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**ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES  
DECEMBER 4-12, 2012  
BRISTOL BAY FINFISH**

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## Comments from the Nushagak Advisory Committee

PART 2: November 20 meeting.

***Bristol Bay Management Plans,  
Genetics (1 proposal)***

**PROPOSAL 57**

**ACTION: No Action- Unanimous**

**DESCRIPTION:** Placeholder for possible regulatory changes based on WASSIP.

**AMENDMENT:**

**DISCUSSION:** ADFG says they have no plans to use it. Concerns expressed for open-ended placeholders. The AC does not want anything major "slipped" into the regulations under this. More strong disappointment expressed for the failure to release the WASSIP study November 19. From what we hear WASSIP suggests little need for action under this proposal for the Nushagak.

***Bristol Bay Management Plans,  
Nushagak-Mulchatna King Salmon Management Plan (4 proposals)***

**PROPOSAL 74**

**ACTION: Adopt Amended 8 Support 1 Oppose**

**DESCRIPTION:** Revise King Salmon Reference Points.

**AMENDMENT: amend proposal 74 to include the ADFG recommended & revised numbers inserted into the Nushagak King Salmon Management Plan**

**DISCUSSION:** It is simpler to go with numbers from new Didson, as long as it is Net Neutral to the plan. After hearing ADFG's explanation during Nov. 16 subcommittee we support it. No more back calculating to old Bendix numbers. Chair supports numbers after reviewing subcommittee notes and recommended numbers.

***Wood River Special Harvest Area Management Plan (4 proposals)***

**PROPOSAL 78**

**ACTION: Adopt Amended 6 Support 3 Oppose**

**DESCRIPTION:** Revise Sockeye Salmon Escapement Reference Points.

**AMENDMENT: amend to reflect only the Didson correction to current goals and to read as follows:**

- \* ) replace old Nushagak goal of 340,000 reds to 380,000
- \* ) replace the old OEG from 235,000 reds to 260,000
- \* ) raise the 1 million OEG trigger to 1.2 million

**DISCUSSION:**

Most AC members were ok with the revisions made for the Didson sonar.

Supporters of amended language:

Some are NOT ok with the use of genetics and revised brood tables, new ADFG escapement goals.

Objections to the new ADFG numbers:

- \* ) many fishers don't like fishing the WRSWA and fear new numbers could make that happen more often.

- \*) when the WRSWA is implemented many set netters can't / won't go there
- \*) when the Ekuk beach closes it stops fish supply for one processor threatening its viability, threatens market for over 90 set net permits.
- \*) some fishers think ADFG's numbers push the run /fishery into a shorter & shorter total time period. Concerned the revised numbers make things worse.
- \*) object to the extra 22K fish included in the revision - significant to fishers income.
- \*) some feel the spawner- recruit data doesn't support the new ADFG numbers
- \*) boats & fishery in WRSWA may be bad for smolts coming out of Wood R.
- \*) big escapements of 2006-07 appeared to produce poor return in 2012

**Opposition to Amended language:**

3 AC members supported ADFG recommended numbers. They opposed 78 as amended.

- \*) We ask biologists to do biology, now let them - they are trying to provide Maximum Sustained Yield as required. That would be best for the fishery long term.
- \*) The amended proposal would be the second board cycle we have blocked ADFG from revising the escapement goals. If we continue to ignore ADFG's best science we could drive the run into the ditch.

**PROPOSAL 79**

**ACTION: Opposed 6 Oppose, 3 Support**

**DESCRIPTION:** Allow separate drift and set gillnet fishing periods in WRSWA, remove all set gear during drift periods.

**AMENDMENT:**

**DISCUSSION:** Problem is congestion among and within gear types. Very few good set net sites and most set netters can't compete or get good site. Set net gear interferes with drift gear. Crowding. Squabbles over set net sites takes up lots of Trooper staff and time. Need to make fishery more fair. Very long discussions on numerous solutions: alternating gear openings, dividing WRSWA in 2 parts, upper and lower, various options for alternating gear types between upper and lower. One gear to each side of the WRSWA.

- \*not enough room for drifters to operate in suggested sections no matter where divided.
- \*a set netter could camp out on a prime location in lower section, skip any openers in the upper section, and thus monopolize the site for the season - so no sharing opportunity.
- \* upper section too small for tenders to access, could be problems delivering fish.
- \* Naknek River Special Harvest Area system (3:1) not likely to work in WRSWA, wouldn't stop the fish.

Several calls for a lottery on set net sits. State won't do lottery, ADFG nor DNR. DNR won't allow site leases. Why not run like big game draw hunts?

No solution ever found workable so opposed proposal. Many ideas not acceptable to one or other gear group, most alternating gear ideas would not stop excess escapement sufficiently.

ADFG can already have gear specific openings without this proposal.

**PROPOSAL 80**

**ACTION: No Action Consensus.**

**DESCRIPTION:** Allow separate drift and set gillnet fishing periods in WRSWA

**AMENDMENT:**

**DISCUSSION:** See Proposal 79 discussions. Also discussed having very short separate openers for each gear type. ADFG would be willing as long as they had very clear and detailed guidelines.

Consensus for no action based on discussions and opposition of 79.