

## Alaska Board of Fisheries Committee Summary

# COMMITTEE B

**North Alaska Peninsula and Alaska Peninsula/Aleutian Islands Salmon**  
March 2, 2013

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### Board Committee Members:

1. Tom Kluberton, \*Chair
2. John Jensen
3. Reed Morisky

### Alaska Department of Fish and Game Staff Members:

1. Bob Murphy - AMB, Commercial Fisheries
2. Dawn Wilburn – Assistant AMB, Commercial Fisheries
3. Matt Miller – Regional Management Biologist, Sport Fish
4. Steve Honnold – Regional Supervisor, Commercial Fisheries
5. Tom Brookover – Deputy Director, Sport Fish
6. Sue Aspelund – Deputy Director, Commercial Fisheries
7. M. Birch Foster – Finfish Research, Commercial Fisheries
8. Davin Holen – Subsistence Program Manager, Subsistence
9. Matt Keyse – Assistant AMB, Commercial Fisheries
10. James Hasbrouck – Fish and Game Coordinator, Sport Fish

### Advisory Committee Members:

1. Kenneth Parker – False Pass AC
2. Paul Butch Gundersen – Nelson Lagoon AC
3. Fred Pike – Naknek/Kvichak AC
4. Frank Kelty – Unalaska/Dutch Harbor AC
5. Mitch Seybert – Lower Bristol Bay AC
6. Roland Briggs – Lower Bristol Bay AC
7. Grant Newton – King Cove AC
8. Roy Ashenfelter – NNS AC

### Public Panel Members:

1. Rod Schuh – SEK – Hoodoo Lodge/Nelson River
2. Mel Gillis – Self – Sandy River Lodge
3. Eric Weber – Area M
4. William Dushkin – Sand Point

## Public Panel Members (cont.):

5. Brad Barr – CAMF
6. Steve Brown – CAMF
7. Warren Wilson – King Cove
8. J. W. Smith – Bear River
9. Merle Brandall – Sapsuk River
10. Kevin Adkins – Sapsuk River
11. Brenda Wilson – AEB
12. Brian Hartman – Nelson Lagoon
13. Richard Rysewyck – Nelson Lagoon
14. Justine Gundersen – Nelson Lagoon
15. Herman Savikko – Nelson Lagoon
16. Earl Krygier – Nelson Lagoon
17. Dan Dunaway – Nushagak
18. Emil Christensen – Port Heiden Village
19. Katherine Carscallen - Self
20. Kenny Wilson – Self
21. Mariano Floresta - Self

## Alaska Department of Public Safety:

1. Tory Oleck

## Federal Subsistence Representative:

2. George Pappas

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The committee met March 2, 2013 at 3:19 p.m. and adjourned at 4:11 p.m.

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**PROPOSALS BEFORE THE COMMITTEE WERE: (5 total) 197, 192, 212, 213, and 214.**

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**PROPOSAL 197 – 5 AAC 09.331(a)(4) and (b)(4). Gillnet specifications and operations.** Modify the allowable set gillnet and drift gillnet gear depth from 70 meshes to 45 meshes in the Northern District of the Alaska Peninsula Area salmon fishery.

**Comment Summary:**

Department:

- There was a decrease in king salmon in 2012.
- There has been an average harvest of 600 king salmon into the Outer Port Heiden Section, and an average escapement in Meshik River of approximately 4,000 king salmon.
- Area T permit holders are permitted to use 70-mesh drift gillnet gear when fishing in the Area M and Area T overlap areas.
- Run timing of king salmon into Nelson Lagoon begins from late May to early July.

Department of Law: None.

Federal Subsistence Representative: None.

Public Panel Comments:

- Request had been made by the proposer during public testimony to remove Proposal 197 and replace it with amended language from RC 103 (Board took action on Proposal 198 that was recommended in RC 103).
- There was a concern for the depressed king salmon numbers in Port Heiden.
- Having to replace or modify the net length would cost the fleet over \$400,000.
- King salmon are in trouble all over the state and there was no directed king salmon opening on the Nushagak River.
- Belief was expressed that king salmon travel deeper and reducing the depth of net would allow more to escape.
- Concern for net disparity between Area M and Bristol Bay.

**Public Panel Recommendation:** No consensus.

**PROPOSAL 192 – 5 AAC 09.350(18)(A). Closed waters.** Amend the closed water definition at Christianson Lagoon to better define closed waters as determined by the current lagoon exit channel.

**Comment Summary:**

Department:

- Stated that markers could be moved or rescinded by emergency order.
- There is a conservation concern for sockeye into Christianson Lagoon over the past few years.

Department of Law: None.

Federal Subsistence Representative: None.

Public Panel Comments:

- False Pass AC made reference to RC 104, with an image of the Christianson Lagoon exit channel.
- The Christianson Lagoon side channel was a historical fishery, safe harbor, and would be a big loss to the community of False Pass.
- The stream terminus continuously changes; the state will have to monitor and continuously move the markers and would be more costly for the department.
- CAMF defers to False Pass AC due to its local knowledge.

**Public Panel Recommendation:** Consensus to oppose.

**PROPOSAL 212 – 5 AAC 65.022. Special provisions for methods and means in the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Area.** Restrict the Sapsuk River (Nelson River) king salmon fishery to fly fishing only, single-hook, artificial fly, no retention.

**Comment Summary:**

Department:

- Department is currently drafting preseason emergency order (EO) for single hook, artificial lure, non retention.
- Similar situation to actions previously taken for Karluk and Ayakulik king salmon fisheries.
- Preseason EO eliminates king salmon harvest and provides greater stability to industry.
- EO provides restrictions while runs are low, and flexibility to allow harvest as stock recovers.
- Guides and lodges can always choose to not allow retention of king salmon, even when harvest is allowed.

Department of Law: None.

Federal Subsistence Representative: None.

Public Panel Comments:

- There is a king salmon problem statewide and individual wants to help solve the local problem.
- Need to define where the Nelson River starts and suggests confluence of Nelson and Caribou rivers.
- Emergency order closures disrupt business, and industry needs stability.
- ADF&G needs to understand local concerns and practices.
- Sport fishery not likely to grow much.
- Request to amend proposal to include Sandy River and reduce annual limit of king salmon from 5 to 2.
- Concern about potential diversion of anglers to other systems.
- Should not increase effort on other systems.
- Restriction should be for all Alaska Peninsula king salmon fisheries.
- RC 156 with substitute language was submitted later.

**Public Panel Recommendation:** Consensus to support.

**PROPOSAL 213 – 5 AAC 65.020. Bag limits, possession limits, and size limits for Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Area; 5 AAC 67.022. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means in the Bristol Bay Area.** Decrease coho salmon bag limit to one in the Cinder River.

**Comment Summary:**

Department:

- Addressed and failed proposal at Bristol Bay meeting for Ugashik and King Salmon rivers; Cinder River pulled out for Alaska Peninsula meeting.
- Coho salmon escapements in Cinder River ranged from 5,000 to 49,000.
- Sport effort and harvest low.

Department of Law: None.

Federal Subsistence Representative: None.

Public Panel Comments:

- Might be better to adopt annual limits for coho salmon.
- Have lost king salmon on lower Ugashik and don't want to see that happen with coho salmon.
- Commercial and subsistence fisheries harvest vast majority of coho salmon compared to the sport fishery in Bristol Bay.
- Doesn't make sense to restrict sport fishery and not address other sources of harvest.

**Public Panel Recommendation:** No consensus.

**PROPOSAL 214 – 5 AAC 01.425.** Close the Iliuliuk River upstream of the Church Hole to subsistence, sport, and personal use fishing for coho salmon.

**Comment Summary:**

**Department:**

- Support regulatory simplicity, closing entire drainage upstream of the Church Hole to fishing for salmon, and reducing bag limit below the Church Hole from 5 coho salmon to 2 per day.
- Bag limit of 2 coho salmon is more consistent with other roadside systems.

Department of Law: None.

Federal Subsistence Representative: None.

**Public Panel Comments:**

- Unalaska AC submitted RC 154 to close entire drainage upstream of the Church Hole to fishing for salmon..
- Supports reduction in bag limit for coho salmon.
- Iliuliuk River runs right through town and very accessible.
- RC 157 was submitted with substitute language.

**Public Panel Recommendation:** Consensus to support.