 6-inch maximum allowed the ability to direct the commercial fishery toward a target species.  
Management restricted the Subdistrict 3 to pink salmon gear only and closed commercial fishing periods to protect weak chum salmon return.
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- 1989 Management reduced period length in Subdistrict 2 and closed Subdistrict 3 during most of the chum salmon run to protect the weak return.
- 1990 Subdistrict 3 commercial fishery was restricted half the season to pink salmon gear during weak chum salmon run.
- 1991 Subdistrict 3 commercial fishery was open only 1 period during weak chum salmon run.
- 1992 Management plan for Subdistrict 2 established a maximum harvest level of 10,000 chum salmon to preserve the stock and allowed directed fisheries on other species only if survey data indicated adequate chum salmon escapements would likely be achieved.  
The Kwiniuk River escapement goal was reduced to 19,500 chum salmon.  
Only 1 directed chum salmon commercial period during the anticipated weak chum salmon run.
- 1993 Management restricted Subdistrict 2 to special pink salmon commercial periods, with limited gear and harvest areas, to avoid high incidental catches of chum salmon.  
Subdistrict 3 commercial fishery did not open for king salmon or pink salmon due to the chance of potentially harvesting a portion of the depressed chum salmon stocks.  
Subsistence fishing restrictions were imposed to protect chum salmon on the spawning grounds.
- 1994 Subdistrict 2 commercial fishery continued to operate under the 10,000 fish chum salmon cap management plan, but no harvest occurred due to no market.  
Subdistrict 3 had no directed commercial chum fishery and only allow a pink salmon fishery if adequate chum salmon were available; however, there was no market interest.
- 1995 No change in management plans in either subdistrict, with some chum salmon caught during directed pink salmon and coho salmon fisheries.
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- 1996 No change in management plans in either subdistrict, with some chum salmon caught during directed pink salmon and coho salmon commercial fisheries.
- 1997 No change in management plans in either subdistrict, with some chum salmon caught during directed king salmon commercial fishing periods. However, the Subdistrict 2 chum salmon commercial capacity was liberalized to 15,000 fish prior to July 15.
- 1998 One commercial king salmon commercial period allowed in consideration of incidental catches when chum salmon periods were common.  
Pink salmon-directed commercial harvest opened continuously, with the buyer scheduling fishing to maximize transport and production. Good coho salmon run attracted limited market.
- 1999 No commercial periods for any salmon species due to poor returns.  
-Sport and subsistence coho salmon closures in Subdistrict 2.
- 2000 Directed pink salmon and coho salmon fisheries land small numbers of chum salmon through use of gear and time restrictions.
- 2001 New chum salmon escapement goals established for Kwiniuk River (11,500–23,000) and Tubutulik River (9,200–18,400); board establishes Subdistricts 2 and 3 salmon management plan.
- 2002 Lack of buyer results in no commercial fishing. Sport and subsistence restrictions for coho salmon in Subdistrict 2.
- 2003 No commercial fishing in either subdistrict because of poor runs. Sport and subsistence restrictions for chum salmon and coho salmon in Subdistrict 2.
- 2004 Subsistence and sport restrictions on coho salmon. New goal for chum salmon established for Niukluk River tower (SEG >30,000 chums).
- 2005 Sport restrictions for coho salmon in Subdistrict 2.
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- 2006 No restrictions.
- 2007 For the first time in 6 years, a buyer returns to Subdistrict 3 and chum salmon and coho salmon commercial fishing periods occur.
- 2008 For the first time in 8 years, a buyer returns to Subdistrict 2 and commercial coho salmon fishing periods occur.  
After 1 commercial chum salmon period, Subdistrict 3 is closed because inseason projection indicated the chum salmon escapement goal would not be met.  
Pink salmon and coho salmon commercial periods allowed in Subdistrict 3.
- 2009 Both Subdistricts 2 and 3 remained closed to commercial chum salmon fishing because projections showed chum salmon escapement goals would not be reached.  
Kwiniuk River counting tower recorded one of the worst chum salmon escapements on record.  
Commercial coho salmon catches were good in both subdistricts.
- 2010 Both Subdistricts 2 and 3 had record commercial coho salmon harvests and the best commercial chum salmon harvests in over 20 years to date.  
Kwiniuk River counting tower has a record chum salmon escapement.
- 2011 Both Subdistricts 2 and 3 had the best commercial chum salmon harvests in over 20 years.
- 2012 Both Subdistricts 2 and 3 have the best commercial pink salmon harvests since 1998.  
Only 1 commercial chum salmon fishing period in Subdistrict 2 and none in Subdistrict 3.  
Stormy August weather greatly curtails coho salmon fishing and floods out escapement counting projects in mid-August for the remainder of the year.
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