

AC Comments for Arctic-Yukon kuskokwim Finfish
January 26-31, 2010

Lower Yukon AC1
Minto Nenana AC2
Fairbanks AC3
Yukon Flats AC4
Middle Yukon AC5
Delta AC6
Tanana Rampart Manley AC7
Ruby AC8

Meeting began at 11:45 am.

BOARDS

Members Present: Ted Hamilton (Emmonak), Edward and Amelia Adams (Nunam Iqua), John Riley (Pitka's Point), Joseph Bell (Hooper Bay), Marcel Isadore (Alakanuk), Marvin Okitkun (Kotlik), Charles Paukan (St. Mary's), Sebastian Cowboy (St Mary's Alternate), Joseph Peter (Marshall); Stanislaus Shephard (Mountain Village), Bibiana Sage (Mountain Village Alternate) and Evan Polty (Pilot Station).

Members of the Public Present: Anna Tinker of Pitka's Point Council, Nathan Oney of Pitka's Point; Thomas George, Pitka's Point Native Corporation; Paul Beans and Alexie Walter, Sr with Azachorok Inc, Harry Wilde, YKDelta RAC, Ephrim Thompson with YDFDA, of Mountain Village; Ray Oney of Alakanuk; Jack Scutheis and Gene Sandone of KwikPak Fisheries; Tim Andrews of AVCP; Michael James City of Alakanuk; Leslie Hunter, Katemal Shorty, William Manunik, Vasillie Sergie, Charlie Chees, Joseph Peter, and Bill Myeruk of Marshall and Nick Andrew, Jr Ohugumiut TC, Exec Director; Nicholas Tucker, Sr of Emmonak

ADF&G Present: Amy Marsh, Eric Newland, Steve Hayes, Sherry Wright

ADF&G fishery report was provided by Eric Newland.

Questions were raised about the Pilot Station sonar and why it is not accurate. High water and high silt movement interferes with the sonar, but the numbers did not change the management strategy.

A request that the department listen to the local people with their suggestions and information. We know this river – if the fish are not there, we'll move and find them. The sonar hurt them big time this summer. High water affects the sonar and this is not the first time. We cannot depend on sonar anymore. ADF&G is looking into moving the sonar. Discussion of moving to Pitka's Point, Russian Mission and/or Marshall have been discussed. Moving the left bank sonar downstream is another point of discussion. The test fishery gives them information on the species coming through. The department doesn't just focus on one point of information. The escapement goal for Canada has not been met in the last three years, which is also part of the department's concern.

Tim Andrew spoke about the region. What is happening to the Lower Yukon area is cultural, social and economic genocide. We fall between the Bering Sea industry and the Canadian treaties and this area consistently bears the brunt of the conservation, hurting both the commercial and subsistence harvest. He has received calls from many people, elders, who were not able to put up enough saloonik to meet their subsistence needs. How can we trust the Pilot Station numbers again, when facing these kind of consequences over and over. The sonar has been pointed at the mud in one instance, miscounted because of high waters. We have inherited this resource from our ancestors, and must be cared for as they did before us.

Charles Paukan, Sr agrees with Mr Andrews assessment of the unreliability of the sonar counts at Pilot Station, with inaccurate counting, running off four hours and on eight hours. When estimating fish, those off times can account for a great deal of fish. Our ancestors fished year

around and considered things like the wind direction and what kind of season they may have. Fish were used for their family and to feed their dogs. He has spent 50 years on the river and seen many changes. The elders went by season, not by numbers. He also noticed many sandbars along the river. There were not any 50 years ago. Natives don't go by paper, what they see today. They go by season and hope for better communication with ADF&G.

Evan Polty, Sr spoke about the sonar at Pilot Station and how it has not been working. Subsistence is a way of life and it has been jeopardized here all the way up to Canada. The area is no longer suitable due to changes in the river. We need to be one voice to put the sonar on the Yukon where the erosion doesn't affect the counting. The villages know where the eddy's grow and better places to put sonar for more accurate counts.

Alexie Walter was told when he went to Anchorage to testify, that subsistence is the priority. Now, he has windows to catch his subsistence fish. Weather doesn't always cooperate with windows. The first pulse run is when they would like to get the fish. They are not fishing all the time, about three hours allows enough fish if you can get them when they are coming in. People still have large families here for which they need to provide. Some bartering with subsistence use is not seen as wrong (up to \$600), but when they begin to be making \$10,000 that is too much. This adversely impacts the subsistence fishing.

Stan Sheppard had a list of options that the Mountain Village Fisheries Working Group discussed. Voluntary reduction of harvest, only federally qualified eligible, ... were some of them. The elders have taught them, it takes different gear in different places on the river. Shallow place using a shallow net, deeper waters need a deeper net.

Marcel Isadore – this is the first time in his life he has heard people say they didn't harvest as many fish. He went up and down the river and people were not able to put fish up for the winter. Many people are too proud to go on public assistance and they were asking how am I going to feed my family? I am feeling sorry for my fellow native. Something needs to be done. We live in the 21st century. We have cell phones. We have satellite TV.

Nastasha Andrew (Nick Andrews wife). She has lived here 75 years. There was no ADF&G saying when to fish. They put enough fish for their family and their dogs. No one was coming around or flying over taking their nets away. We Natives grew up with water and land. We eat it, we don't always go to the store and have no money to go buy whatever they want. Not like today, whatever you want run up to the store with food stamps. We have five boys and had a hard time. Even with a job, it was not enough. Hunting and trapping provide for the family. Today's young people have easy life, people working, lots of money. Their ways were putting up fish, staying home with the children while the husband tried to provide for the family. You can't go to the hospital even if you are sick, because of no money. No health aides – now there is free tickets to the hospital. This public assistance is spoiling the young people and makes them lazy to go hunting for the family. It has been tough raising my kids. Some days, she didn't know what to feed her children. No freezer or refrigerator. We didn't have much, but we were happy whatever we had on the table. We live on fish. It hurts, like this summer for many of the elders. ADF&G make us cry. She was ready for ADF&G to come to her, but they didn't show up. Too much fighting over land. What is God going to do to us someday? He is the Maker of

everything. We will not always be sitting easy. Too much fighting over everything – everything. If we go to the city, will they kick us out because we don't have lots of data to look up and show others, so they consider us ignorant?

Nick Tucker – We have never been stupid. We were just told we were stupid. We have been given the opportunity to speak, but were also put in the corner. We have always been patient and kept our mouth shut because we respect the land and what we have. I have never in my life seen at the meetings, elder's crying, men like Marcel cry and in Emmonak when we had the heating fuel crisis, we would give households boxes of food. People if you have ears, it's time to start hearing us. I am privileged to have testified before the President and his resource committee. If you have anything, let me know. I don't care who you are, if you see something broke, don't wait for your neighbor to do something. We have no more room to be patient. We don't have any obligation to Canada. I've been in a few of those negotiations. The key word is 'endeavor' – that means we will try. We will do our best to see that they have some fish, but we need to take care of USA. I just heard 70,000 fish to Canada. The other thing is when we have low numbers expected like this summer, by golly if we expect poor returns, and then after the fact 90,000 in Canada, instead of cutting off subsistence, start to 8 – 15% in commercial fishing. The 2005 over-escapement of summer chums has killed themselves off. Regarding the sonar – ADF&G over the years have asked for the knowledge and expertise of the native people. We have heard the talk, but not seen the walk. If you really desire to work with us, then do so and make sure these statements get to the commissioner. Do it – don't just talk about it. Stop talking and start using your heart. We don't want a handout of cookies. He is concerned about the turnover of people manning the sonar contributing to inaccuracies. Let's give them the commercial fishermen to get the 8%. It only takes a little brain to know there are fish out there and to go to someone to work with them. They have told ADF&G you can't keep testing the same spot over and over and over. The eddy where 109 kings were caught in one period is no longer there. Near the Y2 line. The sandbars next to the river is nothing but snags. He hopes that today we will be heard. Some of the proposals are so stupid they would make a 3rd grader laugh.

Alexie Walters – The people who prosecuted the test fishery would fish 20 minutes here and 20 minutes here. He disagrees with the way this methodology, because a few feet away another local may be taking in a good number of fish. These test fisheries are misleading. Some will be lucky, some will be shortchanged with those windows. You can play around all you want with windows during commercial, but let the villages have a chance at that first pulse of fish.

Paul Beans – Nick and Alexie took the words out of my mouth. I followed the fisheries on the internet this summer. The sonar makes it to the Anchorage Daily News and goes up to Eagle. In Canada, they were commercial and sport fishing. The situation is getting worse and worse in Y 1 – 3. They are hit with so many proposals coming up that will impact them. Mountain Village formed a Fisheries Working Group to discuss these issues.

Vassily Sergie – Fish go where they want to go. He wants to know what does it take to the Boards to understand that they are hurting here? Does it require someone to cry? How do we control those people out in the ocean and the fish coming in from there. Who is regulating those fisheries? We need to find out what is going on out there in the ocean. This is just a little

portion of the world where we live and try to survive. Natives along this river have to report everything to ADF&G. If you can find a way to control those people in the ocean, we could fish as we have. For many years, we have been complying with ADF&G regulations.

John Riley, Sr – We go to the meetings to speak out. When we have a local meeting I feel sorry that my words might be pointing to ADF&G, but I don't know where else to go, because they are the managers of the river. There were only three days in June that were allowed to fish for kings. They used to listen to the local people. They used the local people gear. Now they are so busy cleaning wood out of their set nets. We used to be called dumb. We are very smart people. My doctor says eat this fish it is good in oils. Now it is so regulated, we can't even stay healthy. We have faced disaster after disaster. He tips his hat to Nick Tucker for the wake up call he has pronounced. The buyers wanted the king salmon for \$5 per pound. When it is commercial opening we need to be able to sell that fish. The money is needed to be able to go moose hunting. ADF&G says "Don't sell that fish, don't sell that fish". He is fortunate his youngest son is a go-getter. We can survive with 80 kings. I don't know about my neighbor, if he can survive. We couldn't put the fish rack on the beach. I can't just stand there and let the fish go by – it will hurt other families. Even before we know how many fish are going to come in, we are already being told we are going to be cut down. How is that possible? Why? Then the sonar came after those decisions were already made. They are getting praised from up-river and we are hurting. Koyuk River thank you thank you – but ADF&G is our boss. His son told him they weren't allowing them to sell their king salmon. I don't mind giving fish away – eight fish he brought home that was taken away. That was our only chance we had, then we were told the sonar wasn't working right. Pollack fisheries are throwing our fish away. Who is helping them? So many of these proposals coming from the Fairbanks area and pointing at the Lower Yukon fisheries. It is not easy to go and plead and beg for our way of life before all these state and federal boards. It seems like once it goes on the paper, it is very hard to take off. I have a commercial fishing permit I paid for, but was told not to sell the fish. We don't make proposals for people 100 of miles away from here. That is why we don't try to make those kind of proposals. We are not that way.

Steve Hayes – Responding for ADF&G and backing up to 2008, fishing was delayed to ensure escapement goals could be met. Not selling the king salmon was a way to allow for chum harvest. Those fish that were retained got used by residents of Ruby and Eagle so that they could meet their subsistence needs.

It would have been preferred that giving up kings was voluntary.

Sebastian Cowboy – Thanks for Jack Scultheis for informing us about this meeting and realizing we are not alone. There is another guy worried about our future. Thanks to letter of support. Tribal governments from Russian Mission all the way to Y1. We have to be heard. We are recognized tribal government and we need to work together. If I happen to be living next summer I'll be out on the river. If you come by you'll hear me.

Charlie Chees – Commercial fisherman – we have had low runs of kings and chum going up the river the last 2-3 years. The thing I see in the paper was by-catch 2008 almost 100,000 kings. Why are they wondering what is causing the low run. I can see what is causing the low returns.

We need to make our voice be heard. Commercial and subsistence users are only getting more and more regulated. If ADF&G will not help, we'll get another who will help. Sonar needs to be upgraded or updated to one that works properly. This summer I was fishing and I have a fish depth finder. I drift with a 45 foot net – some places on the river are 70 – 80 feet deep. The weather and nature is having an impact on the river. The fish will not live in warmer water or will not go to that warm water. Every village has representatives – us fishermen and subsistence users must make their voice be heard. This year they got very little amount.

Edward Adams – Nunam Iqua representative. The village now has about 200 total people, mostly youngsters with only about 30 adults. Thanks for those who have spoken up. This is our land and water that we have rights to. We don't need to listen to someone from Canada to tell us what to do. They used to speak about unwritten law. We don't write down our plans and in the elders time what they hear is in the heart. They taught as children to remember what we hear. I am starting to understand what the elders were saying. Perhaps it is time to make our own proposals for our land and water. When we had no TV, no radio, no other things that mess up our mind, we observed what the elders had to say. Now there is too many things in the new generation telling us what to do. What is going to happen to our younger generation? They are not observing our ways – going to the Western culture. We can't turn back the clock, let's turn the Western culture to our advantage.

Nick Tucker – Recommends to the AC to get together with ADF&G in a work session to educate the BOF so they will understand what we are talking about when they hear us. One BOF member didn't understand what a 6 inch mesh was. Charlie Campbell from Tanana says not many people are in need of the fall chum anymore – find a way to lower that so we can have some commercial opening. Keep your ears open and be listening. Sit down with Denby Lloyd and make those adjustments as they become available.

Ted Hamilton – Thanks for all who have spoken. We are not done. We need to move to the proposals and prepare comments.

Harry Wilde, Sr – We are having a problem down here. The reason people up-river from Holy Cross to the end of Alaska have so many villages. Here we have from Russian Mission down to the mouth of the Yukon. We have support of the Lower Kuskokwim. When we have a meeting in Bethel, we move it down to the Lower Yukon.

Jack Scultheis – KwikPak Fisheries managers. The majority of the proposals did not come from the native people up-river. They have been generated by Stan Zurray out of Manley AC and Virgil Umphenour of the Eastern Interior RAC. The people in Kaltag voted these down. You have two people, one who grew up in Phoenix, AZ and the other in Boston, Mass. Trying to tell you how to live. These proposals are trying to shut the fishery down. What this AC says is extremely important. They will have five AC's to speak, where you will only have one. Gene Sandone is here to try and help and provide information. I've been coming to the Lower Yukon since 1975 and have become very attached to the people and the region. Listen to what your elders have said. This fishery is only worth 4% of what it was only 12 years ago. You can't let this continue to happen.

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Gene Sandone – Retired ADF&G, regional coordinator for Yukon, gave a Powerpoint presentation to the AC that overviewed the proposals concerning the Yukon area for its 2010 meeting.

Nick Tucker – I hope we have some financial experts to help testify on our behalf at the board meeting. They need to see these numbers in human form.

Ted Hamilton asked if there is any market for colored chums?

Gene Sandone also gave a presentation on the disparity in representation for the Lower Yukon River area compared to the communities up river and an action plan for the Lower Yukon.

Nick Tucker – There is a need for protest before the board that we are not equally represented. An injunction to stop the AYK meeting due to a lopsided ability to address the issues. AFN may also be able to weigh in. No more BOF meetings until this is resolved.

Harry Wilde – Also there is discrimination for Western Alaska on the federal RAC.

Ephrim Thompson – Our city councils have lawyers that can be asked to help the people here in the village.

Tim Andrews – Some of the process we have had allies in some of the Fish & Game Advisory Committees and some on the RACs. AFN will not take up issues that will pit one user group against another.

Stan Sheppard – spoke from the Mountain Village Fisheries Working Group meeting of September 28 (noted as MVFWG).

Nick Tucker had to leave the meeting at 6 pm and asked the AC to vote no on Prop 88 – 97 that will restrict our fishery. Prop 98 vote yes and discuss Prop 99. The windows of two 36 hours should be voted down due to a concern of over-escapement. 3 year study is not enough.

Ray Oney also had to leave and asked for the AC to also look at the proposals voted on by the YK Delta RAC.

Board of Fisheries Proposal comments

Prop 81

ACTION: Support 12-0

Description: Clarify subsistence fishing schedule in Subdistrict 4B and 4C

Comments: This is considered housekeeping. In the past, we have been giving people a little at a time and now they want the whole cake. We need to make a proposal, no fish wheel, set net no longer than 25 feet long. Things that most people would think are silly, but it has become us or them. Maybe by proposing those type of things, they will realize what they have been doing to us. Fishing started in the Yukon in the late 1800s with Jack Emma and the mission. They fished at 50 cents per fish or less and now they are trying to take this away from us. We need to get tough right back. We need people that will DO something. We can talk and talk all we want.

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Earlier we heard that it's not the local people, it's greedy business people who keep chipping away from our lives. I heard this many years back, something is coming. I can't make proposals for people upriver, because I don't know what they do.

Prop 82 ACTION: Tabled
Description: Modify subsistence fishing schedule in Subdistrict 4A
Comments: There is a concern of this becoming a requirement

Prop 83 ACTION: Opposed 0-12
Description: Require recording subsistence harvest on catch calendar
Comments: ADF&G was going house to house recording harvest in Mountain Village. There is no current requirement to record subsistence harvest. This would require a person to carry a calendar. Most of the people fish in an open vessel and this requirement would impose an unnecessary hardship. What would be the cost for waterproof calendars? The Fairbanks AC is in a non-subsistence area. I've never seen anyone from Lower Yukon selling from outside any meeting these salmon strips. Federal customary trade is unlimited, unregistered and unenforceable.

Prop 84 ACTION: Opposed 0-12
Description: Extend Subdistrict 4B & C drift gillnet area for king salmon
Comments: The federal government has allowed a drift gillnet fishery in this area. Set gillnet and fishwheels are the only legal gear in state waters because they are believed to harvest only local stocks. The committee considered tabling the proposal but concern of the need to address the impact on the lower Yukon. More opportunity that may impact Canadian escapement will most likely result in less harvest opportunity here.

Prop 85 ACTION: Opposed 0-12
Description: Extend Subdistrict 4B & C drift gillnet area for king salmon and fall chum
Comments: This is basically the same as Prop 84, with the addition of fall chum.

Prop 86 ACTION: Opposed 0-12
Description: Allow set gillnet to be tied up during closures in Subdistrict 5D
Comments: Knowing the skill and time it takes to work setnets is part of fishing. If nets are left in the water they face fines and it is likely that some fish will be taken. This doesn't make sense, as there is also debris in the river that will likely get caught up and damage the nets. Concern of lack of knowledge of that fishery was expressed. Concern of the resource presided.

Prop 87 ACTION: Tabled 12-0
Description: Review triggers, GHR, fishing schedule in king salmon management plan
Comments: Taking a look at these tools had support, but fear change in the GHR. A suggestion of using this proposal as a tool for windows and the ability to harvest during the first pulse. The concept of triggers doesn't always apply every year, because every year things are different. For example, the coho fishery came in later last year. Being tied on to a trigger gives guidance to the department, which they must stick to. Not sure we want to have our hands tied so tightly. Triggers would be problematic for king salmon, using the Pilot Station sonar and the errors. Confidence in ADF&G ability to count the salmon accurately right now doesn't exist. The

department needs to bring a clear proposal with a management plan that people can review it and make an informed decision. There is no desire to sign a blank check.

The AC stood down for a dinner break until 7 pm. The committee resumed the meeting at 7:09 pm.

Prop 88

ACTION: Opposed 0-12

Description: Prohibit drift gillnet gear in subsistence and commercial fishing

Comments: Those who currently use this gear would be required to purchase setnets in order to utilize their commercial fishing permits. Not any eddies down there. If these are passed, there is only one place people may be able to use. If this passes, we might as well go and plug up the river. Exaggerations regarding the Lower Yukon river catches that are in error need to be corrected.

Prop 89

ACTION: Opposed 0-12

Description: Restrict the depth of commercial and subsistence 6 inch mesh gillnet to 35 meshes

Comments: Same comments as Prop 88

Nick Andrew joined the meeting after dinner.

Prop 90

ACTION: Opposed 0-13

Description: Prohibit subsistence and commercial gillnet over 6 inch mesh size

Comments: Reduction of the mesh size will not work to get more fish upriver. Fishermen know that small fish go out of the net to help make escapement. Reducing the mesh size will not fix any problem. There is a Federal Subsistence Board proposal that has been deferred until the BOF takes some action. Beginning from Holy Cross during the teleconference this summer, there was eight who said they don't have king gear. Further up, they claim they don't have chum gear. During this summer, we were the target again, not allowing us to fish with king gear, and won't let us sell our kings caught during commercial season. Thanks and praise to ADF&G came from the same people who said they didn't have any gear. The key is they only target kings, but now want chums, too. A three year study on 7, 7 1/2 and 8 inch gear mesh may be the basis of board decision. Many people that benefit from this study also support it. The years of this study were some of the worst producing years for king salmon. Ichthyophonus, uncertain ocean conditions resulting in smaller kings were some of the problems. This is only on three shots, that doesn't give it much credibility. King gear is expensive in an area that has been economically impoverished, in part, by constant regulatory restrictions. If they want this, let them have it, but don't impose these restrictions on the lower river. The seas have cycles. We never used to see martin or beavers. We travel a different direction to harvest wolves. The elders said when they saw some of these kind of changes, they moved to the coast. A D N Aug 24, 2009 article blamed higher acidity from the ocean in the water as the reason for smaller kings, not the fault of Y1 - 3. We catch less than 15,000 kings for subsistence. Once the women say "you're done" the fish no longer go in the nets. Many of the rivers studied do not have mesh net fisheries in existence anymore, yet are still experiencing smaller stocks in the return. Smaller net mesh will most likely result in more chum harvest and earlier closures on the fishery. It removes a management tool that can give protection on some stocks. A man in Fairbanks was touting \$150 nets, saying the lower river people are getting ripped off. What type of material can

he make that cheap of net? How long will that net last? Being forced to replace gear is expensive and burdensome.

Prop 91 ACTION: Opposed 0-13
Description: Limit commercial king harvest during chum directed fisheries until border escapements into Canada are achieved
Comments: There is a belief that the motivation behind this proposal is the ability to harvest federal subsistence fish and customary trade. We are too weather dependent to take so many fish.

Prop 92 ACTION: Opposed 0 - 13
Description: Prohibit sale of kings during non-king directed fisheries
Comments: Not being able to sell kings has really hurt this area. Please see the many comments given during public testimony on this meeting.

Prop 93 ACTION: Opposed 0 - 13
Description: Prohibit retention of kings during chum fisheries
Comments: Same comments as Proposal 92.

Prop 94 ACTION: Opposed 0 - 13
Description: Require windows during lower river commercial and subsistence fishery
Comments: It was stated that this proposal intends to have the commercial and subsistence fishery happen concurrently. There are reasons to have separation in the fishery. This summer some people were out trying to catch their subsistence fish and a commercial vessel came down the river right on top of where they were fishing. This created competition and a disorder.

Prop 95 ACTION: Opposed 0 - 13
Description: Reallocate commercial king salmon fishery
Comments: This proposal smacks of greed. The lower river fish is rich with oils and provides a better quality fish for commercial purposes.

Prop 96 ACTION: Opposed 0 - 13
Description: Reallocate commercial summer chum fishery
Comments: We give away and we get nothing. It doesn't make sense.

Prop 97 ACTION: Opposed 0 - 13
Description: Reallocate commercial fall chum fishery
Comments: Same comments as Prop 96, just a different season. In this, you sell something for nothing, which is not the Yupik way. We don't give away unless we're blood related. The generosity of the Yupik is still alive today.

Prop 98 ACTION: Support 13- 0
Description: Open commercial fishing between Black River and Chris Point
Comments: No one knows why this section of the river was closed. There are some streams and creeks and some good areas which would benefit fishermen. This is the only proposal asking lower river to benefit Y1 fishermen. Many people need that help. Black River was open for

commercial fishing over 50 years. The fishermen have a very small area to fish on Black River, so they are very crowded with nets. Some of the people will go to Chris Point to fish, just to not be so crowded. This will help some of the Scammon Bay people and others along the mouth of the Yukon. Why not extend this out to three miles?

Prop 99

ACTION: Opposed 0-13

Description: Open Andraefsky River to commercial fishing

Comments: The Pitka's Point and St Mary's people spoke to this proposal. Some time back, the local people voluntarily closed that river. There used to be a lot of set netters at the mouth, but they closed it at the request of their elders. Maybe they are trying to use this as a tool to let more fish up the river, but could be wiped out in one season. As far back as I can remember it has not been opened for commercial. ADF&G puts markers right at the mouth, from the south mouth to the north mouth with no fishing in between the lines. The Yukon and the Andraefsky Rivers have moved over the years. More people were starting to fish at the mouth, and so the markers were moved further south to allow fish to reach the spawning grounds. FWS has a counter in the east fork of this river. The mouth has a long sandbar, not like it used to be. The tides are the most important thing on the coasts, bringing fish in with it. It would be kind of nice to see from the barge line how much change has occurred on the Yukon over the last 20 years. It seems like no one is studying that. Even the mission had a cannery at the time this river was fished. The proposers should stay in their own yard – you don't know how we live. I don't know how to live in another area, because I don't live there. We don't have so many choices in the lower river on earning income. If this proposal had come from St Mary's, Pitka's Point or Andraefski, it would have respect.

Meeting stand down at 8:45 pm. We will resume at 9:00 am.

Meeting resumed at 9:15 am with the following members present: Ted Hamilton of Emmonak; Marcel Isadore of Alakanuk; Joseph Bell of Hooper Bay; Marvin Okitkun of Kotlik; Nick Andrew and Joseph Peter of Marshall; Stan Sheppard and Bibianna Sage of Mountain Village; Edward and Amelia Adams of Nunam Iqua; Evan Polty of Pilot Station; John Riley, Sr of Pitka's Point; Charles Paukan, Sr and Sebastian Cowboy of St. Mary's.

There were also a good number of public present.

Ted Hamilton read the NPFMC public notice of evaluating measures to limit chum salmon bycatch in the Bering Sea Pollock Fishery. The council will review the Salmon Bycatch Workgroup discussion paper at their meeting in December 2009. Ted has drafted a letter to the council that needs review and help from the committee.

Tim Andrews spoke about the 15 and 16 year olds and children working in order to help feed their families. The waste going on in the Bering Sea Pollock fishery is having an adverse impact on our fishery. There are no fines imposed on them. The protest fishery took 100 kings, which were distributed to the elders. An arrest was made, and these fish were not being wasted. This is a huge disparity. Over 60% of our diet is fish, and 80% of that is salmon. People in the Lower Yukon realized this summer just how important kings are both for commercial, but even more

importantly for subsistence. Clean up of the Pollock fishery MUST occur. This is a multiple angled approach to the Pollock fishery.

Magnuson/Stevens Act protected 200 miles of waters from the foreign entities that were harvesting huge amounts of salmon. We don't want to throw out the Magnuson/Stevens Act, but rather make it work for us.

John Riley - Some of those boats taking Pollock are big enough to fit one of our villages. They hired local people to throw chums away. How many years have they been throwing our kings away? We must write down everything we catch. We are constantly targeted. What is wrong with coming home and writing it on the calendar? They not only throw some away, but eat them too. Native law is not to waste any fish or game. Where is the help? When will we get help? My right of life is being too often and too much violated.

Edward Adams remembers the teleconference we had. Senator Inouye from Hawaii mentioned that if we need help, come to him and he will do anything he can to help us. In some ways, we need to level things and look to a higher authority to do it.

Alexie Walter has gone to testify many times of the hard times we are facing. I won't give up, but will keep talking. They have heard us how many years? We are always waiting for someone to take action on what we are saying. Corporations have to fund raise and pay good money just to go to these meetings. He has met someone from Greenpeace who expressed interest in coming to help, but only by invitation. We know when the abundance of kings is en route – don't let them fish at that time. If things are status quo, we'll be back again talking about it. I hate to beg, but we are at the point to beg.

Stan Sheppard – There was talk about how to address the Lower Yukon committee. Greenpeace has a lot of say so, almost getting run over by the big boats, yet they are still out there. They are more focused on North Pacific and Area M. After Area M agreed to cut down their harvest, the kings were returning. The salmon and birds come to raise their young and return. Just like it is illegal to tamper with the baby birds, it should be illegal to tamper with the baby salmon.

William Andrew – We have obligations that are for the best interest of our people. You make leaders by sending a strong statement, whether by one or by a thousand. We need the voice to take the message for our people. We have representatives in state government, AVCP and their attorneys. These people have obligations to us. We have 56 villages, but sadly, our lawmakers are susceptible to the same greed as others. The moose, birds and salmon sustain us. They have educated scientists. We have elder knowledge – they are the local experts. 100% of the time, the elders know what is going to occur in the upcoming season. As you return to your villages, send a resolution to our bigger brother – AVCP and those others to ask them to use those bigger resources to remember their obligation to us. We have the power to shut you down. If it takes us sending that message, we will. We have obligation to put food on our table.

Sebastian Cowboy – The young people are beginning right now to carry on this fight. Harry Wilde and I won't be here for long. He stayed in a Kodiak B&B and the owner used to commercial fish. There were big boats in the boat harbor there that are taking over our fisheries.

Lower Yukon Fish & Game Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes of October 7-8, 2009

We have learned that Yukon fish are swimming in Kuskokwim River. Native elders say – go out in the country and get what you need only. Do not waste food or time. In future, the fish will be hard to get. Years ago there was hardly any fish in Yukon and Kuskokwim. We have to get help. The one resolution I see is that tribal governments are recognized by the government and AVCP is recognized. Starting in 1975, the regional corporations were established. We need to get the voice of the villages to be stronger. Thank you to the younger people and the elders that have come to show their support of what we are trying to do. We have to work together. Thanks for Harry Wilde being here.

Tim Andrew – there has been an incredible amount of press coverage of the subsistence fishery mostly due to the protest fishery that occurred. This has raised the awareness of the public of this issue. Many on the web have expressed support of the subsistence fishery and others have stated NPFMC made a mistake in their management. The commitment to their people was their motivation – not greed. We need to revisit our priorities. If we don't stand up and make a statement, they will continue to trample on us and impact our ability to feed our families. AVCP is responsible to all these villages – to the people. Quyaná for those brave individuals who took that stand for their people and their children.

Gene Sandone – Asked for a show of hands for how many did not meet their king salmon subsistence needs? Almost everyone raised their hands. Asked for a show of hands for how many did not have enough opportunity to meet their king salmon subsistence needs. Again, many raised their hands and that truth will reach the board. The federal government is also responsible to make sure you get your subsistence needs met. You need to participate in the public process. There is a need for people to step up and speak up. I am concerned that next year will be even fewer returns. Escapement goals are what the BOF look at and is usually a range. There are people taking 500 – 700 kings, making strips and that is where some of the fish are going. Fish taken that are not the target must be forfeited.

Leslie Hunter – Thinks maybe Greenpeace can go boating around those Pollock fishing vessels.

Nick Andrew, Jr – Welcomes the Lower Yukon Fish & Game Advisory Committee to Marshall. We appreciate that you chose Marshall to have your meeting. This summer was very challenging for all our people. Smoke houses were empty in mid-June. Usually by then, all our subsistence needs are met. We were told we should harvest other fish. Nothing compares to our king salmon. Women he spoke to with voices shaking, asking how am I going to feed my family? We did not act blindly – we looked for escapement numbers, traditional data and tried to act responsibly – not to diminish the run. As we prepared for the protest, we asked the community for support. Marshall is about 400 people. Half of the people didn't agree and reported us, called us criminals. We saw beyond the horizon to see the future of the fishery, the injustices of the state and federal managers, the injustice of our former Governor who refused to acknowledge that we were in a crisis. We questioned whether or not it was the right thing to do, and said yes – because as Yupik Eskimos, our people have been here since time immemorial. That means the way we live, feed ourselves and exist predates the establishment of modern America. So we went out with volunteers, expecting to be cited and perhaps leaving the village in handcuffs. The Lord was on our side that day. We felt like the lowest form of criminal that evening, but we provided for the elders who can't provide for themselves, the widows, the

disabled. We made sure those people had at least some fish to put away. Then we got together and decided what we did was right. We took on the system – the state and federal fishery management and sent a strong message to the rest of the world, that no we will not sit idle and quiet as an injustice is happening. We could have all been cited. There was an eleven year old boy with them who said he was not scared. This was not for the here and now, it was for the future and his words woke him up. If this had not been done, we'd still be fighting for handouts, and leftovers. All our tribes are federally recognized with sovereignty. Part of sovereignty is fighting for your rights. YK Delta eats more wild food than any other place in the state or even in the nation. That very right can't be taken away. In the near future, if anymore injustices are happening, you have every right to contest those regulations because of tribal sovereignty. Many people don't understand what that means. Our populations are ballooning which is why we need to address these managing agencies and take a stand. Please, tell your tribal councils and let your people know you are Yupik.

Edward Adams – He is AVCP board member and has been a leader for Nunam Iqua for 30 years. That takes commitment and he has never given up. You have to keep after what you are going for. AVCP needs support from the communities. He appreciates the new grandpa here and Tim for his work and standing up. Sometimes we get just enough in attendance to have a quorum, still we try to get the work done. Later on, we get complaints – tribal council / school board / city is not taking care of this... He is glad to hear what the elders have to say, because it reflects what is in my heart. What is in my heart is not written down on paper.

Paul Beans – Declaration of the disaster was in October 2008. Mountain Village has put together a fishery working group that can and will send in their comments. More of the villages perhaps can also put together these types of resolutions. Hiring a lawyer or others that can help address these issues on the Yukon. It costs money to have these meetings and communication always pose problem.

Ted Hamilton read the NPFMC letter draft. We will plan to hold a teleconference meeting so that members can see the letter and provide input. Some of the bullet items can be removed, others expanded upon. Maybe we used a white man bandage and we should have used a Yupik bandage to make sure it healed. The Marshall people are heroes to the Lower Yukon because they were the only ones willing to take a stand for what was needed. We will feed our people, even if it means we go to jail or have things confiscated. Those are material things that can be replaced. They did not break any Yupik law – to take care of their own. When people get stuck over here, they become Yupik. This letter was tabled until the teleconference.

The manipulation of the information that occurs in testimony only confuses people. Ted has witnessed how some people pick and choose information out of a document, without taking the whole meaning of the document and treating it like a Bible. After awhile, he realized that style of testimony isn't for the resource, it is only for that individual. When we take away the top layer we are all the same. We need to eat, sleep and pray.

We had a discussion of the advisory committee system and separating the committee into more of the local villages. They are not able to meet, they are outnumbered by upriver committees and represent the same number of people. They are not getting their subsistence needs met. One of

the concerns is missing the valuable input from the elders that gather. One suggestion was keeping in Y1, Y2, Y3 committees. Another was dividing in half or in fourth. Then when we come together at board meetings, we will be more developed. Yupik people always surprise me.

Sherry Wright explained the process to establish a new Fish & Game Advisory Committee.

There are both pros and cons to splitting up the AC.

More testimony time before the board

The ability for limited staff to attend meetings and the time needed for multiple meetings

Travel during winter between villages and the cost associated with that travel.

The combined knowledge gained by all the villages and their elders attending

We need to do our work ahead of time and send the work in to the appropriate board

We are appointed by our tribal council, so we should see what they think about this idea of dividing Y1, Y2 and Y3.

One strong voice from every village on the Yukon allows us to look at the issues broadly.

Will the split cause villages to start from ground zero

Will our meetings move forward or will we lose the momentum that has been built?

We realize other ACs are getting almost 3 hours to set before the boards, while the Lower River gets 15 minutes.

Thanks for those who have been involved in the process for years. Harry Wilde went alone years ago, because he experienced hunger and saw the need to stay involved. People were afraid to spend their own money to help, but he stayed. We have one voice because we are one people. Apologies were offered for not standing with him all these years and appreciation of the young people who are coming today. It is very troubling to be regulated out of our own back yard.

Nick Andrew – Only having one meeting per year is not enough, but two meetings per year might be enough. The advisory committee members are selected by the native council, which are federally recognized. The one meeting per year only opens the door. At least two meetings will allow the door to open. Grants from federal and state are hard to get, but we need to find a way to have at least two meetings per year.

Rules can be changed. The migratory bird act was cited as one example. Years ago they were considered criminal for harvesting birds. It will take the Pollock fishery two years to change. Magnuson Stevens act can be changed to make immediate change to their bycatch.

Harry Wilde – For thousands of years, native Alaskans have harvested fish & wildlife. The federal government began management, then in 1971 ANSCA was passed to allow lands and nearly 1 billion dollars, to protect subsistence rights of Alaskan natives. Title 8 of ANILCA also gives priority for subsistence on federal public land. What makes the Lower Yukon critical right now

Tim Andrew – Within AVCP, there are five ACs: Central Bering Sea, Lower Yukon, Stoney River, Middle Kuskokwim, Lower Kuskokwim. He discussed some of the logistical issues with

developing Fish & Game Advisory Committees. Be sure to send out resolutions and speak to your legislators about equitable funding for meetings and representation.

Board of Game proposals

Proposal 35:

Action: Support 11-0

Revisit the ANS for moose in GMU 18, 19, and 21

Comments: Amy Marsh of Subsistence Division provided a report on ANS for moose in GMU 18. Low water affects the number of moose seen. The current number does not accurately reflect the amount that is needed for people, particularly in years of low salmon returns like this past summer. Emmonak alone harvested 135 moose in 2008. That is just one community in Unit 18. The opportunity to get moose more locally, the opportunity to harvest and the need to limit other users in order to meet our needs is important considerations. If people are coming on tribal land, it is important to get some compensation. As the planes fly over, they are driving the moose further away, making local harvest more difficult. One of the most important tools you have when you go hunting is your paper and pen. If you don't recognize them, go up to them find out who they are, why are they there and why are they trespassing on our tribal lands? Wildlife enforcement needs to be sensitive to the fact people are camping waiting for the moose to come and even their planes are landing, driving the moose away. We are only given a few days to hunt and don't need the harassment. Moose populations seem to be rising. If this year is like last year, we'll have lots of snow and difficulty in harvest. Prefer that sport hunters work with Native Corporations. The proposal needs a lot of thought. GMU 18 is a very large area. Perhaps dividing up the ANS below Mountain Village having one number, above Mountain Village another number, letting the Kuskokwim figure out their own number. 80 – 100 moose is just a "cup of soup". I see lots of moose experts that couldn't even become a guide, but would be much better guides than the ones I see on TV. Bigger bull moose around Marshall are further back. If we eliminate those younger bull calves, we'll have nothing but females who won't produce any calves. Changes on the moose hunting harvest need to be made. It took almost 13 days to get a moose and most he saw was young bulls with their Momma's. Nothing is easy that you want – it takes effort. Young bulls are easier to catch because they are not educated yet. It's sad to hear about opening up young bull season.

The next meeting of the Lower Yukon Fish & Game Advisory Committee will be via teleconference on October 19 at 10 am in order to prepare comments for the Board of Game proposals. Hopefully, the proposal books will be available at that time. Agenda will also include discussion on the draft letter to send NPFMC, who is willing and available to attend the upcoming board meetings and where and when we will hold the next LYAC meeting.

If you'd like to contact Gene Sandone, he can be reached at 631-6033. He has offered his assistance to the people here.

Minto Nenana AC Comments on AYK BOF 2009-2010 Proposals

RECEIVED

NOV 24 2009

The committee voted on AYK Fisheries proposals:

Proposal 64 Supported Unanimously. (Minto Flats Northern Pike Management Plan. Align areas in the Minto Flats Northern Pike Management Plans.)

The committee liked a conservative approach to pike management.

Proposal 65 Supported Unanimously – With amendment of 10 per day, and 20 total in possession. (Minto Flats Northern Pike Management Plan. Establish subsistence daily household limit for winter pike fishery.)

The committee offered the amendment because they thought that 25 per day and 50 in possession was excessive.

Proposal 83 Supported Unanimously. (Subsistence Fishing Permits. Require recording subsistence harvest on catch calendars.)

The committee said that you have to report commercial fish, so you should report subsistence fish. The Canadians are suffering from loss of salmon and this might help track where they really go.

Proposal 84 No Action. (Lawful gear and gear specifications. Extend Subdistricts 4-B and 4C drift gillnet area for king salmon.)

This will open up more drift gill net fishing, but they do not take very many. It increases efficiency. There are Federal permits for drift fishing. This is an intercept fishery. **No action** because we don't want to endorse stuff we don't know a lot about, and the resulting effects.

Proposal 85 No Action. (Lawful gear and gear specifications. Extend Subdistricts 4-B and 4C drift gillnet area for kings and fall chum.)

No Action for the same reasons as # 84.

Proposal 86 Oppose Unanimously (Lawful gear and gear specifications. Allow set gillnets to be tied up during closures in subdistrict 5-D)

They should pull their nets like everyone else. Impossible to enforce. People tie nets up differently. Therefore some could be "loosened" a bit and still catch fish.

Proposal 87 No Action, but offered ideas. (Yukon River King Salmon Management Plan. Review triggers, GHR, fishing schedule in king salmon management plan)
General comments included: Smaller nets catch smaller fish, so big fish can get through. Downriver folks say that fish fall out of smaller nets and die. Otherwise, not comments on this proposal.

Proposals 88, 89, 90, 92 Supported Unanimously. (No gill net fishing on entire drainage, restrict depth, restrict mesh, restrict sale of kings during non-king directed fisheries)

1/2

AC Comment #

2

Our proposals. We still support them and feel them to be necessary to recover the fishery on the Yukon River.

Proposal 91 No Action (Yukon River Summer Chum Salmon Management Plan. Limit commercial king harvest during chum directed fisheries)

Proposal 93 Opposed Unanimously (Yukon River King Salmon Management Plan. Prohibit retention of kings during chum directed main stem fisheries)
This would allow a lot of wonton waste.

Proposal 94 No Action. (Yukon River King Salmon Management Plan. Require windows schedule during lower river commercial fishery).

Proposal 95.No Action. (Yukon River King Salmon Management Plan. Reallocate commercial king salmon harvest)
Comments included: We cannot take away from them to feather our nests. This proposal will just divide us further. A better way to manage the fishery is to change escapement goals and have cutbacks throughout the river. That is the right thing to do.

Proposal 96 & 97 No Action. (Yukon River Chum reallocation for summer and fall chum)
Same reasons as 95.

Proposal 98 No Action. (Fishing districts and subdistricts. Open commercial fishing between Black River and Chris point)
No action. This does not affect us. It is not our business.

Proposal 99 No Action. (Closed waters. Open Adreafsky River to commercial fishing).
No action. This is not our business. Fairbanks AC should not come up with this either.

Proposal 100. Support Unanimously. (Seasons, bag, possession and size limits and methods and means in the Tanana River Management Area. Close the Tok River drainage to sport fishing for salmon.
Comments. This will be a conservation step.

Fairbanks Advisory Committee
Recommendations to the Board of Fisheries on Arctic Yukon Kuskokwim (AYK)
Proposals
January, 2010

Recommendations were unanimous unless otherwise noted. Twelve members were present and voting.

49. Support
50. Support
51. Support
52. Support
53. Support
54. No action.
55. No action.
56. Oppose 10-2.
57. Support
58. This proposal would allow the use of bait at Fielding Lake most of the winter. The committee opposed this because the current bait restriction is only three years old, and we can't determine the impact. The lake trout population estimate in Fielding Lake in 2000 was 264 fish.
59. Oppose.
60. Oppose. Restrictive regulations were just put in place on Harding during the last cycle, and the committee wanted to see how those regulations worked before changing them.
61. This ADFG proposal would increase the bag limit at Volkmar Lake to three pike. The FAC believed this could result in excessive pressure, but also recognized the opportunity for liberalized harvest. FAC amended proposal of two fish with one over 30". Spearing should remain legal with a two fish bag limit.
62. Support.
63. Support.
64. This FAC proposal to limit subsistence harvest in the Minto winter pike subsistence fishery was amended to 10 fish daily and 20 in possession to bring

our proposal in alignment with the recommendation of the Minto-Nenana AC and the Tanana Manley Rampart AC.

65. Support.
66. No action.
67. Support.
68. This proposal would allow rod and reel subsistence fishing – Norton Sound area. The committee opposes because sport fishing licenses are available for \$5, and rod and reel have never been considered subsistence gear until approximately 2001 for the Nome area.
69. The proposal also expands hook and line subsistence, but excepts the Unalakleet River presumably because non-locals harvest fish from that river. This proposal appears to have a discriminatory basis, and FAC opposed.
70. No action.
71. No action. Leave it up to local AC.
72. Oppose.
73. No action.
74. No action.
75. No action.
76. No action.
77. No. action
78. No action.
79. No action.
80. Support.
81. Support. This proposal would restore traditional days of subsistence fishing.
82. Support. This promotes consistency with upriver districts. Everybody fishes at the same time.
83. Support. Use of catch calendars to report subsistence harvest and amend to require catch calendars returned by mail, postage pre-paid by October 31.
84. Oppose. This proposal would make it easier to target upriver fish.

85. Oppose. This proposal would make it easier to target upriver fish.
86. Support.
87. Support.
88. See 87. These proposals, 88, 89 and 90 are recommendations to incorporate into the plan.
89. See above.
90. See above.
91. Support, but prefer 92.
92. Support
93. Oppose.
94. FAC proposal to make permanent what the Department did in 2009, and amend the window schedule to specify two 18-hour periods per week in lower Yukon (Districts 1, 2, and 3). Repeal (e) and amend d(2) to specify two 18-hours (instead of 36).
95. Support.
96. Support.
97. Support.
98. Oppose. This proposal seeks to expand the commercial fishery. This is a fully allocated fishery and this proposal violates the Board's mixed stock fisheries' policy, 5 AAC 39.220(d).
99. Support. The lower Yukon region should manage a terminal fishery within their own boundaries on a sustainable basis.
100. Support.
- 193-194. See 96-97.
199. Support.

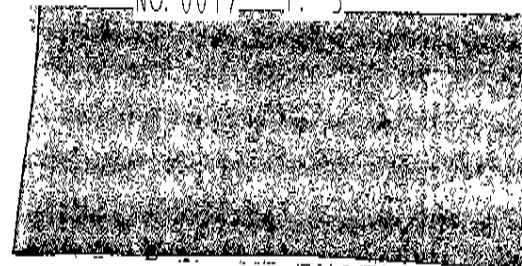
Late Comment(s) for the Board of Fish

- a. The FAC chair has designated Mike Kramer and Virgil Umphenour as our representatives to the FB meeting in Fairbanks January 26 – 31, 2010. They are authorized to negotiate and fully participate in committee, testimony and other activities of the Board.
- b. The FAC offers the report on Cook Inlet Chinook Management from 1981 and requests that it be distributed to the Board members and staff as appropriate.

Submitted by:

Raymond Heuer, Chairman

Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee



Report
to

Alaska Board of Fisheries
January, 1981

A Review of Gill Net Mesh Selectivity Studies
As Related to the Chinook Salmon Fisheries of Cook Inlet, Alaska

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Division of Commercial Fisheries
Support Building
Juneau, Alaska 99801

INTRODUCTION

Cook Inlet chinook salmon (Oncorhynchus tshawytscha) stocks (as well as other Alaskan chinook stocks) have a long history of personal and commercial use. Actual commercial harvest levels have been well-documented for almost 100 years (Table 1), whereas personal utilization levels have not been particularly well-documented. Despite the lack of documentation, it has been generally accepted that personal use fisheries harvested a few thousand chinook annually (Appendix VI). Cook Inlet chinook salmon stocks produced a commercial average yield of about 60,000 fish annually prior to 1940, in addition to at least a modest level of personal use. It appears that for nearly half a century this 60,000 fish harvest closely approximated the maximum sustained yield for these stocks. The vast majority of the Cook Inlet chinook harvest was based upon Susitna River stocks that were harvested prior to July 1 (Appendix III). Increasingly larger commercial harvests, which began in 1941 and which reached a peak of almost 190,000 chinook harvested in 1951, reduced the number of chinook escaping the fishery and reaching their tributary streams to spawn. Throughout the 1950's and early 1960's, the annual commercial harvest of Cook Inlet chinook steadily declined while an increase in fishing effort took place which further reduced annual chinook salmon escapement levels. By 1963 it was clearly recognized that Susitna River chinook salmon stocks had been overharvested and that they had been reduced to a critically low level of abundance.

Since 1963, increased protection has been extended to Cook Inlet chinook salmon stocks by the Board of Fisheries. Board action has progressively deferred the opening date and amount of fishing time allowed for commercial fishing in the

Table 1. Cook Inlet Commercial Chinook Salmon Harvests by Year with Decade Averages.

Year	Harvest in 1000's	Decade Average	Year	Harvest in 1000's	Decade Average
1893	30.0				
1894	15.5				
1895	25.2				
1896	18.1				
1897	14.1				
1898	16.4				
1899	17.1				
1900	26.7	20.4			
1901	34.3				
1902	49.0				
1903	66.0				
1904	30.1				
1905	17.7				
1906	22.4				
1907	62.9				
1908	33.8				
1909	59.6				
1910	49.0	42.5			
1911	55.8				
1912	47.9				
1913	63.7				
1914	47.6				
1915	83.8				
1916	62.9				
1917	65.5				
1918	34.9				
1919	23.8				
1920	39.6	52.6			
1921	13.9				
1922	31.0				
1923	29.9				
1924	27.0				
1925	51.0				
1926	75.6				
1927	87.4				
1928	69.9				
1929	67.7				
1930	72.3	52.6			
1931	51.4				
1932	70.9				
1933	59.3				
1934	72.4				
1935	75.1				
1936	81.1				
1937	86.0				
1938	57.7				
1939	52.7				
1940	63.0	67.0			
			1941	104.8	
			1942	95.2	
			1943	111.4	
			1944	85.2	
			1945	69.2	
			1946	64.3	
			1947	106.8	
			1948	106.0	
			1949	111.3	
			1950	162.9	101.7
			1951	187.5	
			1952	74.5	
			1953	89.4	
			1954	65.3	
			1955	46.5	
			1956	65.3	
			1957	42.8	
			1958	22.8	
			1959	32.8	
			1960	27.5	65.4
			1961	19.8	
			1962	20.3	
			1963	17.6	
			1964	4.6	
			1965	9.8	
			1966	9.6	
			1967	8.0	
			1968	4.6	
			1969	12.5	
			1970	8.5	11.5
			1971	19.8	
			1972	16.2	
			1973	5.3	
			1974	6.8	
			1975	4.9	
			1976	11.3	
			1977	15.0	
			1978	19.0	
			1979	15.0	
			1980	12.9	12.6

1/ Preliminary data.

**SOURCES: Edfelt, Larry, STATISTICAL HISTORY OF ALASKA SALMON CATCHES, 1973, ADF&G, Juneau (through 1971); ADF&G Statistical Leaflets 25 through 29 (1972 to 1976); ADF&G computer summaries (1977 - 1978); and ADF&G catch estimates (1979 - 1980).

Northern District of Cook Inlet to provide higher escapement levels of chinook salmon into the Susitna River. Additionally, the Board has decreased the maximum mesh size legally allowed in the gill net fishery to 6 inches or less (Appendix I). Exceptions to these continuous restrictive measures occurred in 1971 and 1972 when two 12-hour commercial fishing periods were allowed in the Northern District during early June, i.e. the time frame during which significant numbers of Susitna chinook salmon are available in Cook Inlet for harvest. In 1971 and 1972, a minimum mesh size of 7 inches was allowed during these early June openings which resulted in harvests of 4,800 and 3,700 chinook salmon respectively.

Although, as indicated earlier, harvest of chinook salmon by personal use fisheries has not been excessively high, this harvest has nonetheless been particularly important to villagers and homesteaders of the Cook Inlet Basin. Regulations affecting the personal use fisheries have also become more restrictive through the years. Prior to 1959, the personal use fishery was allowed both in saltwaters and in freshwater tributary streams and lakes of Cook Inlet. In 1959, regulations were modified to restrict the personal use fisheries in freshwater to the main stem of the Susitna River. In 1960, the main stem Susitna personal use fisheries were also disallowed. Saltwater personal use fisheries have continued in Cook Inlet since 1959 although area closures have been enacted. Legal seasons, mesh sizes, and other regulations affecting personal use in saltwater have closely coincided with commercial regulations and have been enacted, at least partially, to assist in the protection of chinook salmon stocks.

Through the years, sport fisheries in Upper Cook Inlet tributary streams have developed into very important recreational fisheries for chinook salmon. The Board of Fisheries has enacted various restrictive measures affecting these sport fisheries based upon conservation concerns, including various stream quotas and, at times, total closures have been enacted to maximize chinook escapement levels.

As a result of the Board's various measures restricting commercial, personal use, and sport fisheries through the years, the effective spawning level of chinook salmon in the Susitna River Drainage has markedly increased for the years 1976 through 1979 to an average level of almost 90,000 (Table 2). Concurrent with this marked improvement in the Susitna chinook salmon reproductive potential, the commercial, personal use, and sport fisheries targeting on Susitna chinook stocks have taken a minimum average harvest of 10,000 Susitna chinook since 1979 (Table 3). Based upon these recent Susitna River chinook escapements and upon utilization and exploitation levels, it is the opinion of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game that some additional utilization of Susitna River chinook salmon stocks is consistent with conservation guidelines. However, additional utilization must be carefully regulated to insure long term sustained yield of these valuable stocks which have a history of over-exploitation. Some additional utilization of these stocks has occurred and is likely to continue to occur due to recent court action that mandated a subsistence harvest allocation of 3,000 chinook salmon for the village of Tyonek. From a Department standpoint, any additional harvest allowed should be dependent upon; (1) the run strength of the various Susitna River chinook salmon stocks; (2) the efficiency of gear; and (3) the level of effort imposed upon each component stock.

Table 2. Susitna drainage observed and expanded total estimates of chinook escapement levels.

Year	Observed Count	Expanded Estimate of Escapement
1973	13,615	15,000
1974	12,548	15,000
1975	9,209	11,500
1976	56,288	71,200
1977	91,502	118,620
1978	60,728	81,176
1979	55,579 ^{1/}	77,200
1980	No est.	No est.

^{1/} Includes sport fishery harvest.

Table 3. Minimum Estimates of Susitna River Chinook Harvests, 1976 through 1980.

Chinook Harvest	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980
Commercial Fishery	Neg ^{a/}	Neg ^{a/}	Neg ^{a/}	1,100 ^{b/}	500 ^{b/}
Subsistence Fishery	Neg ^{c/}	Neg ^{c/}	Neg ^{c/}	Neg ^{d/}	2,000 ^{e/}
Sport Fishery	Closed	Closed	Closed	7,900	8,800
Total	Neg	Neg	Neg	9,000	11,300

a/ From 1976 through 1978, the Northern District of Cook Inlet was open to commercial fishing only from July 1 until closed by emergency order and it is assumed that virtually all Susitna chinook passed through the district prior to the opening date.

b/ In 1979 and 1980, the Northern District of Cook Inlet was opened from June 25 through August 15 and all chinook caught in that district prior to July 1 were assumed to be of Susitna origin.

c/ From 1976 through 1978, the Cook Inlet subsistence fishery was opened on July 28 and closed on September 20 and it was assumed that the Susitna stock chinook subsistence harvest was less than 100 per year as actual harvest records by date were not required.

d/ In 1979, the Cook Inlet subsistence fishery opened on June 23 and closed on August 15 and it was assumed that the Susitna stock of chinook in the subsistence harvest was less than 100 as actual harvest records by date were not available.

e/ In 1980, a subsistence fishery at Tyonek was allowed from May 23 to June 15 and it was assumed that all chinook harvested were bound for the Susitna, whereas, the rest of Cook Inlet opened on June 21 and closed on August 15 and it was assumed that the Susitna stock harvest by this later fishery was less 100.

Mesh size restrictions were not addressed by the recent court action that allowed additional subsistence utilization of Susitna chinook. In addition to increased utilization of Susitna stocks by the subsistence fishery, commercial fishermen of Upper Cook Inlet have requested the Board of Fisheries to provide an additional allocation of Susitna chinook to the commercial fishery.

This report reviews the biological ramifications and the Department's concerns and recommendations regarding mesh size regulations for any potential gill net fisheries which may be allowed which would target on Cook Inlet chinook salmon.

REVIEW OF GILL NET MESH SIZE REGULATIONS,
AND THEIR EFFECT ON CHINOOK SALMON POPULATIONS

Mesh size restrictions for Alaskan commercial fisheries have been employed continuously since statehood by the Board of Fisheries. The rationale for these various restrictions has been quite complex and has been based upon local area fishery concerns, either biological or socioeconomic in nature. A summary of mesh restrictions is presented in Appendix I of this report. Mesh size in gill nets primarily affects the size of fish captured, regardless of species. Because the age at sexual maturity varies both between and within chinook salmon populations, particularly between males and females, the actual sex ratio and age class composition of any chinook escapement can be significantly affected by the mesh size regulations pertaining to any gill net fishery that the chinook population passes through. Likewise, any regulation that affects the composition of the effective breeding population of any species usually causes long term long term changes in the genetic composition of that population and certainly has the potential to alter the long term yield derived from the exploited stocks.

Effect of Mesh Size on Chinook Size and Age Composition

Mean lengths and weights of chinook salmon caught with gill nets of various mesh sizes are quite different, i.e., smaller mesh nets show a smaller average size of chinook captured. In addition, smaller mesh gill nets capture chinooks over a broader range of sizes than do larger mesh nets. Data to support these statements are provided in Appendices II, III, IV, IX, X, and XI.

Taku River studies conducted in 1953 (Appendix II) showed that 9 inch mesh tended to select chinook salmon of about 873 mm while the average length of chinook caught in 6 inch mesh was 793 mm. In 1975 a similar study (Appendix III) showed the average length of chinook caught in various mesh sizes to be as follows: 5-3/8" mesh - 671.4; 6-3/8" mesh - 731.7 mm; 8-1/2" mesh - 796.5. On the Stikine River (Appendix IV) mean lengths of chinook caught by various mesh sizes were: 6-3/8" mesh - 733.7 mm; 6-1/2" mesh - 730.9 mm; 8-1/2" mesh - 839.5 mm. Similar trends were exhibited when average weight data from 1969 to 1977 for chinook salmon harvested in Southeast Alaska, District 108 were analyzed (Appendix XI). Prior to statistical week 25 when 8-1/2" mesh nets were extensively used, the average weights were slightly under 20 pounds, whereas, following week 25 when the legal maximum mesh size was 6", the average weight dropped to about 10 pounds. These types of data have led to the development of simple mathematical models which permit the estimation of the mean length of fish captured based solely on the mesh size of the gill nets used (Appendix IX).

As stated and documented elsewhere in this paper, age at maturity for chinook salmon is quite variable and is related to sex and other factors (Appendices II, III, IV, IX, and X). Because chinook salmon maturing at an older marine age are,

on the average, considerably larger than those chinook salmon maturing earlier, selective action of gill nets also affects the age composition of the resulting gill net catch and the age composition of the resultant escapements. Data collected from Yukon River chinook salmon indicated that the average age of chinook captured with 5-1/2" mesh was about one-half a year less than the average age captured with 8-1/2" gear (Appendix X).

Effect of Mesh Size on Sex Ratio

Fishery biologists have long recognized that the actual mesh size utilized by gill net fisheries affects the resultant sex ratio of chinook salmon populations on the spawning grounds. Age at maturity for chinook salmon is variable and is related to sex among other factors. On the average, male chinook salmon mature at a younger age and are therefore typically smaller than females. This general trend is also exhibited by Susitna River chinook salmon runs (Appendices VI and VII). Smaller mesh gill nets (5-1/2" - 6") tend to selectively capture smaller chinook salmon which are primarily males while larger mesh nets (8-1/2" - 9") tend to select for larger salmon which are primarily females. This effect can be quite pronounced.

Selected studies (Appendices II, III, IV, IX, and X) show that in all cases, males considerably outnumber females in catches made with small mesh gear. In the Yukon River, the sex ratio of chinook salmon sampled with 5-1/2" vs 8-1/2" gear has averaged 310♂:100♀ and 150♂:100♀ respectively during the years 1969 through 1979 (Appendix X).

From studies conducted in the Taku River in 1953, sex ratios of 180♂:100♀ for 6" mesh and 76♂:100♀ for 9" mesh were reported (Appendix II). On the Stikine River in 1976, chinook salmon harvested with 6-3/8" mesh gill nets exhibited a sex ratio of 209♂:100♀ while the sex ratio in 8-1/2" mesh gear was 93♂:100♀ (Appendix IV). While these and other data exhibit significant variability in sex ratios of chinook salmon harvested with various mesh sizes, it is quite clear that small mesh gill nets (5-1/3" - 6") target primarily on males while large mesh (8-1/2" - 9") gill nets select predominantly females. Analysis of Yukon River data, for the period 1970-1978, indicated that the average sex ratio of the spawning population has been approximately 175♂:100♀ for those escapements sampled during carcass surveys. This implies that a serious imbalance in sex ratio has been occurring and that escapement levels observed probably bear little resemblance to actual seeding level in the various spawning grounds.

Effect of Mesh Size On Reproductive Potential and Egg Deposition

Large mesh gill nets tend to harvest larger, hence older, female chinook salmon. Such selectivity also affects the average fecundity of the female chinook spawning population. Several studies have shown that a positive relationship (Appendices VI and IX) exists between length (and weight) per female and fecundity (number of eggs per female). For Cook Inlet chinook salmon stocks, a linear relationship was developed as follows:

$$\text{Number of eggs} = -6314 + 17.4465(\text{length in mm})$$

-Yancey & Thorsteinson

(Appendix VI)

This fecundity relationship and estimates of the average length of chinook harvested in 6" and 8-1/2" gill nets provides the methodology needed to evaluate the effect of mesh size on reproductive potential per female. Thus, it can be estimated that the average female chinook caught in 6" mesh would have an average fecundity of 5218 eggs whereas the average female chinook caught in 8-1/2" mesh would have an average fecundity of 7905 eggs, i.e., about 50% higher reproductive potential.

A primary objective of salmon management in the State of Alaska is to insure adequate chinook seeding levels in the spawning streams, therefore, a worthwhile modeling exercise at this point is to examine the differential effects of mesh size on potential egg deposition. For example, the following calculation compares the probable effect of harvest of 100 Susitna chinook salmon by gill net fisheries employing two different sized mesh. Data cited earlier indicated that male to female ratios for chinook salmon taken in small mesh gill nets averaged about 230♂:100♀ whereas the same ratio observed for large mesh gill nets averaged about 110♂:100♀. Combining these data with average fecundity data for chinook harvested in large mesh versus small mesh gill nets results in an estimated egg loss on the spawning grounds of approximately 400,000 eggs versus 150,000 eggs per 100 chinook salmon harvested with large mesh versus small mesh gill nets respectively (Table 4). This two and one-half fold difference in potential egg deposition on the spawning grounds poses serious questions regarding use of 8-1/2" mesh and its effect on the long term sustained yield for any significant chinook salmon fishery.

Table 4. Effect of mesh size on reproductive potential and egg deposition on chinook salmon.

	MESH SIZE	
	Small Mesh (5½"-6½")	Large Mesh (8½"-9")
Sex Ratio	230♂:100♀	110♂:100♀
Length	730-790 mm	795-875 mm
Average Fecundity	5,200	7,900
Potential Loss ^{1/}	150,000 eggs	400,000 eggs

^{1/} Per 100 chinook salmon harvested.

A second and even more detrimental effect upon reproductive potential and long term sustained yield can result when large mesh gill nets selectively harvest older chinook. An objective of fishery management that leads toward optimal sustained yield is to spread the harvest of any stock across all components of that stock, i.e., age, length, etc. Consequently, gear that tends to spread its harvest over all sizes and ages in proportion to their abundance is advantageous over gear that is selective in its harvest along these lines. This advantage is realized because selective gear, if allowed to operate for a long time, can affect the genetic basis of the population, assuming that the trait or traits being selected for or against are heritable. Age at maturity for chinook has been shown to be a partially heritable characteristic. A prime objective of fishery management for wild stocks is to preserve the genetic basis of wild stocks if possible.

Recently a Canadian fishery biologist has documented a significant decrease in the average length, weight, age, and hence productivity and long term sustained yield, of chinook salmon stocks returning to California, Oregon, Washington, British Columbia, and Southeast Alaska (Ricker, 1980; Appendix V). Data for similar long term studies of chinook salmon sizes in other areas of Alaska were lacking and hence not included in the Ricker report. Ricker has attributed much of this documented change to selective harvesting by both troll and gill net fisheries for older, larger individuals and he has specifically recommended that mesh size for gill net fisheries be regulated such that larger than average individuals are not selectively removed by the fishery and thus be allowed to spawn.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is the recommendation of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game that maximum legal mesh size for any additional gill net fisheries of Cook Inlet be 6 inches. This management strategy will help insure maximum production from chinook salmon reproductive populations as well as assist in protection of the genetic integrity of stocks.

LIST OF APPENDICES

<u>Appendix No.</u>	<u>Name</u>
I	Review of Alaskan Commercial Fishery Gill Net Restrictions, 1960-1980.
II	Taku King Salmon Gill Net Mesh Selectivity Study, 1953.
III	Taku King Salmon Gill Net Mesh Selectivity Study, 1975.
IV	Stikine King Salmon Gill Net Mesh Selectivity Study, 1976.
V	Causes of the Decrease in Age and Size of Chinook Salmon (<u>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha</u>).
VI	The King Salmon of Cook Inlet, Alaska.
VII	Susitna Test Fishing, 1964.
VIII	Susitna Test Fishing, 1965.
IX	Changes in Average Size and Resulting Fecundity of Female Chinook Salmon Harvested with 6" and 8" Mesh Gill Nets.
X	Yukon River Chinook Salmon Study.
XI	Average Weights of Chinook Salmon Harvested in District 108, Southeastern Alaska, by Statistical Week, 1969-1979.

APPENDIX I

Review of Alaskan Commercial
Fishery Gill Net Restrictions, 1960-1980^{1/}

Mesh size restrictions for Alaskan commercial and subsistence salmon gill net fisheries have been in effect since statehood. The Board of Fisheries through the years frequently exercised its regulatory powers to change or modify mesh size regulations and the Board has based its mesh restriction regulations upon data provided by the staff of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and upon needs and desires of the fishing public. Rationale for each of these various regulatory actions can be determined by carefully reviewing prior Board reports and actions although such a statewide review of actual rationale would be very time-consuming and complex. On the other hand, a simple history of these actions as reflected in regulatory booklets through the years can be rather easily summarized. Such a summary has been prepared and is presented in Table I. Those regulations in effect since 1960 that were specific to 8-8½ inch mesh are summarized in Table 2.

^{1/} Taken from: 1960 through 1980 Regulation Booklets, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Regulations of the Alaska Board of Fisheries for Commercial Fishing in Alaska.

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Yukon Flats AC BOF Comments 2009-2010

2009/2010 BOF proposals-AYK Comments

Proposal 81 is where the Yukon river stuff starts

Proposal 81-Clarify subsistence fishing schedule in Subdistricts 4-B and C

no comment

Proposal 82-Modify subsistence fishing schedule in Subdistrict 4A

no comment

Proposal 83-Would require recording subsistence fishing harvest on catch calendars

Oppose proposal due to the amount of restrictions placed on subsistence users

Proposal 84-Extend Subdistricts 4B and 4C drift gill net area for king salmon

Oppose, the people in this area don't drift gillnet, too efficient way of fishing

Proposal 85-Extend Subdistricts 4b and 4C drift gillnet area of kings and fall chum

Oppose- the people in this area don't drift gillnet, too efficient way of fishing

Proposal 86- Allow set gillnets to be tied up during closures in Subdistrict 5D, instead of removed entirely

support- as long as it is not mandatory to tie up nets instead of pulling them

1/2

AC Comment # 4

Proposal 87- did not discuss

Proposal 88- Prohibit drift gill net gear for subsistence and commercial fishing in the entire Yukon drainage

Support- drift gill netting is very effective

Proposal 89- Restrict depth of subsistence and commercial 6 inch mesh to 35 meters in the entire Yukon Drainage

Support-drift gillnetting is very effective

Proposal 90- Prohibit subsistence and commercial gillnets over 6 inch mesh in entire Yukon Drainage

support -because it ties into previous proposal

Proposal 91-Limit commercial king harvest during chum directed fisheries

support- kings are important, and bycatch is not good

Proposal 92-Prohibit the sale of kings during a non-king directed fisheries

support- what is to stop people from targeting kings during a non-king opener

Proposal 93-Prohibit retention of kings during chum directed main stem fisheries for Districts 1-5

Oppose- you don't want to be throwing back dead fish- it is saying it is okay to support want and waste

Proposal 94-Require windows schedule during lower river commercial fishery

need more information on this subject to comment

Proposal 95- Reallocate commercial king salmon harvest

no comment-don't see how we can reallocate something we don't have

Proposal 96- Reallocate commercial summer chum salmon harvest

Proposal 97- Reallocate commercial fall chum salmon harvest

Proposal 98- Open commercial fishing between Black River and Chris Point

Proposal 99- Open Andreafsky River to commercial fishing as a terminal river

Oppose any commercial harvest of any species on the main stem of the Yukon River

Proposal 100- Close the Tok River drainage to sport fishing for salmon

No comment

2/2

ACComment # 4

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**Department of Fish & Game- Middle Yukon Advisory Committee
BOARD MEETING - November 24, 2009**

2010 Board of Fisheries Proposal Book Comments:

Proposal 81:

- Motion: Michael Stickman; 2nd: Charlie Green
- Vote: All in favor

Proposal 82

- Motion to amend for only "chum salmon":
- Motion to adopt amends: Thomas Neglaska; 2nd: Paddy Nollner
- Vote: Amend approved
- Motion: Michael Stickman; 2nd: Leo Lolnitz
- Vote: All in favor

Proposal 83

- Motion: Michael Stickman; 2nd: Fred Huntington Sr
- Vote: All opposed

Proposal 84/85

- Motion: Dick Evans; 2nd: Leo Lolnitz
- Vote: All in favor

Proposal 86

- Motion: Michael Stickman; 2nd: Charlie Green
- Vote: All opposed

Proposal 87

- Motion: Michael Stickman; 2nd: Leo Lolnitz
- Vote: All in favor

Proposal 88/89/90

- Motion: Michael Stickman; 2nd: Fred Huntington Sr
- Vote: All opposed

Proposal 91

- Motion: Michael Stickman; 2nd: Charlie Green
- Vote: All opposed

Proposal 92

- Motion to amend to allow sale if there is a king commercial opener allowed
- Motion to adopt amends: Michael Stickman; 2nd: Paddy Nollner
- Motion: Michael Stickman; 2nd: Leo Lolnitz
- Vote: All in favor

Proposal 93

- Motion: Michael Stickman; 2nd: Charlie Green
- Vote: All opposed

Proposal 94

- Motion: Michael Stickman; 2nd: Charlie Green
- Vote: All opposed

1/2

A/C COMMENT #

5

Proposal 95

- Motion: Michael Stickman; 2nd: Leo Lolnitz
- Vote: All opposed

Proposal 96

- Motion: Michael Stickman; 2nd: Charlie Green
- Vote: All opposed

Proposal 97

- Motion: Michael Stickman; 2nd: Fred Huntington Sr.
- Vote: All opposed

Proposal 98

- Motion: Michael Stickman; 2nd: Dick Evans
- Vote: All opposed

Proposal 99

- Motion: Michael Stickman; 2nd: Fred Huntington Sr.
- Vote: All opposed

Proposal 100

- Motion: Michael Stickman; 2nd: Fred Huntington Sr
- Vote: All opposed

Proposal 193/194/199

- Motion: Charlie Green; 2nd: Michael Stickman
- Vote: All in favor

2/2

A/C COMMENT # 5

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BOARDS

Delta Advisory Committee vote on 2009 Fisheries Proposals

- Proposal#49, 9-0 support**
- Proposal#50, 9-0 support**
- Proposal#51, 9-0 support**
- Proposal#53, 9-0 support**
- Proposal#58, 0-9 oppose**
- Proposal#59, 0-9 oppose**
- Proposal#60, 0-9 oppose**
- Proposal#61, 9-0 support**
- Proposal#62, 9-0 support**
- Proposal#100, 9-0 support**
- Proposal#184, 9-0 support**
- Proposal#189, 0-9-1 oppose**

AC COMMENT # 6

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BOARDS

Tanana Rampart Manley AC BOF Comments 2009-2010**Proposals voted on :**

* 64 Pike bag limit supported – 6 for 0 against the

* 83 immediate recording of fish – failed 0 for 6 against.

Back door attack on legitimate customary trade.

Burden fishermen with requirements that are very time consuming

Those in opposition should not be making legitimate and legal fishing harder as a way to destroy its practice. Instead change the law if they don't like it.

* 84 and 85 Dist 4 driftnet extension - failed 0 for 6 against.

Against for all the reasons that our AC has given for submitting proposal 88 which asks for driftnetting to be stopped in the Yukon River.

Even if it was to be allowed the time has come for all areas to be allowed the right to driftnet not just some areas that raise the most voices. This has produced the current situation where in general the areas of the Yukon where fish are the hardest to catch are not allowed any driftnetting rights.

* 88, 89, 90, 92, submitted jointly by Tanana Rampart Manley AC, Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council, Fairbanks AC, Minto Nenana AC and Ruby AC so we passed again 6 for 0 against - Only issue talked a lot about here was that which was brought up in proposal 90 under "other solutions considered". Members mentioned that there is considerable pressure being brought by commercial interests to try to portray a reduction in mesh size in the 7 to 7 1/2 inch range as a conservation measure.

Stan said in affect it will measurably increase the effectiveness of targeting that size of King salmon that is presently most available for spawning escapement now that we have practically eliminated from the gene pool the older age classes or 40 and 50 pounders and reduced considerably the 30 pounders - Most fishermen currently use 8 to 9 inch mesh which has become ineffective at catching king especially in the upper river. Unless the board is willing to go to a mesh size like 6" that will allow the larger size portion of our damaged run to make it to the spawning grounds than we are better off with the 8 to 9" mesh which doesn't catch the largest fish anymore cause they don't hardly exist and a larger percent of the 20 pounders go right through that anyway.

Aaron said he fished nets all his life and he now uses six-inch mesh as he believes the fish are so small in the upper River that this is the most effective size. Charlie asked that this be explained well at the board of fisheries meeting by the AC representative so that the board does not make a mesh size change in the name of conservation which will just simply further the decline in size of our King salmon.

* 91 bycatch of 3000 king – Motion to support passed 6 for 0 against. Our AC submitted a similar one.

* 95, 96, 97, Adjustments to king, summer chum and fall chum quotas. Motion to support 6 for 0 against. Some members felt some work may be needed on numbers but that these proposals were and far fairer than the completely unfair current allocations.

* 98 open more commercial fishing areas – motion to support failed 0 in favor 6 against.

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Minutes of the Ruby Advisory Committee, January 18, 2010

BOARDS

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm in the Ruby Tribal Office. Members present were Dale Honea, Don Honea, Tim Gervais, Ed Sarten and John Stam. A quorum was established. From USFS were Genny Bryant and Brad Scotten. From the public was Tiffy Williams.

Minutes from the March 26, 2009 meeting were read and approved. Brad Scotten and Genny Bryant reported with power point, maps and graphs the recent Novi moose survey. (22 bulls per hundred cows, 8 yearlings/100 cows, overall a stable moose population.) There were 89 hunters checked in with 28 moose taken, 3 by local hunters. There are 2,300 moose in 8,600 square miles. There are 50-75 wolves in 10 packs in a 4,781 square mile area. Pack-size is moderate and a pack kills one moose per week. Beaver populations were discussed and there was also an interest for a possible wolf trapping clinic.

Next the AYK fishing proposals were discussed and voted on.

Proposal 81. Opposed, unanimous. The people want to retain the ability to fish on the weekend because that is when they have time.

Proposal 83. Approved as ammended, 3 in favor 2 oppose. Ammended so as to require the recording to occur anytime before final processing and taken from obvious view. It was felt that requiring the recording to occur at fishing site was burdensome and unsafe.

Proposal 84. Approved as ammended, unanimous. Ammended so as to include all of 4-B and 4-C. There is no valid reason not to include the portion above the Yuki River.

Proposal 85. Approved as ammended, unanimous. See explanation of proposal 84.

Proposal 87. TNA, unanimous. There was concern that a review should occur with input from fishermen in 4-B,C.

Proposal 88. Opposed, unanimous. Too drastic a measure.

Proposal 89. TNA. unanimous.

Proposal 90. Opposed, 2 neutral 3 opposed. It was felt that having to purchase new nets was to much a hardship.

Proposal 91. Approved, unanimous. The king salmon should be protected with a quota.

Proposal 92. Approved, unanimous. The king salmon should be protected by eliminating the possibility of sale.

Proposal 93. Opposed, unaimous. The resource should never be wasted.

Proposal 94. Opposed, unanimous. Fishing times should be set by a biological clock, not arbitrarily.

Proposal 96. Approved, unanimous. Allocations are heavily favored for the lower river.

Proposal 97. Approved, unanimous. Allocations are heavily favored for the lower river.

Proposal 98. Opposed, unanimous.

Proposal 99 TNA, unanimous.

Lastly, Tim Gervais brought up the subject of recertification of the pollock fishery. He said that WRAC was in the process of writing a letter in opposition and that the RAC should formally support this letter. A vote was taken and unanimously decided to support this letter at a later meeting.

A delegate to the BOF meeting was left open at this time.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 pm.

Submitted by John Stam

A/C COMMENT # 8