

On-Time Public Comment List
Statewide King and Tanner Crab (except Southeast/Yakutat) and
Supplimental Issues
March 17–21, 2014

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Submitted By
David Daum
Submitted On
2/13/2014 8:53:02 PM
Affiliation
independent

Phone
907-378-8848
Email
david_daum@yahoo.com
Address
1540 Ivans Alley
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709

Proposal 377 – Authorize the use of purse seine gear for the Yukon Area districts 1-3 commercial summer chum salmon fisheries and allow monofilament webbing.

I strongly OPPOSE Proposal 377.

As stated in the Board's proposal, this proposal "must first and foremost ensure continued conservation of Yukon River king salmon, which is a stock of concern". No one can ensure conservation of Yukon River Chinook salmon when monofilament purse seines are used as a capture method, especially in a major free-flowing river. Many of these fish still have over 1,000 miles to swim upstream after release from these lower river fisheries and may experience mortality from stress, oxygen depredation, scale loss, injury, and increased recapture probability. Scientific literature is pretty scarce on the subject of survivability from this gear type, but what little is out there suggest that mortality (immediate and delayed combined) could be well over 50%. The Joint Chinook Technical Committee for the Pacific Salmon Commission in its 1997 report recommended managers use a 49% immediate mortality rate and delayed mortality rates between 1 and 23% when assessing mortality from purse seine releases of Chinook salmon. That's a recommendation of between 50 and 72% mortality rate! For the Yukon, no one knows what the true mortality rate will be, but without any solid, peer-reviewed literature to refute the PCS findings, the Board should assume that at least 50% of these incidentally captured fish will die before reaching distant spawning grounds.

Without extensive monitoring of this fishery (not a part of this proposal), the number of fish captured and released will not be known. Underreporting is very common in unmonitored fisheries and even the Pacific Salmon Commission recognizes that the actual catch can be between 2 to 3 times the reported quantities. Why would the Yukon fisheries be any different? For example, if we apply these data (estimated mortality and under-reporting) to the 2013 Yukon River dip net, beach seine, fish wheel, and gillnet commercial fishery, the 1,125 Chinook salmon reported to be released would actually represent around 3,300 fish. With a mortality rate of at least 50% (that's a total mortality of around **1,650 fish**). Combine that with the fish actually killed in the gillnet fishery (that's 484 fish reported multiplied by 3 for underreporting and the actual gillnet mortality is around **1,500 fish**). So for the 2013 season, an estimated **3,150 Chinook salmon** were potentially killed in the commercial in-river fishery. Add the subsistence catch on top of that, and we have a significant mortality of Chinook salmon during a year when everyone was trying to manage for the conservation of Chinook salmon. This estimated mortality is more than the 2012 and 2013 bycatch of Yukon River Chinook salmon in the BSAI pollock fishery!

What I am trying to point out in this example is that we do not know how many Chinook salmon are actually being killed in these Yukon fisheries, but it could be quite substantial. Now with this proposal along with proposal 371 to increase commercial dip net sizes, we are going to capture a larger percentage of returning Chinook salmon than in 2013, with no idea of how many will ultimately make it to spawning grounds. On a side note, what about all the other fish species that will be incidentally killed in these fisheries that are very important to subsistence fisherman, i.e., cisco, humpback and broad whitefish, and sheefish? We have no idea what impact the fisheries will have on these species without proper monitoring.

If the Board truly believed that conservation of Yukon River Chinook salmon is of utmost importance, then they should not allow the increased opportunity to capture more and more of the remaining Chinook salmon. Until, the actual mortality from these fisheries can be accurately estimated, no new fisheries or gear types should be allowed. Please, for the sake of rebuilding future runs and the fisherman who depend on them, reconsider your proposal.

Thanks for your consideration,

Dave Daum, 30-year Alaskan research fish biologist.



Submitted By
David Daum
Submitted On
2/22/2014 8:43:26 AM
Affiliation
None

Phone
907-378-8848
Email
david_daum@yahoo.com
Address
1540 Ivans Alley
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709

Alaska Board of Fisheries, Statewide Meeting, March 17 - 14, 2014, Anchorage

Proposal 371 – Remove dip net size restrictions for the Yukon Area districts 1-3 commercial summer chum salmon fisheries.

I strongly OPPOSE Proposal 371.

The reported catch of Yukon River Chinook salmon in the commercial fishery in 2013 was 909 fish. These fish were all reportedly released, but there is no evidence that any survived the long journey to distant spawning grounds, many over 1,000 miles further upstream from the lower Yukon River fishery. As stated in the Board's proposal 377, "must first and foremost ensure continued conservation of Yukon River king salmon, which is a stock of concern". Scientific literature is non-existent on the subject of survivability from this gear type. The Joint Chinook Technical Committee for the Pacific Salmon Commission in 1997 reported that underreporting is very common in unmonitored fisheries and that the actual catch can be 2 to 3 times the reported quantities. Why would the Yukon fisheries be any different? The 909 Chinook salmon reported to be released could actually represent around 3,000 fish. Until a scientific study shows otherwise, the Board should consider most of these fish mortalities.

Proposal 371 could significantly increase the incidental catch of Yukon River Chinook salmon. Without extensive monitoring of this fishery (not a part of this proposal), the number of fish captured and released will not be known, but will undoubtedly increase. The dip net commercial fishery proved this method can harvest fish, with around 189,000 chum salmon caught representing over 1 million pounds in 2013. But the effect on survivability of Chinook salmon is unknown. Proposal 371 would remove any restriction on dip net size, allowing basically a 4 1/2 inch "framed drift net fishery". No restriction on webbing material or size of net bag could allow these dip nets to become lethal capture devices for all captured fish. This gear type needs to be regulated, along with monitoring of this fishery so we all can be assured that this new fishery is having a minimal impact to the severely depleted Chinook salmon stock.

If the Board truly believed that conservation of Yukon River Chinook salmon is of utmost importance, then they should not keep allowing new fisheries that increase the opportunity to capture more and more of the remaining Chinook salmon. Until the actual mortality from these fisheries can be accurately estimated, no new fisheries or gear types should be allowed. Please, for the sake of rebuilding future runs and the fisherman who depend on them, reconsider your proposal.

Thanks for your consideration,

Dave Daum, 30-year Alaskan research fish biologist.



Submitted By
Richard Ferry
Submitted On
1/20/2014 9:39:37 AM
Affiliation

I am writing in support of Proposal 345. Approval of this proposal will allow increased participation in the Winter King Crab Fishery in Norton Sound.

This fishery is a through-the-ice fishery, delivering live crab requires fishermen to crab close to their home.

Presently several communities cannot participate in this fishery because moving ice prevents setting pots. Where pots can be set passing of this proposal will allow individuals to enter the fishery who could otherwise could not afford to participate.



Submitted By
Andrew Peterson
Submitted On
1/31/2014 3:57:49 PM
Affiliation
none

My family has been in this state for generations and commercial fished for most of that time. We fished mostly in area M. The gear limits their were reasonable and the fishery is healthy. I own property on the Kenai Peninsula and have watched the commercial fishery in operation. What I don't understand is the setnet regulations. The setnets are daisy chained out into the inlet for a mile, whats with that. The inlet is being choked off, nothing can get by. I believe this needs to change to preserve the salmon runs. The state needs to limit the setnet operations to a 1000' from the high waterline. Gear should be limited to 50 fathoms per permit. No more that two permits to fish one setnet site. We need to be realistic to substain our runs. Please consider my thoughts, or smeone elses common sence sugestions.

Thank you Andrew O. Peterson Wasilla, AK.



Submitted By
Chad Hoefler
Submitted On
2/26/2014 9:49:51 AM
Affiliation

Phone
541-270-5448
Email
chad.hoefler@gmail.com
Address
793 E. Broadway St.
Unalaska, Alaska 99685

Proposal 349

I am the author of this proposal and would like to modify the proposed season opening and closing dates. After discussions with managers and others involved the Golden King Crab fishery, I've come to realize that my original proposed dates are problematic. The following change will allow two more weeks of harvesting during good weather and is supported by the managers.

B. Male golden king crab may be taken only from 12:00 noon August 1 [AUGUST 15] through
11:59 p.m. May 15 [MAY 15]

Thanks for your consideration.

Chad Hoefler



2-27-14

Members of the Alaska Board of Fisheries:

I am opposed to **Proposal 362** as it is written.

There are various reasons why I am opposed to proposal 362 and I will list my concerns as follows:

1. Placing the rings no higher than the first full mesh from the bottom of the pot could make them nonfunctional do to the fact that if you are setting pots on muddy bottom they can settle into the mud and would restrict or close off the opening of the ring. Also when storms come through the pots will work their way further down into the mud from the wave action tugging on the buoy's and bouncing the pot so could conceivably work into the mud far enough to completely close off the opening of the ring.
2. With the ring that low in the pot it would make it more likely to get closed off by larger crab getting stuck in the ring and closing it off so smaller crab could not get out. Also as the pot fills with crab the smaller crab on top would have to work down through the pile to the bottom to get to the ring to get out.
3. The other issue of concern is the ring size. In the Eastern district for Bairdi the legal size is 4.8 and in the Western district it is 4.4 inches. This was changed recently from the 5.5 legal size limit and the regulations on ring size were not changed to reflect the smaller legal size of the crab. This is allowing legal crab to escape through the rings. Would like to see if the Alaska Department of Fish & Game has data that compares carapace length to width so could adjust the ring sizes appropriately for Opilio and Bairdi so that legal crab cannot escape through the rings and be retained in the pots before the Board would consider any changes in location of the rings.

I feel that if the proposal was accepted by the Board as written without addressing the ring size issues and location that it could damage the resource by allowing legal crab to escape which would lower the CPUE of the gear which in turn would make for longer trips with more pot hauls and handling of crab and also undermine the economics of the fisheries. It is also probable that the placement of the rings that low in the pots could restrict the ability of sub legals to escape.

Thank you for take the time to consider my concerns with this proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott Campbell Sr".

Scott Campbell Sr

Owner of F/V Seabrooke



Board of Fish members:

Attached are 31 pages of emails of which are the Lower Bristol Bay Advisory Committee and interested parties discussion on the amending of PROPOSAL 375 via email and subsequent Subcommittee meeting of the AC.

Submitted by

Hattie Albecker / Hattie Albecker



Jenkins Brito, Susie (DFG)

From: Quist, Scott D (DPS)
Sent: Monday, March 03, 2014 8:39 AM
To: Jenkins Brito, Susie (DFG); Salomone, Paul G (DFG)
Cc: ugashik1937@yahoo.com; ugaybbliasion@gmail.com; mitchseybert@gmail.com; viedef97@aol.com; roland@briggsway.com; flyingeddie@starband.net; H Albecker; ugashik1937@yahoo.com; tedwolfson@comcast.net; tbursch@gmail.com; Nelson, Lance B (LAW); flyingeddie@starband.net; cgomez@bbna.com; ugaybbliasion@gmail.com; psmith2357@msn.com; eric_beeman@yahoo.com; robertdreeszen@gmail.com; pthgert@hotmail.com; kosbruk32_0@hotmail.com; ricefish1@gmail.com; tbursch@gmail.com; tracy@bluemountainlodge.com; johnivan2@gmail.com
Subject: RE: Proposal 375 Amendment

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

LBB AC members,

I've added a few suggestions to "B", in red. These comments should not be construed to express the full extent of my concerns over this amendment, I simply put these comments forth for your consideration before the language is finalized.

Respectfully,

Scott

Sergeant Scott Quist
Alaska Wildlife Troopers
King Salmon, Alaska
Tel. 907-246-3307
Fax 907-246-3313

From: Jenkins Brito, Susie (DFG)
Sent: Friday, February 28, 2014 3:54 PM
To: Salomone, Paul G (DFG); Quist, Scott D (DPS)
Cc: ugashik1937@yahoo.com; ugaybbliasion@gmail.com; mitchseybert@gmail.com; viedef97@aol.com; roland@briggsway.com; flyingeddie@starband.net; H Albecker; ugashik1937@yahoo.com; tedwolfson@comcast.net; tbursch@gmail.com; Nelson, Lance B (LAW); flyingeddie@starband.net; cgomez@bbna.com; ugaybbliasion@gmail.com; psmith2357@msn.com; eric_beeman@yahoo.com; robertdreeszen@gmail.com; pthgert@hotmail.com; kosbruk32_0@hotmail.com; ricefish1@gmail.com; tbursch@gmail.com; tracy@bluemountainlodge.com; johnivan2@gmail.com
Subject: Proposal 375 Amendment

You all have until 10am Monday March 3, 2014 to get back to me with adjustments in the language below, outside of clarification no edits to content will be permitted. Ready go!



As discussed at the teleconference this afternoon the EITHER/OR Amendment will state the following:

Proposal 375

On Single Setnet Site in the Ugashik Village Section of the Ugashik River [Stat Area 321-50] a permit holder may deploy one of the following options (A OR B):

A. A "traditional" set: 0-600ft offshore from the 18ft high tide mark:

- No running lines or set net may be in the water outside of 600ft from the 18 ft. high water mark except for anchors and their marking devices such as bouys and lights
- Anchors, Bouys and Running Lines may remain in the water during open periods and closures.

OR

B. An "Offshore" set: 400-1000 ft offshore from 18ft high water mark:

- No running lines or set net may be deployed from the 18ft high tide mark to 400ft offshore on a single site when a running line or net is deployed offshore of 400ft from the 18ft high tide mark up to 1000ft from the 18ft high tide mark
- When a closure is in effect all running lines offshore of 600ft from the 18ft high tide mark or those running lines used to deploy the offshore set must be removed from the water. This language would allow a fisherman to keep running lines in the water during any open fishing period. This would mean that any time there are extended openings, whether a net is being fished or not, a running line can be deployed. Especially late in the season there are extended openings, as a matter of fact, running lines could be deployed without a net during all open weekly fishing periods until September 30th or until the ice takes them out whichever comes first. It is my position that running lines must be removed if nets are not deployed in order to avoid continued complaints about navigational and safety hazards.
- During closures anchors and marking devices such as bouys and lights may remain in the water
- The anchoring devices for the set gillnet are not more than 100 feet from the set gillnet. I don't think this was even discussed fully. As I said during one of the teleconferences, it is nearly impossible to enforce this 100 foot requirement. It is impossible to see an anchoring device under muddy water. I would suggest including language that restricted any gear beyond 1000 feet.

**Jenkins Brito, Susie (DFG)**

From: Jenkins Brito, Susie (DFG)
Sent: Friday, February 28, 2014 3:53 PM
To: Salomone, Paul G (DFG); Quist, Scott D (DPS)
Cc: ugashik1937@yahoo.com; ugaybbliasion@gmail.com; mitchseybert@gmail.com; viedef97@aol.com; roland@briggsway.com; flyingeddie@starband.net; H Albecker; ugashik1937@yahoo.com; tedwolfson@comcast.net; tbursch@gmail.com; Nelson, Lance B (LAW); flyingeddie@starband.net; cgomez@bna.com; ugaybbliasion@gmail.com; 'psmith2357@msn.com'; eric_beeman@yahoo.com; robertdraeszen@gmail.com; pthgert@hotmail.com; kosbruk32_0@hotmail.com; ricefish1@gmail.com; tbursch@gmail.com; tracy@bluemountainlodge.com; johnivan2@gmail.com
Subject: Proposal 375 Amendment

You all have until 10am Monday March 3, 2014 to get back to me with adjustments in the language below, outside of clarification no edits to content will be permitted. Ready go!

As discussed at the teleconference this afternoon the EITHER/OR Amendment will state the following:

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 - Anchors, Bouys and Running Lines may remain in the water during open periods and closures.

OR

- B. An "Offshore" set: 400-1000 ft offshore from 18ft high water mark:
- No running lines or set net may be deployed from the 18ft high tide mark to 400ft offshore on a single site when a running line or net is deployed offshore of 400ft from the 18ft high tide mark up to 1000ft from the 18ft high tide mark
 - When a closure is in effect all running lines offshore of 600ft from the 18ft high tide mark or those running lines used to deploy the offshore set must be removed from the water
 - During closures anchors and marking devices such as bouys and lights may remain in the water
 - The anchoring devices for the set gillnet are not more than 100 feet from the set gillnet

**Jenkins Brito, Susie (DFG)**

From: Crystal Beeman <eric_beeman@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, February 28, 2014 3:00 PM
To: Jenkins Brito, Susie (DFG)
Cc: H Albecker; Salomone, Paul G (DFG); ugashik1937@yahoo.com; tedwolfson@comcast.net; tbursch@gmail.com; roland@briggsway.com; Quist, Scott D (DPS); Nelson, Lance B (LAW); flyingeddie@starband.net; cgomez@bbna.com; ugaybbliason@gmail.com
Subject: Re: LBB AC Sub-Committee MTG Proposal 375

Hello Susie and LBBAC members,

I'm about 12,000 miles away and on the ragged edge of cell coverage. I lost service just prior to the meetings end and had one final comment, not on the amendment, rather on the process. At the previous meeting when we had consensus to take up wording on the proposed amendment, I thought we had agreed to look at the whole issue, rather than be confined to just the either/or. Perhaps I'm slower than the rest, however both from proposals submitted in the last few days, and from comments during today's meeting, it seemed that there are others who were equally unclear about the scope of the issue we were examining. On one hand, I am happy that we made up some common ground, but I'll admit I feel a little bit railroaded into a box in regards to the possible solutions that we were prohibited from discussing. I have heard repeatedly that we may make personal submissions to the BOF, but a consensus from the LBBAC carries much more weight than an individual submission. The amendment may well be the best solution to the problem, however I have my doubts that it is a real consensus, which I believe is what the BOF will hear.

I have no dog in this navigational fight. Personally, I would be happy if all effected could work out a solution, and perhaps that happened today. As a LBBAC member I will in the future be more aware of exactly what I am voting to take up.

Thanks for all your time on this,
Eric

On Feb 28, 2014, at 1:18 PM, "Jenkins Brito, Susie (DFG)" <susie.jenkins.brito@alaska.gov> wrote:

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

<image001.jpg>

Lower Bristol Bay Fish and Game Advisory Committee



SUB-COMMITTEE

Meeting Announcement

The Lower Bristol Bay Fish and Game Advisory Committee will meet telephonically on **Friday, February 28, 2014 at 1:00 pm**

Teleconference 1-800-504-8071 Passcode 8425142#

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the Alaska Boards of Fisheries and Game proposed regulatory change Proposal 375 and approve amended language.

The Lower Bristol Bay Fish and Game Advisory Committee is a collection of community members from all user groups that come together, discuss Fish and Game issues and recommend changes to current regulations. They also represent their community before the Board of Fisheries and Board of Game at board meetings.

This meeting is open to the public.

For more information contact: Susie Jenkins-Brito, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Boards Support Section
(907) 842-5142

**Jenkins Brito, Susie (DFG)**

From: Crystal Beeman <eric_beeman@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, February 24, 2014 1:30 PM
To: Jenkins Brito, Susie (DFG)
Subject: proposal 375

Susie,

Could you please forward this to all who want to be included in these emails.

Hi all, good to hear voices from so many who slogged together through all this BoF meetings last winter!

As I do not navigate in the upper Ugashik River, I will most likely be abstaining on whatever AC vote we have on this. I do have some observations which may help wade through the conflict. A caveat to my comments is that I have been told many different things from several different individuals, all seeming sincere.

1. As I understand from our AC meeting, the language may include having a net on a running line within 600' of the shoreline, OR having a net or nets from 400-1000' , either on a running line or on some sort of anchors. A question to Rollie determined that it would be important to be able to change from a shore-600' to a 400-1000' setup on different days during the season. However, if both running lines are left in the water, it would seem that we could have a running line from the shore-600', and another from 400'-1000'. This would seem to me to cause some navigational distress. As running lines cannot be easily removed and set, would it perhaps be better to require that the nets not fished from shore-600' be free standing, i.e.: on anchors or fixed moorings, which would make navigation easier?
2. If I understand correctly, two nets can be strung on one running line, as long as the legal separation is maintained. Again, this would seem to be more of a navigational obstacle than 2 free standing sites, due to the running line between the nets. From my experience on the North Line, nets are much easier to avoid than long running lines.
3. If the either/or scenario discussed at the meeting is adopted, will this be different enough from what went on last summer to ease tensions?

My initial thoughts written soon after the meeting. It will be enlightening to read what others come up with.

Take care,
Eric

**Jenkins Brito, Susie (DFG)**

From: Nancy Flensburg <ugaybbliasion@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 27, 2014 2:42 PM
To: viedef97@aol.com
Cc: Jenkins Brito, Susie (DFG); H Albecker, Salomone, Paul G (DFG); ugashik1937@yahoo.com; tedwolfson@comcast.net; eric_beeman@yahoo.com; tbursch@gmail.com; roland@briggsway.com; Quist, Scott D (DPS); Nelson, Lance B (LAW); flyingeddie@starband.net
Subject: Re: Proposal 375

I only put my comment on this is because I thought it was the thing to do, so if I'm getting put into a scrap about the fishing proposals I do not want any part of it, from what I understand no one can do a thing about where nets get put anyway. I have never put my net way the hell out there and don't want to because it is to swift to fish way out. You guys do what you want and I'm withdrawing my comments!

Thank you
Nancy Flensburg

On Thu, Feb 27, 2014 at 1:34 PM, viedef97@aol.com <viedef97@aol.com> wrote:
Susie-

Why are we continuing to get these comments when the discussion on changing the proposal, at this point with the LBBAC is limited to the language on either, or options?

All of these people are free to submit to the BOF, by the same rules as the rest of us. Hattie soliciting comments and those being presented have no bearing on what is before us or do I misunderstand?

Hattie put the proposal of either, or forward as a possible compromise. Roland accepted and it was voted on. Now we work on that. IF Hattie wants to come forward and tell us in this group she no longer wants to work out language on an either, or, that is fine.

There have two language proposal put forward and so far no comments on them but Hattie, or even say she has no comment.

Further comments on the proposal itself can be had at the BOF in March, not now, as it was agreed to be a compromise on either, or concepts.

I find this constant drumming of issues that are not part of this group to be time wasting and uncalled for.

Please correct me if I am wrong.

-----Original Message-----

From: Jenkins Brito, Susie (DFG) <susie.jenkins.brito@alaska.gov>
To: H Albecker <alautgal2004@yahoo.com>; ugaybbliasion <ugaybbliasion@gmail.com>; Salomone, Paul G (DFG) (DFG) <paul.salomone@alaska.gov>; ugashik1937 <ugashik1937@yahoo.com>; Jenkins Brito, Susie (DFG)



<susie.jenkins.brito@alaska.gov>; tedwolfson@comcast.net; aleutgal2004@aleutgal2004.com; eric.beeman@yahoo.com; tbursch@gmail.com; roland@briggsway.com; scott.quist@alaska.gov; lance.nelson@alaska.gov; flyingeddie@starband.net; viedef97@aol.com
Sent: Thu, Feb 27, 2014 12:36 pm
Subject: Proposal 375

Please scroll down Everyone.

From: H Albecker [<mailto:aleutgal2004@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Thursday, February 27, 2014 12:26 PM
To: Jenkins Brito, Susie (DFG)
Subject: Fw: Proposal 375

Would you be so kind to forward this comment to "all"

Thank you.

Hattie

On Thursday, February 27, 2014 11:58 AM, Nancy Flensburg <ugaybbliaison@gmail.com> wrote:
Good Morning, I think the running lines should be connected to the shore and run out 600 feet then anchored. I has worked that way for years. None of the other stuff with nets across the river, etc.

Thank you,
Nancy Flensburg

*Nancy Flensburg/ Ugashik Liaison
103 Sockeye Circle
Ugashik, Alaska*

*Ph. 907-797-2400
E-mail: ugaybbliaison@gmail.com*

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Thank you

*Nancy Flensburg/ Ugashik Liaison
103 Sockeye Circle
Ugashik, Alaska*

*Ph. 907-797-2400
E-mail: ugaybbliaison@gmail.com*

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Jenkins Brito, Susie (DFG)

From: Roland Briggs <roland@briggsway.com>
Sent: Friday, February 28, 2014 9:34 AM
To: Nelson, Lance B (LAW); Jenkins Brito, Susie (DFG); 'mitch seybert'; viedef97@aol.com
Cc: 'Eric Beeman'; Salomone, Paul G (DFG); ugashik1937@yahoo.com; tedwolfson@comcast.net; aleutgal2004@yahoo.com; tbursch@gmail.com; Quist, Scott D (DPS); flyingeddie@starband.net
Subject: RE: Proposal 375-please make sure you are including all in the email.

Lance:

Thanks
We can just make the EITHER OR language clear.

Roland

From: Nelson, Lance B (LAW) [mailto:lance.nelson@alaska.gov]
Sent: Friday, February 28, 2014 9:29 AM
To: Roland Briggs; Jenkins Brito, Susie (DFG); 'mitch seybert'; viedef97@aol.com
Cc: 'Eric Beeman'; Salomone, Paul G (DFG); ugashik1937@yahoo.com; tedwolfson@comcast.net; aleutgal2004@yahoo.com; tbursch@gmail.com; Quist, Scott D (DPS); flyingeddie@starband.net
Subject: RE: Proposal 375-please make sure you are including all in the email.

I don't see any conflict. The Board is not restricted from making allocation decisions, if there are any, on this proposal. 5 AAC 39.222(f)(1) is just a definition; it does not limit the scope of board action. Once the Board accepts an ACR under 5 AAC 39.999, it becomes a proposal and the Board is not limited in scope in dealing with that proposal.

Lance

From: Roland Briggs [mailto:roland@briggsway.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 27, 2014 2:27 PM
To: Jenkins Brito, Susie (DFG); 'mitch seybert'; viedef97@aol.com
Cc: 'Eric Beeman'; Salomone, Paul G (DFG); ugashik1937@yahoo.com; tedwolfson@comcast.net; aleutgal2004@yahoo.com; tbursch@gmail.com; Nelson, Lance B (LAW); Quist, Scott D (DPS); flyingeddie@starband.net
Subject: RE: Proposal 375-please make sure you are including all in the email.

Lance:

Getting back to language on 375 by going either 0 to 600ft or 400 to 1000 ft when the permit holder used 2 25fm nets instead of one 50fm net. He would not be able to fish with one of his nets inside of 400 ft which would have some restriction on fishing opportunity would that run in conflict with 5AC 39.222(1)? Just mandating a 300 ft continuous opening from one of the nets easterly shoreward end would allow for navigation as well as have no possible conflict with 5AC 39.222(1).

Thoughts?

Roland



From: Jenkins Brito, Susie (DFG) [<mailto:susie.jenkins.brito@alaska.gov>]
Sent: Thursday, February 27, 2014 10:59 AM
To: Roland Briggs; 'mitch seybert'; viedef97@aol.com
Cc: 'Eric Beeman'; Salomone, Paul G (DFG); ugashik1937@yahoo.com; tedwolfson@comcast.net; aleutgal2004@yahoo.com; thursch@gmail.com; Nelson, Lance B (LAW); Quist, Scott D (DPS); flyingeddle@starband.net
Subject: RE: Proposal 375-please make sure you are including all in the email.

Hi Roland,

The amendment as agreed to in concept by the AC in its entirety is Only to discuss the EITHER/OR Language. No debate on the entire proposal will be entertained. We will still be holding a meeting as all interested parties are not privy to this email trail and AC members will be noticed.

Susie

From: Roland Briggs [<mailto:roland@briggsway.com>]
Sent: Thursday, February 27, 2014 10:46 AM
To: 'mitch seybert'; viedef97@aol.com
Cc: 'Eric Beeman'; Salomone, Paul G (DFG); Jenkins Brito, Susie (DFG); ugashik1937@yahoo.com; tedwolfson@comcast.net; aleutgal2004@yahoo.com; thursch@gmail.com; Nelson, Lance B (LAW); Quist, Scott D (DPS); flyingeddle@starband.net
Subject: RE: Proposal 375-please make sure you are including all in the email.

Susie:

I need some clarification on 375. A compromise was put forward by one of the stake holders. It was accepted by the others, voted on and passed. The meeting was later adjourned, not suspended. If I understand correctly we were only to work on language to make sure it was legal and correctly worded for the department of law. Do we even need to call a meeting tomorrow, as it was for language only, not to re-debate the proposal?

Any further debate would have to be a later meeting, correct?

Roland

From: mitch seybert [<mailto:mitchseybert@gmail.com>]
Sent: Thursday, February 27, 2014 9:44 AM
To: viedef97@aol.com
Cc: Eric Beeman; Roland Briggs; paul.salomone@alaska.gov; susie.jenkins.brito@alaska.gov; ugashik1937@yahoo.com; tedwolfson@comcast.net; aleutgal2004@yahoo.com; thursch@gmail.com; lance.nelson@alaska.gov; scott.quist@alaska.gov; flyingeddle@starband.net
Subject: Re: Proposal 375-please make sure you are including all in the email.

Ha ha, that felt funny, hipocritally

On Feb 27, 2014 10:39 AM, "viedef97@aol.com" <viedef97@aol.com> wrote:
 Mitch,

I am not taking any of it personally but trying to make you realize, as someone who does not have skin in this game, that we need to get the user discussing this.

I do not 'fight to the mat' when someone just wants to be 'right', no matter if they call it 'helpful' or couched under any other word...it is unproductive.

I am in the discussion and will talk about an either, or language, as agreed upon.



10

Victoria

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To: viedef97 <viedef97@aol.com>

Cc: Roland Briggs <roland@briggsway.com>; Eric Beeman <eric.beeman@yahoo.com>; paul.salomone <paul.salomone@alaska.gov>; ugashik1937 <ugashik1937@yahoo.com>; susie.jenkins.brito <susie.jenkins.brito@alaska.gov>; tedwolfson <tedwolfson@comcast.net>; aleutgal2004 <aleutgal2004@yahoo.com>; tbursch <tbursch@gmail.com>; scott.quist <scott.quist@alaska.gov>; lance.nelson <lance.nelson@alaska.gov>; flyingeddle <flyingeddle@starband.net>

Sent: Thu, Feb 27, 2014 9:35 am

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We need to get the users of this stat area in on the discussion on the language on an either, or as agreed to.

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Subject: Re: Proposal 375-please make sure you are including all in the email.

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Sent: Thu, Feb 27, 2014 9:16 am

Subject: Re: Proposal 375-please make sure you are including all in the email.

I don't work in perimeters that don't solve nothing,you know I'm right . Even if my comments are not debatable, I believe they are the clearest approach to this problem and are not biased to anyone

On Feb 27, 2014 10:05 AM, "viedef97@aol.com" <viedef97@aol.com> wrote:

Mitch-

We voted to work on the language of either, or option. This is not.



Also it is a restriction to those of us who fish up here, and takes away opportunity. That simple.

At this point, as the original proposer Hattie has not come in with any comments on the proposed either, or that started this. We need to have that, as that was the starting point.

Limits on the distance were not and understand we, as the various permit holders and users in the village, are not going to agree to a roll back.

This distance issue, between the users, has been asked and answered...now let's move onto the either, or language as we agreed to.

Victoria

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I'm right constructively, and its not too big of a compromise for anybody.
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 I respect your opinion, and your passion, however I b
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Mitch he has already said, as one of the people most affected, he will not agree to a roll back. The Advisory Committee agreement going into this was to figure out a type of 'either, or'...not to debate a roll back.

I am not going to get into all the mis-information, all documented, in your assumption Mitch, but there is much.

Also the users need to be driving and agreeing....of which you are not, Mitch.

Please let's get this done today so we can have a constructive and quick discussion tomorrow.

Victoria

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 To: Jenkins Brito Susie, (DFG) <susie.jenkins.brito@alaska.gov>
 Cc: Salomone, Paul G (DFG) (DFG) <paul.salomone@alaska.gov>; tedwolfson <tedwolfson@comcast.net>; Nelson,
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 (DPS) <scott.quist@alaska.gov>; flyingeddie <flyingeddie@starband.net>; aleutgal2004 <aleutgal2004@yahoo.com>;
 tbursch <tbursch@gmail.com>; eric_beeman <eric.beeman@yahoo.com>; viedef97 <viedef97@aol.com>
 Sent: Thu, Feb 27, 2014 7:34 am
 Subject: Re: Proposal 375

I am in favor of Hattie's recommendation of 800 feet and there should not be no stacking of nets on the individual sites. The sandbar is only about 100 feet past the 1000 ft. Mark and with anchor and chain extending another hundred feet. Another 200 ft will provide a sure no guessing path by the net and make it easy for enforcement to make a judgment.
 On Feb 24, 2014 3:15 PM, "Jenkins Brito, Susie (DFG)" <susie.jenkins.brito@alaska.gov> wrote:

Hi Lance,

I am incorporating you in this email trail because the LBB AC is creating an amendment to address BOF Proposal 375 and they requested I include you, thinking if anything jumped out at you regarding legal issues you could lend a hand.



Thanks Susie

Everyone else, Please see email below and begin coming up with the language for the Amendment, I know Paul had some he was wanting to share. Please reply all when responding.

Thank you,
Susie

-----Original Message-----

From: Crystal Beeman [mailto:eric_beeman@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, February 24, 2014 1:32 PM
To: Jenkins Brito, Susie (DFG)
Subject: BoF 375

Susie,

Could you please forward this to all who want to be included in these emails.

Hi all, good to hear voices from so many who slogged together through all this BoF meetings last winter!

As I do not navigate in the upper Ugashik River, I will most likely be abstaining on whatever AC vote we have on this. I do have some observations which may help wade through the conflict. A caveat to my comments is that I have been told many different things from several different individuals, all seeming sincere.

1. As I understand from our AC meeting, the language may include having a net on a running line within 600' of the shoreline, OR having a net or nets from 400-1000', either on a running line or on some sort of anchors. A question to Rollie determined that it would be important to be able to change from a shore-600' to a 400-1000' setup on different days during the season. However, if both running lines are left in the water, it would seem that we could have a running line from the shore-600', and another from 400'-1000'. This would seem to me to cause some navigational distress. As running lines cannot be easily removed and set, would it perhaps be better to require that the nets not fished from shore-600' be free standing, i.e.: on anchors or fixed moorings, which would make navigation easier?
2. If I understand correctly, two nets can be strung on one running line, as long as the legal separation is maintained. Again, this would seem to be more of a navigational obstacle than 2 free standing sites, due to the running line between the nets. From my experience on the North Line, nets are much easier to avoid than long running lines.
3. If the either/or scenario discussed at the meeting is adopted, will this be different enough from what went on last summer to ease tensions?

My initial thoughts written soon after the meeting. It will be enlightening to read what others come up with.

Take care,
Eric

No virus found in this message.

Checked by AVG - www.avg.com

Version: 2014.0.4335 / Virus Database: 3705/7130 - Release Date: 02/27/14

No virus found in this message.

Checked by AVG - www.avg.com

Version: 2014.0.4259 / Virus Database: 3705/7121 - Release Date: 02/24/14

No virus found in this message.

Checked by AVG - www.avg.com

Version: 2014.0.4259 / Virus Database: 3705/7121 - Release Date: 02/24/14



Jenkins Brito, Susie (DFG)

From: viedef97@aol.com
Sent: Thursday, February 27, 2014 2:02 PM
To: Jenkins Brito, Susie (DFG); roland@briggsway.com
Subject: Please deal with this --he is becoming much too personal

Susie,

I find this offense and inappropriate. Please deal with him immediately!!

I could ask for his removal from the board, but will hold off at this point.

Victoria

-----Original Message-----

From: mitch seybert <mitchseybert@gmail.com>
To: viedef97 <viedef97@aol.com>
Cc: Jenkins Brito Susie, (DFG) <susie.jenkins.brito@alaska.gov>; paul.salomone <paul.salomone@alaska.gov>; ugashik1937 <ugashik1937@yahoo.com>; tedwolfson <tedwolfson@comcast.net>; aleutgat2004 <aleutgat2004@yahoo.com>; Eric Beeman <eric_beeman@yahoo.com>; tbursch <tbursch@gmail.com>; Roland Briggs <roland@briggsway.com>; scott.quist <scott.quist@alaska.gov>; lance.nelson <lance.nelson@alaska.gov>; flyingeddie <flyingeddie@starband.net>
Sent: Thu, Feb 27, 2014 1:57 pm
Subject: Re: Proposal 375-please make sure you are including all in the email.

U want me to b productive,I thought I was, I could show u more skin, but I think your excited enough.

On Feb 27, 2014 1:43 PM, mitchseybert@gmail.com wrote:

I Also have skin that I don't want to lose with the safety issues when I take a ride up there to visit

On Feb 27, 2014 11:41 AM, "mitch seybert" <mitchseybert@gmail.com> wrote:

I do have skin in this matter. when enforcement is responding to this issue ,over and over and over again, legal drift fishermen have less opportunity on the outside line because there is less enforcement there.

On Feb 27, 2014 10:44 AM, "mitch seybert" <mitchseybert@gmail.com> wrote:

Ha ha, that felt funny, hipocritally

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Mitch,

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(10)

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Sent: Thursday, February 27, 2014 9:31 AM
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Cc: eric_beeman@yahoo.com; roland@briggsway.com; Salomone, Paul G (DFG); Jenkins Brito, Susie (DFG); ugashik1937@yahoo.com; tedwolfson@comcast.net; aleutgal2004@yahoo.com; tbursch@gmail.com; Nelson, Lance B (LAW); Quist, Scott D (DPS); flyingeddie@starband.net
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 Victoria

-----Original Message-----

From: mitch seybert <mitchseybert@gmail.com>
To: viedef97 <viedef97@aol.com>
Cc: Roland Briggs <roland@briggsway.com>; Eric Beeman <eric_beeman@yahoo.com>; paul.salomone <paul.salomone@alaska.gov>; ugashik1937 <ugashik1937@yahoo.com>; susie.jenkins.brito <susie.jenkins.brito@alaska.gov>; tedwolfson <tedwolfson@comcast.net>; aleutgal2004 <aleutgal2004@yahoo.com>; tbursch <tbursch@gmail.com>; scott.quist <scott.quist@alaska.gov>; lance.nelson <lance.nelson@alaska.gov>; flyingeddie <flyingeddie@starband.net>
Sent: Thu, Feb 27, 2014 9:16 am
Subject: Re: Proposal 375-please make sure you are including all in the email.

I don't work in perimeters that don't solve nothing, you know I'm right. Even if my comments are not debatable, I believe they are the clearest approach to this problem and are not biased to anyone
 On Feb 27, 2014 10:05 AM, "viedef97@aol.com" <viedef97@aol.com> wrote:
 Mitch-

We voted to work on the language of either, or option. This is not.

Also it is a restriction to those of us who fish up here, and takes away opportunity. That simple.



At this point, as the original proposer Hattie has not come in with any comments on the proposed either, or that started this. We need to have that, as that was the starting point.

Limits on the distance were not and understand we, as the various permit holders and users in the village, are not going to agree to a roll back.

This distance issue, between the users, has been asked and answered....now let's move onto the either, or language as we agreed to.

Victoria

-----Original Message-----

From: mitch seybert <mitchseybert@gmail.com>

To: viedef97 <viedef97@aol.com>

Cc: paul.salomone <paul.salomone@alaska.gov>; Jenkins Brito Susie, (DFG) <susie.jenkins.brito@alaska.gov>; ugashik1937 <ugashik1937@yahoo.com>; tedwolfson <tedwolfson@comcast.net>; aleutgal2004 <aleutgal2004@yahoo.com>; Eric Beeman <eric.beeman@yahoo.com>; tbursch <tbursch@gmail.com>; Roland Briggs <roland@briggsway.com>; lance.nelson <lance.nelson@alaska.gov>; scott.quist <scott.quist@alaska.gov>; flyingeddie <flyingeddie@starband.net>

Sent: Thu, Feb 27, 2014 8:56 am

Subject: Re: Proposal 375-please make sure you are including all in the email.

I'm right constructively, and its not too big of a compromise for anybody.

On Feb 27, 2014 9:52 AM, "mitch seybert" <mitchseybert@gmail.com> wrote:

I respect your opinion, and your passion, however I b

On Feb 27, 2014 9:24 AM, "viedef97@aol.com" <viedef97@aol.com> wrote:

Please make sure when you respond or send that you are including Roland. He has missed out on this email, but has now been looped into it.

Mitch he has already said, as one of the people most affected, he will not agree to a roll back. The Advisory Committee agreement going into this was to figure out a type of 'either, or'....not to debate a roll back.

I am not going to get into all the mis-information, all documented, in your assumption Mitch, but there is much.

Also the users need to be driving and agreeing....of which you are not, Mitch.

Please let's get this done today so we can have a constructive and quick discussion tomorrow.

Victoria

-----Original Message-----

From: mitch seybert <mitchseybert@gmail.com>

To: Jenkins Brito Susie, (DFG) <susie.jenkins.brito@alaska.gov>

Cc: Salomone, Paul G (DFG) (DFG) <paul.salomone@alaska.gov>; tedwolfson <tedwolfson@comcast.net>; Nelson, Lance B (LAW) (LAW) <lance.nelson@alaska.gov>; ugashik1937 <ugashik1937@yahoo.com>; Quist, Scott D (DPS) (DPS) <scott.quist@alaska.gov>; flyingeddie <flyingeddie@starband.net>; aleutgal2004 <aleutgal2004@yahoo.com>; tbursch <tbursch@gmail.com>; eric_beeman <eric_beeman@yahoo.com>; viedef97 <viedef97@aol.com>

Sent: Thu, Feb 27, 2014 7:34 am

Subject: Re: Proposal 375

I am in favor of Hattie's recommendation of 800 feet and there should not be no stacking of nets on the individual sites. The sandbar is only about 100 feet past the 1000 ft. Mark and with anchor and chain extending another hundred feet. Another 200 ft will provide a sure no guessing path by the net and make it easy for enforcement to make a judgment.

On Feb 24, 2014 3:15 PM, "Jenkins Brito, Susie (DFG)" <susie.jenkins.brito@alaska.gov> wrote:

Hi Lance,

I am incorporating you in this email trail because the LBB AC is creating an amendment to address BOF Proposal 375



and they requested I include you, thinking if anything jumped out at you regarding legal issues you could
Thanks Susie

Everyone else, Please see email below and begin coming up with the language for the Amendment, I know Paul had some he was wanting to share. Please reply all when responding.
Thank you,
Susie

-----Original Message-----

From: Crystal Beeman [mailto:eric_beeman@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, February 24, 2014 1:32 PM
To: Jenkins Brito, Susie (DFG)
Subject: BoF 375

Susie,
Could you please forward this to all who want to be included in these emails.

Hi all, good to hear voices from so many who slogged together through all this BoF meetings last winter!

As I do not navigate in the upper Ugashik River, I will most likely be abstaining on whatever AC vote we have on this. I do have some observations which may help wade through the conflict. A caveat to my comments is that I have been told many different things from several different individuals, all seeming sincere.

1. As I understand from our AC meeting, the language may include having a net on a running line within 600' of the shoreline, OR having a net or nets from 400-1000', either on a running line or on some sort of anchors. A question to Rollie determined that it would be important to be able to change from a shore-600' to a 400-1000' setup on different days during the season. However, if both running lines are left in the water, it would seem that we could have a running line from the shore-600', and another from 400'-1000'. This would seem to me to cause some navigational distress. As running lines cannot be easily removed and set, would it perhaps be better to require that the nets not fished from shore-600' be free standing, i.e.: on anchors or fixed moorings, which would make navigation easier?
2. If I understand correctly, two nets can be strung on one running line, as long as the legal separation is maintained. Again, this would seem to be more of a navigational obstacle than 2 free standing sites, due to the running line between the nets. From my experience on the North Line, nets are much easier to avoid than long running lines.
3. If the either/or scenario discussed at the meeting is adopted, will this be different enough from what went on last summer to ease tensions?

My initial thoughts written soon after the meeting. It will be enlightening to read what others come up with.

Take care,
Eric

**Jenkins Brito, Susie (DFG)**

From: H Albecker <aleutgal2004@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 26, 2014 7:56 PM
To: Jenkins Brito, Susie (DFG)
Subject: Fw: proposal 375

Here is a comment from Maurice Enright, who has set netted in Ugashik all his life.

Hattie

On Wednesday, February 26, 2014 1:46 PM, Mike Enright <grayghost@yahoo.com> wrote:
I own the last setnet site up the ugashik river. my concern with this proposal is that with the set net being out from 400 feet to 1000 feet is , that when the nets are out that far is for me it is like running the gantlet . it is hard to see sometimes where the net is some times i have seen the net after it has broken away from one end and it is strait up and don the river. if you have a load of fish on board and hit a net that far out i don't want to think of what might happen. i fell 600 feet out from the 18 foot high water line with a running line would be great. it has worked well in the past having net way out is a hazard from where i have to run to the tender to unload my fish. and a reminder to much bs and all it would take is an act of congress and there would not be any more up river sites in ugashik .i fell they should make it the 600 feet from high water and leave it at that.

thanks

maurice enright

ugashik village set netter

**Jenkins Brito, Susie (DFG)**

From: mitch seybert <mitchseybert@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 27, 2014 7:34 AM
To: Jenkins Brito, Susie (DFG)
Cc: Salomone, Paul G (DFG); tedwolfson@comcast.net; Nelson, Lance B (LAW); ugashik1937@yahoo.com; Quist, Scott D (DPS); flyingeddie@starband.net; aleutgal2004@yahoo.com; tbursch@gmail.com; eric beeman@yahoo.com; viedef97@aol.com
Subject: Re: Proposal 375

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Sent: Monday, February 24, 2014 1:32 PM
To: Jenkins Brito, Susie (DFG)
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3. If the either/or scenario discussed at the meeting is adopted, will this be different enough from what went on last summer to ease tensions?

My initial thoughts written soon after the meeting. It will be enlightening to read what others come up with.

Take care,
Eric

**Jenkins Brito, Susie (DFG)**

From: Roland Briggs <roland@briggsway.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 27, 2014 8:13 AM
To: tedwolfson@comcast.net; Jenkins Brito, Susie (DFG)
Cc: aleutgal2004@yahoo.com; Quist, Scott D (DPS); Nelson, Lance B (LAW); flyingeddie@starband.net; viedef97@aol.com; ugashik1937@yahoo.com; 'eric beeman'; tbursch@gmail.com; mitchseybert@gmail.com; Salomone, Paul G (DFG)
Subject: RE: Proposal 375

Guy:

This is a classic I go back to my engineering professors trying to pounding into my head KEEP IT SIMPLE. This is so simple to solve the issue. It solves the allocative issues with restricting fishing opportunity and makes sure users can navigate though the sites inside of 1000 ft.

Haltie Comments????

Roland

From: tedwolfson@comcast.net [mailto:tedwolfson@comcast.net]
Sent: Wednesday, February 26, 2014 6:26 PM
To: Jenkins Brito, Susie (DFG)
Cc: aleutgal2004@yahoo.com; Scott D Quist (DPS); Lance B Nelson (LAW); flyingeddie@starband.net; viedef97@aol.com; ugashik1937@yahoo.com; eric beeman; tbursch@gmail.com; mitchseybert@gmail.com; Paul G Salomone (DFG); Roland Briggs
Subject: Re: Proposal 375

To Everyone,

I may make everyone mad at me(including the Briggs) but I just wanted to share my thoughts and then make a proposal. As an "outsider" with no past personal history with anyone in Bristol Bay, I may look at things a little differently. I have spent the last 30 years crabbing and longlining out of Kodiak and five years ago began fishing in the Bay with my kids.

That being said, I think this whole affair is "much adieu over nothing". We staggered our nets last year to allow everyone on the river to maximize their fishing potential but we always left a clear navigation lane. There is literally only a handful of people that navigate past the nets and they might have slowed down the first day to make sure they didn't run over a net or running line but after that it was the same everyday. It is certainly more difficult to navigate through 200 gillnetters on anchor in the bay or crab pot buoys in the Bering Sea or longline mainlines off of Kodiak Island. Is this not what we do as fishermen? My 16 year old daughter ran a skiff last year and had no problem. Joel Dutton ran the 50 ft. tender every day through the nets with no problem and it was his first year running any kind of vessel. It just seems to me that we have so many more important things to worry about than this issue. I bring 4 of my kids to fish with me. A 19 yr old, a 16 yr old a 14 yr old and a 12 yr old and never once did I feel they were in danger because of navigation problems.

I'm not sure what that all means but I felt like I needed to get that out in the open. Now to my proposal. If this is truly about navigation then why not just put in some wordage that says no matter where you set your gear out to the 1000 ft mark there must always be at least a 300 ft continuous gap between a buoy, net or running line in that 1000 ft distance. That would always leave plenty of width to safely navigate the river, even for someone traveling through the river for the first time. I'm sure one of you could write the proper wordage but I think that gets across my idea.
Thanks everyone for listening to my rants.



Ted Wolfson

From: "Jenkins Brito, Susie (DFG)" <susie.jenkins.brito@alaska.gov>
To: "Paul G Salomone (DFG)" <psal@salomone.alaska.gov> "Roland Briggs" <roland@briggsway.com>
Cc: aleutgal2004@yahoo.com, "Scott D Quist (DPS)" <scott.quist@alaska.gov>, "Lance B Nelson (LAW)" <lance.nelson@alaska.gov>, flyingeddie@starband.net, tedwolfson@comcast.net, viedef97@aol.com, ugashik1937@yahoo.com, "eric beeman" <eric_beeman@yahoo.com>, tbursch@gmail.com, mitchseybert@gmail.com
Sent: Wednesday, February 26, 2014 2:46:37 PM
Subject: RE: Proposal 375

Hi Everyone,

Please take some time to consider the language Roland has put forth as well as Hattie and Scott's comments and contribute as you see fit. A timely reminder is the Statewide On time Comment deadline is March 3 and I hope to have this wrapped up by then, this means potentially Friday afternoon we will meet telephonically to discuss the amendment, I will notice everyone tomorrow a time and date. So please get cracking!

Thanks, Susie

-----Original Message-----

From: Salomone, Paul G (DFG)
Sent: Wednesday, February 26, 2014 10:10 AM
To: 'Roland Briggs'
Cc: aleutgal2004@yahoo.com; Jenkins Brito, Susie (DFG); Quist, Scott D (DPS); Nelson, Lance B (LAW); flyingeddie@starband.net; tedwolfson@comcast.net; viedef97@aol.com; ugashik1937@yahoo.com; eric_beeman@yahoo.com; tbursch@gmail.com; mitchseybert@gmail.com
Subject: RE: Proposal 375

Roland,

I am trying to stay with my comments from the AC meeting in that I want the group to have a discussion on where this should go. You took a good first step in putting this in written form, but I would like to hear from other folks, so it might be proper to ask the rest of the people involved. For everyone: this differs from what I sent this morning by the capitalized statement below in the (A) section.

Paul

-----Original Message-----

From: Roland Briggs [mailto:roland@briggsway.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 26, 2014 8:49 AM
To: Salomone, Paul G (DFG)
Subject: RE: Proposal 375

Paul:

I was thinking last night more thing to clarify when I use 2 25fm nets See below



Roland

-----Original Message-----

From: Salomone, Paul G (DFG) [mailto:paul.salomone@alaska.gov]

Sent: Wednesday, February 26, 2014 8:21 AM

To: 'Roland Briggs'

Cc: aleutgal2004@yahoo.com; Jenkins Brito, Susie (DFG); Quist, Scott D (DPS); Nelson, Lance B (LAW); flyingeddie@starband.net; tedwolfson@comcast.net; viedef97@aol.com; ugashik1937@yahoo.com; eric_beeman@yahoo.com; tbursch@gmail.com; mitchseybert@gmail.com
Subject: RE: Proposal 375

Morning all,

Roland, the syntax of the language (brackets and capital letters) you had indicates that everything inside the brackets is to be excluded. I changed that for clarity and I will step aside and let the group discuss what you have suggested.

5 AAC 06.331

(m)(B) in the Ugashik District, in that portion of the east bank of the Ugashik River from a point at 57° 30.74' N. lat., 157° 24.10' W. long. to 57° 32.27' N. lat., 157° 24.36' W. long., no part of a set gillnet may be more than 600 feet from the east bank 18-foot high tide mark, except that a set gillnet may extend to 1,000 feet from the high tide mark if

(A) notwithstanding the provisions of (i) of this section, the east shoreward end of BOTH (IF 2-25FMT NETS ARE USED) set gillnet, is at least 400 feet from the 18-foot high tide mark, and the shoreward end of the set gillnet is not attached to a running line to the 18-foot high tide line, as measured from the east bank;

(B) the anchoring devices are not more than 100 feet from the set gillnet; and

(C) the set gillnet is not attached to a running line attached to the east bank.

-----Original Message-----

From: Roland Briggs [mailto:roland@briggsway.com]

Sent: Tuesday, February 25, 2014 2:42 PM

To: Salomone, Paul G (DFG)

Cc: aleutgal2004@yahoo.com; Jenkins Brito, Susie (DFG); Quist, Scott D (DPS); Nelson, Lance B (LAW); flyingeddie@starband.net; tedwolfson@comcast.net; viedef97@aol.com; ugashik1937@yahoo.com; eric_beeman@yahoo.com; tbursch@gmail.com; mitchseybert@gmail.com
Subject: RE: Proposal 375

Guys how about this

5 AAC 06.331

(m)(B) in the Ugashik District, in that portion of the east bank of the Ugashik River from a point at 57° 30.74' N. lat., 157° 24.10' W. long. to 57° 32.27' N. lat., 157° 24.36' W. long., no part of a set gillnet may be more than 600 feet from the east bank 18-foot high tide mark[, EXCEPT THAT A SET



GILLNET MAY EXTEND TO 1,000 FEET FROM THE HIGH TIDE MARK IF

(A) NOTWITHSTANDING THE PROVISIONS OF (i) OF THIS SECTION, THE EAST SHOREWARD END OF THE SET GILLNET, IS AT LEAST 400 FEET FROM THE 18-FOOT HIGH TIDE MARK; AND THE SHOREWARD END OF THE SET GILLNET IS NOT ATTACHED TO A RUNNING LINE TO THE 18-FOOT HIGH TIDE LINE, AS MEASURED FROM THE EAST BANK;

(B) THE ANCHORING DEVICES FOR THE SET GILLNET ARE NOT MORE THAN 100 FEET FROM THE SET GILLNET; AND

(C) THE SET GILLNET IS NOT ATTACHED TO A RUNNING LINE CONNECTED TO THE EAST BANK].

Roland

-----Original Message-----

From: Salomone, Paul G (DFG) [mailto:paul.salomone@alaska.gov]

Sent: Tuesday, February 25, 2014 1:46 PM

To: 'Roland Briggs'

Cc: aleutgal2004@yahoo.com; Jenkins Brito, Susie (DFG); Quist, Scott D (DPS); Nelson, Lance B (LAW); flyingeddie@starband.net; tedwolfson@comcast.net; viedef97@aol.com; ugashik1937@yahoo.com; eric_beeman@yahoo.com; tbursch@gmail.com; mitchseybert@gmail.com

Subject: RE: Proposal 375

All: Just a comment- the board looks favorably on compromise. I've been buried all day and have not had time to find the language I was looking for.

I will be busy until late so here is the language of the proposal for a starting point, you should work on it and try to craft some language without waiting for me. Sorry, it's the meeting time of year.

-----Original Message-----

From: Roland Briggs [mailto:roland@briggsway.com]

Sent: Tuesday, February 25, 2014 10:52 AM

To: Salomone, Paul G (DFG)

Cc: aleutgal2004@yahoo.com; Jenkins Brito, Susie (DFG); Quist, Scott D (DPS); Nelson, Lance B (LAW); flyingeddie@starband.net; tedwolfson@comcast.net; viedef97@aol.com; ugashik1937@yahoo.com; eric_beeman@yahoo.com; tbursch@gmail.com; mitchseybert@gmail.com

Subject: RE: Proposal 375

All:

Sorry for the delay on answering but we wanted to check with the other affected Ugashik Village permit/site holders, before responding.

The agreement when we went into this was to work out the concept of an 'either or' change to the regulation. We are more than willing to continue to work in that vain.



Troener Quist has within his power to deal with the calls that his offices receives and enforcement, thus we are not willing to adjust the outer length.

We understood that Paul had some language he felt would be at least be a good starting point and we were waiting to see this before making any suggestions.

Roland

—Original Message—

From: Salomone, Paul G (DFG) [mailto:paul.salomone@alaska.gov]

Sent: Tuesday, February 25, 2014 9:30 AM

To: 'Roland Briggs'

Cc: 'aleutgal2004@yahoo.com'; Jenkins Brito, Susie (DFG); Quist, Scott D (DPS); Nelson, Lance B (LAW); flinneddie@starband.net; tedwolfson@comcast.net; viedef97@aol.com;

ugashik1937@yahoo.com; eric_beeman@yahoo.com; thursch@gmail.com;

mitchsevherl@gmail.com

Subject: RE: Proposal 375

Let's try this again, Roland. how do you feel about this?

—Original Message—

From: H Althecker [mailto:aleutgal2004@yahoo.com]

Sent: Tuesday, February 25, 2014 5:20 AM

To: Jenkins Brito, Susie (DFG); Salomone, Paul G (DFG); Nelson, Lance B (LAW);

flinneddie@starband.net; tedwolfson@comcast.net; viedef97@aol.com; ugashik1937@yahoo.com;

eric_beeman@yahoo.com; thursch@gmail.com; mitchsevherl@gmail.com; Quist, Scott D (DPS)

Subject: RE: Proposal 375

Good Morning!

I hadn't even read your email til this morning but had given the 1000 foot distance a lot of thought after the meeting yesterday.

I know it is a major concern. With that in mind I would like to make a compromise to change the 1000 foot distance to 800 feet with the "either, or" addition to the existing Proposal 375. Also incorporate Rolands concern of there be no one would be able to come along and place a running line shoreward of a net that is already in place by anchoring devices shoreward of the 400 foot.

Hope this helps.

Laura

On Mon, 2/24/14, Quist, Scott D (DPS) <scott.quist@alaska.gov> wrote:

Subject: RE: Proposal 375

To: "Jenkins Brito, Susie (DFG)" <susie.jenkins.brito@alaska.gov>, "Salomone, Paul G (DFG)"

<paul.salomone@alaska.gov>, "Nelson, Lance B (LAW)"

<lance.nelson@alaska.gov>, "flinneddie@starband.net"

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<ugashik1937@yahoo.com>, "eric_beeman@yahoo.com"
<eric_beeman@yahoo.com>, "tbursch@gmail.com" <tbursch@gmail.com>,
"mitchseybert@gmail.com" <mitchseybert@gmail.com>, "aleutgal2004@yahoo.com"
<aleutgal2004@yahoo.com>

Date: Monday, February 24, 2014, 4:25 PM

LBB AC,

Paul Salomone and I are working on draft language for your consideration based on comments from the committee during today's telephonic AC meeting. If accepted the language may address some of the questions Eric voiced in his email.

I was having a difficult time hearing everyone during the teleconference this morning and expect others had the same problem. With that in mind I would like to re-state my concern regarding the 1000 foot off shore limit.

During the 2013 commercial fishing season the Alaska Wildlife Troopers in King Salmon received many complaints about nets causing navigational hazards near Ugashik Village. One complaint claimed that if nothing was done "people were going to start taking things into their own hands." Paul Salomone and I responded to Ugashik Village and measured the nets in question and found them to be within the 1000 foot off shore limit. My concern is that if the 1000 foot off shore limit is not changed my office will continue to receive complaints that nets and running lines continue to cause navigational hazards.

Additional comments that may be of use to the committee: In

2012 my office received a letter from the U S Army Engineer District, Alaska. The letter was written to a Ugashik Village area fisherman, the letter said in part, "In previous fishing seasons your set nets have been reported to extend into the Ugashik River to such an extent (up to 1,000 feet) that during low tidal stages vessels have been reported to run into the set nets, foul their props in your nets, or run aground on the sand bar while attempting to avoid your nets."

Finally, enforcement would be much more simple if all commercial fishing gear terminated at the same off shore distance. The Ugashik Village area is difficult for enforcement personnel to access with patrol boats and it takes a big commitment of time, which is in short supply in the summer. Consequently the area is patrolled most often from the air. When nets terminate at substantially different off shore distances it is nearly impossible to determine if nets are in compliance. If all nets terminate at nearly the same off shore distance a trooper can fly the outside buoys and at least get a good idea if one net is substantially farther out than others and investigate further. The bottom line is, the language Fish and Game put forth in Proposal 375 would be easier to enforce than the amended language being considered.

Thank you,

Sergeant Scott Quist
Alaska Wildlife Troopers
King Salmon, Alaska
Tel 907-248-3307
Fax 907-248-3313



-----Original Message-----

From: Jenkins Brito, Susie (DFG)
Sent: Monday, February 24, 2014 2:15 PM
To: Salomone, Paul G (DFG); Quist, Scott D (DPS); Nelson, Lance B (LAW);
flyingeddie@starband.net; tedwolfson@comcast.net; viedef97@aol.com;
ugashik1937@yahoo.com; eric_beeman@yahoo.com; tbursch@gmail.com;
mitchseybert@gmail.com; aleutgal2004@yahoo.com
Subject: Proposal 375

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Hi all, good to hear voices from so many who slogged together through all this BoF meetings last winter!

As I do not navigate in the upper Ugashik River, I will most likely be abstaining on whatever AC vote we have on this. I do have some observations which may help wade through the conflict. A caveat to my comments is that I have been told many different things from several different individuals, all seeming sincere.

1. As I understand from our AC meeting, the language may include having a net on a running line within 600' of the shoreline, OR having a net or nets from 400-1000', either on a running line or on some sort of anchors. A question to Rollie determined that it would be important to be able to change from a shore-600' to a 400-1000' setup on different days during the season. However, if both running lines are left in the water, it would seem that we could have a running line from the shore-600', and another from 400'-1000'. This would seem to me to cause some navigational distress. As running lines cannot be easily removed and set, would it perhaps be better to require



that the nets not fished from shore-600' be free standing, i.e.: on anchors or fixed moorings, which would make navigation easier?

2. If I understand correctly, two nets can be strung on one running line, as long as the legal separation is maintained. Again, this would seem to be more of a navigational obstacle than 2 free standing sites, due to the running line between the nets. From my experience on the North Line, nets are much easier to avoid than long running lines.

3. If the either/or scenario discussed at the meeting is adopted, will this be different enough from what went on last summer to ease tensions?

My initial thoughts written soon after the meeting. It will be enlightening to read what others come up with.

Take care,
Eric

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Checked by AVG - www.avg.com
Version: 2014.0.4259 / Virus Database: 3705/7124 - Release Date: 02/25/14

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Version: 2014.0.4335 / Virus Database: 3705/7128 - Release Date: 02/26/14

LAW OFFICE OF
BRUCE B. WEYHRAUCH, LLC

whyrock@gci.net

114 S. FRANKLIN ST.

SUITE 200

JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801

TELEPHONE: (907) 463-5566

FAX: (907) 463-5858

March 3, 2014



PC 8
1 of 5

Mr. Karl Johnstone, Chairman
Alaska Board of Fisheries
P.O. Box 115526
1255 W. 8th Street
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

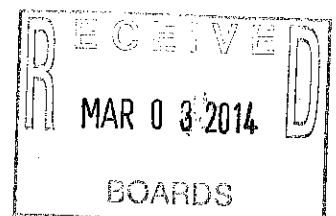
RE: Public Comment on Proposal 375

Dear Mr. Chairman:

We represent Roland and Victoria Briggs, Lindsay Wolfson, Fred Magill, Ted Wolfson, and Tyler Zimmerman who are long-time, responsible set netters in the Ugashik River set gillnet salmon fishery. These fishermen and women will be negatively affected if the Board adopts Proposal 375. We ask the Board to vote to reject Proposal 375 for these reasons:

1. There is not a problem that needs to be addressed. ADF&G staff indicates that the proposal would “remedy a navigational obstruction in the Ugashik River set gillnet salmon fishery” to prevent a set net from extending more than 600 feet from the east bank of the river from the 18-foot high tide mark. The real effect of the proposal if adopted would be allocative because it would limit harvest opportunities for the set net fishermen affected by this proposal and thus treat the fishermen operating in this part of the Ugashik differently than the rest of the fishermen in Ugashik Bay.

2. Because proposal 375 is allocative (either by intent or unintended), staff should not and has not historically taken a position on proposals that are allocative. This proposal, because it is allocative, requires the Board to make the





Mr. Karl Johnstone
Alaska Board of Fisheries
March 3, 2014
Page 2

necessary statutory findings before it can be adopted.¹

3. 5 AAC 39.222(f)(1) defines “allocation” to mean granting specific harvest privileges among or between various user groups and includes “area restrictions” and management measures that limiting harvest opportunities. Proposal 375 is allocative because it is an area restriction on the use of these fishermen’s nets, and it will limit their harvest opportunities. The effect of adopting Proposal 375 would be to take fish from the fishermen operating on this part of the River and allocate the fish to down river harvesters and escapement, and bay gear fishermen. If these fishermen are required to bring their nets closer to the east bank of the river, they would be taking fish that other Ugashik River (Village) fishermen are targeting, and they would be taking fish from nets behind them and reducing their catch.

4. As shown on the attached map, these fishermen’s nets extend out from the east shore, and there is both navigational room between the ends of their nets and the west shore of the river. There is also room between nets to allow navigation because the anchors on the ends of the nets clearly mark where the nets

¹ AS 16.05.251(e):

The Board of Fisheries may allocate fishery resources among personal use, sport, guided sport, and commercial fisheries. The board shall adopt criteria for the allocation of fishery resources and shall use the criteria as appropriate to particular allocation decisions. The criteria may include factors such as

(1) the history of each personal use, sport, guided sport, and commercial fishery;

(2) the number of residents and nonresidents who have participated in each fishery in the past and the number of residents and nonresidents who can reasonably be expected to participate in the future;

(3) the importance of each fishery for providing residents the opportunity to obtain fish for personal and family consumption;

(4) the availability of alternative fisheries resources;

(5) the importance of each fishery to the economy of the state;

(6) the importance of each fishery to the economy of the region and local area in which the fishery is located;

(7) the importance of each fishery in providing recreational opportunities for residents and nonresidents.



Mr. Karl Johnstone
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Page 3

start and end.

5. In 2012, when the Board of Fisheries adopted the regulation that ADF&G now wants to change, the Board did not want to restrict the fishing activities of set netters on the Ugashik River. At the time the Board adopted what has become 5 AAC 06.331(m)(8), it was acceptable policy for skiffs to motor back and forth on the river because these skiffs comprise almost all of the boat traffic on the Ugashik each day. The Board did not want to restrict fishing opportunities by rolling the set netters back to operating on a straight-line basis, 600 feet from shore. The Board modified the original Proposal 18 submitted to it and adopted what is now 5 AAC 06.331(m)(8).

6. Proposal 375 is being considered out of cycle to return set net fishing operations on one portion of the Ugashik River to what was originally proposed in 2012, but rejected by the Board.

7. There is no difficulty in enforcement, contrary to assertions there are enforcement difficulties that were made by staff to the Board when the Board considered changing its agenda for this meeting to consider Proposal 375. These fishermen have requested information on that issue from state officials and have never received anything to indicate there is a difficult enforcement issue because of the current wording of 5 AAC 06.331. If there were difficult enforcement issues, and the depart could have shed light on them to these fishermen, then why wouldn't staff provide that information to these fishermen and deal with it out in the open?

8. ADF&G staff indicates that the regulation that the Board adopted in 2012 that resulted in 5 AAC 06.331, allows set gillnet gear to be deployed up to 1000 feet from shore and that it became apparent that the use of the full 1000 feet obstructs navigation in the river. We note that these fishermen have no information that anyone has complained about this except ADF&G staff. There is no obstruction of navigation in the river based on the current regulation, which again, does not need changing.

9. Using the full 1,000 feet from the East Bank of the river never fully blocked the river in any configurations based on the way that the setnets have been deployed. There have been gaps in the nets for river traffic to travel between the



Mr. Karl Johnstone
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March 3, 2014
Page 4

shore and 1,000 feet from the East bank at all times. In addition, department staff has been asked by these fishermen for any documented navigational complaints from this past season and to this date, department staff have not furnished any complaint to these fishermen. Because department staff submitted Proposal 375 on the basis that it was to “remedy a navigational obstruction in the river,” we think that this information would have been readily available and easily provided to the public. It certainly could have been provided to these fishermen by staff in order to deal with this matter if there were obstructions, without having to trouble the Board to take up a proposal out of cycle.

10. The staff proposal 375 indicates that the 2012 regulation did not identify which bank of the rivers was referenced for distance measures associated with anchoring and shoreward end of nets. That is incorrect. Other portions of that regulation that staff wants to change clearly say the east bank of the river.

11. Proposal 375 reads in part: “The 2012 regulation did not identify which bank was referenced for distance measures associated with anchoring and shoreward end of nets. This unintentionally allowed for net configuration closer to the west bank, spanning more of the channel.” However, the Board should be aware that current net configuration does not put nets any closer to the west bank, as it is measured off the East bank of the river, as the fisheries have always been conducted. Current setnet configurations allow skiffs and tenders to run in a straight line 600 feet from the East bank, when the nets are deployed outside of a 600 foot running line because there is a gap between the end of the running line and the end of the net at 850 feet. When there is a 400 to 1,000 foot running line, then boat traffic can go inside of 400 feet to navigate in the river. As always, from mean low water and higher, boat traffic can still navigate outside 1,000 feet from the East bank.

12. The proponent of Proposal 375 states in part “The regulation also unintentionally allowed gear deployment offshore of a permit holder’s own gear, which served to further obstruct navigation.” The fishermen we are working with have always split their 50 fathom of net, into 2, 25 fathoms, as is common in the bay. What the fishermen were doing was putting a gap between those nets, with no running line connecting them, thus leaving room for navigation.

13. Because the biologist in the area was unfamiliar with normal fishing practices in this part of the river, he became confused and thought this was



Mr. Karl Johnstone
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Page 5

somehow allowing one set of gear “outside of another.” In that respect, he was completely mistaken. The one set of gear was all one permit holder’s gear. An enforcement officer who was familiar with fishing practices in Bristol Bay had indicated that this net configuration was fine, and no tickets were issued for this set net configuration, even though multiple troopers saw the configuration this year.

In conclusion, we ask the Board to reject Proposal 375.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bruce B. Weyhrauch".

Bruce B. Weyhrauch



Submitted By
Glenn Gillam
Submitted On
2/5/2014 5:34:26 PM
Affiliation
Guide

Phone
7025304536

Email
alaskaglen12@gmail.com

Address
725 S Hualapai Ave #2125
Las Vegas, Nevada 89145

I didnt see a proposal, but I hope your barbless discussion includes resident trout. It is a major issue



Submitted By
Jill Klein
Submitted On
3/3/2014 12:27:02 PM
Affiliation
Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association

Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association (YRDFA)

Board Delegation Actions on Board of Fisheries Proposals

February 12, 2014

Proposal 371: No Consensus

Discussion:

Lower river fishermen expressed that the 5-foot diameter would stay but the small square net is dragging. The fishermen with bigger skiffs and motors are not doing as well and the smaller boats with the smaller nets are doing better.

Upper river fishermen wanted to know about what the current limits are and why? They wanted a limitation of no bigger than 6 feet as an idea and felt that there needs to be a limit and definition of what this is.

Other board members felt that it is up to the ADF&G to test out new sizes of dip net gear.

Concern was expressed for mortality associated with the handling of king salmon and any changes in the size of the dip net should consider this.

There was no consensus to support the proposal. A handful of board members supported the proposal, but there were concerns that there was no upper limit to the size of the dip net.

Proposal 372: Support

Discussion:

Fishermen discussed that the lead is a part of the fish wheel. A lead may be pulled

if there is a lot of drift is coming down or water levels change. But they leave the lead in otherwise.

There was concern about the length of the lead and if there should be a limit on the length?

Fishermen discussed that the lead goes from the bank to the fish wheel and is as long as the spur log. The fish wheel always had a lead and in the past if families needed a break from cutting fish, they would take out the lead.

There was consensus to support the proposal.

Proposal 373: No consensus

There was concern that the king salmon can be harmed from the dip net and this may impact the ability to release them unharmed back to the water.

It was discussed that Yukon River people have honored the return of the king salmon, the first catch and the person who caught this was distinguished. It was divided up and given to the elders. The fish have a spirit. To have our native people discuss proposals that come before appointed people on the Board of Fish that make decisions about the way we live...with that in mind, if a king salmon is accidentally killed, they are sure the person who killed it will enjoy the fruit of it and share with others. With that in mind they opposed this wording.

Only one person supported the language and most all the others did not, so the motion had no consensus to su



Proposal 377: No consensus

There was a lack of support for the use of monofilament in this type of gear. There was one supporter from the lower river, but most of the board members did not support this leading to no consensus.



Submitted By
John H. Lamont
Submitted On
3/3/2014 2:37:26 PM
Affiliation
Yukon Commercial Fisherman

Phone
(907) 232-0108
Email
yukonkingsalmon@aol.com
Address
7051 West Windsor Drive
Wasilla, Alaska 99623

I am in support of proposals numbered: 371,372 and 377.

Proposal 371, allowing for the diameter of dip nets to be increased for the commercial fishery on the Lower Yukon River (Y-1, Y-2 and Y-3). The current regulations set a maximum diameter of 5 feet was established for personal use fisheries (which are usually concentrated groups of fishers connected to a high traffic road system), on the Yukon River you established this dip net fishery to utilize the abundance of summer chum salmon while having very little impact on the Yukon Chinook Salmon due to low abundance in the Canadian Spawning System. I know that if we (commercial fishers) are allowed to harvest with a larger diameter dip net opening we will find the most efficient way to harvest the abundance of summer salmon (when there is an abundance) and avoid impacting the chinook salmon bound for Canadian waters.

Proposal 372, allowing for leads in the commercial fish wheel fishery in the Upper Yukon Area. This will allow the commercial fishers to become more efficient in harvesting the abundance of summer and fall Keta Salmon (when there are years of abundance for commercial harvest).

Proposal 377, adding purse seine gear to the Yukon River Summer Chum Management Plan (5 AAC 39.260 for the commercial harvest of summer chums and allowing for the web of the seine gear to be monofilament. Beach Seine was implemented without consideration of the riverine conditions on the mouth of the Yukon River. During the 2013 season the use of Beach Seine gear was not very successful in harvesting the commercial abundance of summer chum salmon, but the SeineTest Fishery allowed for the harvesting of chum salmon with little impact to the Chinook Salmon and was more efficient than the Beach Seine. Therefore, allowing for the use of in-river seine gear would be more efficient than beach seines and dip netting which is currently in the Yukon River Summer Chum Salmon Management Plan. Should the Alaska Board of Fish pass proposal 377 and allow for the commercial use of in-river seine gear (as stated in the proposal with the web ammendment) during the summer commercial chum salmon fishery, it will allow for the commercial fishers to commercially harvest the more abundant summer chum salmon with little or no impact to the less abundant Chinook Salmon.



Submitted By
Mary Jane Nielsen
Submitted On
2/27/2014 4:45:12 PM
Affiliation
Alaska Peninsula Corporation

Reference: Support for **Proposal # 375**

Alaska Peninsula Corporation is the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act village corporation for the Native Village of Ugashik. We support Proposal # 375 which clarifies ambiguities in the existing regulation, 5AAC 06.331, and will hopefully resolve the navigation hazards that threaten our shareholders in Ugashik.



Submitted By
robert white
Submitted On
2/8/2014 9:46:51 PM
Affiliation
seward ac

Phone
907-362-1453

Email
rdw1@gci.net

Address
po box 201
seward, Alaska 99664

Resurrection bay has not had a silver or king return since the old hatchery fish cycle. no evidence of a beach run or upper bay return from the new hatchery has appeared. the department has asserted normal catch numbers for the bay, however local beach fishermen do not agree with that assertion. the number of boats (or should i say a general lack thereof) fishing inside the bay would not support the numbers either. a history of smolt sprayed on the beach or generally served to seagulls in the past is well documented by many observers. this is not a proper outcome for the money spent on smolt, plants seem to be done better lately but the return still doesn't happen, perhaps another reason is out there but has not been found. hatchery production is there but should not be the sole focus of the department. habitat has been left out of any management, stream counts and habitat evaluation have not been done since the 1970s. the question is why no biologist has been stationed here to do what should be done every year. flooding in the seward area has destroyed salmon runs and cut off habitat from further runs, money spent on habitat in the correct places could well provide the upper bay returns more effectively than a hatchery could. at the very least the local habitat should well be a part of the run each and every year.



Submitted By
Susan Bourgeois
Submitted On
2/27/2014 12:11:54 PM
Affiliation
City of Cordova

CITY OF CORDOVA, ALASKA

SUBSTITUTE RESOLUTION 02-14-10

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CORDOVA, ALASKA, SUPPORTING DEVELOPMENT OF A PWS TANNER CRAB MANAGEMENT PLAN BY 2015, TO BE DISCUSSED AT THE STATEWIDE KING AND TANNER CRAB BOARD OF FISH MEETING IN ANCHORAGE MARCH 17-21, 2014

WHEREAS, based on Alaska Department of Fish and Game survey data, crab stocks in Prince William Sound appear to be on the rebound; and

WHEREAS, commercial fishing is an integral part of Cordova's economy; and

WHEREAS, twenty-seven years have elapsed since Prince William Sound has had a commercial crab fishery; and

WHEREAS, the City of Cordova, its businesses and citizens would benefit greatly from the economic activity surrounding a commercial crab fishery.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the City Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska does hereby strongly support development of a PWS Tanner Crab Management Plan by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game so as to enable commencement of a crab fishery in 2015.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 19th DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2014.



ALASKA Bering Sea Crabbers

206.783.0188 | 5470 Shilshole Ave. NW, Suite 505 | Seattle, WA 98107
alaskaberingscraabbers.com

March 3, 2014

Honorable Karl Johnstone, Chairman
Mr. Glenn Haight, Executive Director
Alaska Board of Fisheries
Alaska Department of Fish & Game
Boards Support Section
PO Box 115526
Juneau, Alaska 99811-5526

Dear Chairman Johnstone and Mr. Haight,
Alaska Bering Sea Crabbers (ABSC) is a 501(c)(5) seafood industry trade association, representing nearly 70% of the participants in the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands King and Tanner crab fishery. We are pleased to offer our comments on several proposals to be considered during the March 17-21, 2014 *Alaska Board of Fisheries Statewide King & Tanner Crab* meeting in Anchorage. We plan to attend the meeting as well and will provide oral comments supplementary to our written comments. We thank you in advance for your consideration of our input.

Proposal 326 (submitted by Don Johnson)

ABSC does not support this proposal. This proposal would close all commercial King and Tanner crab fisheries in the State except Southeastern Alaska. The proposal contends that closing all commercial King and Tanner crab fisheries would help rebuild declining king salmon stocks in the State. We disagree and feel this proposal would be very detrimental to the interests of the State, crab dependent Alaskan coastal communities, fishery participants, and related support businesses.

Proposal 348 (submitted by the Golden King Crab Coalition)

ABSC supports this proposal. This proposal would increase the Golden King crab harvest levels in the area east of 174 degrees west longitude and the area west of 174 degrees west longitude. Recognizing that a stock assessment model for this species is still under development and that a reliable estimate of stock biomass is unavailable, overfishing and acceptable biological catch levels for this stock are based upon historical average catch. Even with the slight increase to harvest levels as outlined under this proposal, they remain well below the scientifically accepted status quo OFL and ABC limits established over the last few years.

Proposals 350 thru 356 (submitted by the Adak Community Development Corporation)

ABSC is strongly opposed to each of these proposals. These proposals seek to establish a super exclusive state waters Red King crab fishery (Adak District between 171 and 179 degrees west longitude) for small boats under 60', but there is a significant lack of scientific and stock assessment information upon which to establish and



effectively manage a fishery. According to the 2013 Crab SAFE Report for Adak Red King crab, estimates of past or present stock biomass are not available for this area. There is no assessment model developed for this stock and standardized stock surveys have been too limited in geographic scope and too infrequent to provide a reliable index of abundance for the Red King crab population west of 171 degrees west longitude. No overfished determination (a stock size estimate relative to an established minimum stock size threshold) is possible for this stock given the lack of biomass information. In addition, during their discussions on Adak Red King crab at their May 2013 meeting, the Crab Plan Team acknowledged the complexities that exist between State of Alaska and Federal management (the portion of the red king crab stock between 171 and 179 degrees west longitude is currently included in the Federal Crab FMP). In particular, the Crab Plan Team cited concerns about how crab prohibited species catch (PSC) mortality in the directed groundfish fisheries would be handled were an Adak Red King crab fishery to be established independent of the Federal FMP. This fishery has been closed since the end of the 2003/2004 season. In 2012, ADF&G designed a state-waters Red King crab pot survey based upon requests from industry representatives in this area. To defray the cost of the survey, participants would be allowed to sell a portion of the Red King crab caught. In 2012 the CPT and Scientific and Statistical Committee recommended an ABC for the 2012/2013 season to accommodate the proposed survey, but industry advocates decided to forgo the fall 2012 survey and have not requested another pot survey since. The prudent and responsible way forward towards the establishment of an Adak Red King crab fishery would be for the authors of this proposal to continue to work with ADF&G to conduct a cooperative pot survey in order to begin collection of the scientific stock data necessary upon which to base a sustainable fishery.

Proposal 358 (submitted by ADF&G)

ABSC supports this proposal. Effective crab fishery management requires careful and consistent coordination between the State of Alaska and Federal fishery management agencies. By revising the St. Matthew Blue King Crab Harvest Strategy, the State process for establishing total allowable catch levels will be more aligned with the current Federal process for establishing overfishing and allowable biological catch limits. While this proposal will result in a harvest strategy that is more conservative than the current one, ABSC understands the need to promote stock rebuilding when the population approaches critical levels (as it has been over the last few years).

Proposal 362 (submitted by ADF&G)

ABSC supports this proposal, but would like to see it modified to include a reduction in both escapement ring size and mesh size for bairdi crab. To preserve the biological integrity of the *Chionoecetes* population, ABSC fully endorses the modification of pot gear that allows for the escapement of female and sublegal crab. As such, ABSC supports clarifying and updating regulations requiring the vertical placement of escape rings near the bottom of pot gear for *opilio* and *bairdi* crab. However, ABSC would like to see a reduction in the current escapement ring size and mesh size for pots targeting *bairdi* crab. Industry is retaining *bairdi* crab in both the east and west



districts down to five inches (legal size is 4.8" and 4.4" respectively). At the current ring and mesh size limits, which were established at a time when industry was targeting 5.5" *bairdi*, pot gear for *bairdi* crab is highly inefficient. In order to promote full retention (allowing for the highest CPUE possible) of industry preferred-size *bairdi* crab while also allowing for the full escapement of female and sublegal *bairdi* crab, a regulatory change in both escapement ring size and mesh size for *bairdi* crab should simultaneously accompany the regulatory change in escapement ring placement.

Proposal 363 (submitted by ADF&G)

ABSC supports this proposal. ABSC fully supports the need for accurate collection of fishery information, including the completion of fishery operations. Among the many benefits of the crab rationalization IFQ program, vessel operators have the ability to participate in the fishery at any time during the regulatory season. ABSC understands that this freedom may make it difficult for fishery managers and enforcement personnel to accurately track participation in a timely manner; therefore, ABSC supports the addition of regulatory language requiring a check-out provision in the rationalized crab fisheries.

Proposals 364-367 (submitted by ADF&G)

ABSC supports each of these proposals. Each of these proposals seeks to clarify and update regulations related to the onboard shellfish observer program. ABSC feels that each of these amendments will serve to positively benefit observer providers, observers, vessel operators, as well as department staff.

In conclusion, we thank you for consideration of our input. Please feel free to contact me if you need any clarification or additional information relative to this comment letter. We look forward to the Statewide meeting later this month.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark H. Gleason".

Mark H. Gleason, Executive Director
Alaska Bering Sea Crabbers

Jas



Glenn Haight
Executive Director
Alaska Board of Fisheries

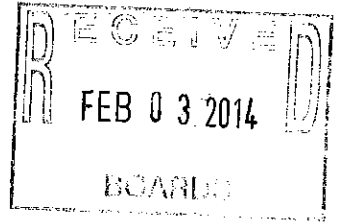
Glenn

I am responding to the flyer dated
January 15, 2014 and the statement or
proposal for the Yukon Fin fish area
newly assigned proposal 377.

To approve a Saine fisher in the
lower Yukon. ~~at~~ as I understand
Saine fisher, everything on the drop
of the Saine is caught, which to me
means everything, and they propose it
during time of King Salmon Conservation.
How can you conserve if everything is
being caught. unless I completely miss
understand Saining and I don't think
I do this is completely unacceptable especially
when many areas are not allowed to
drift net. which is a perfectly acceptable
method and allows escapement, as written
I vote no on 377

Thank you for your time

Dian Mueller
Commercial net Holder Since 1972





SUPPLEMENTAL NOTICE OF PROPOSED CHANGES IN THE REGULATIONS OF THE ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES

This is a **SUPPLEMENTAL NOTICE** adding to the **NOTICE OF PROPOSED CHANGES** that was issued on November 1, 2013, hereby incorporated by reference, concerning proposed regulation changes in Title 5 of the Alaska Administrative Code. This **SUPPLEMENTAL NOTICE** is being issued to notify the public of the following topic being added to the Board of Fisheries (board) schedule to be considered at the meeting noted:

The following additional topic will be addressed at the board's Statewide King and Tanner Crab, and Supplemental Items meeting scheduled for March 17-21, 2014 at the Sheraton Hotel, 401 East 6th Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska:

IN THE BRISTOL BAY FINFISH AREA: Consider amending regulations relating to deployment of set gillnet gear in the Ugashik River to remedy a navigational obstruction in the Ugashik River set gill net salmon fishery. (*Newly assigned Proposal 375 – formerly ACR 10.*)

IN THE YUKON RIVER FINFISH AREA: Consider establishing a purse seine fishery on the Yukon River for commercial harvest of Yukon River summer chum salmon in districts 1-3 during times of king salmon conservation, including the gear that may be used, based on an emergency finding for a Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Association-emergency petition. (*Newly assigned Proposal 377.*)

All other provisions posted in the November 1, 2013 **NOTICE OF PROPOSED CHANGES** remain the same, including the public comment periods and tentative meeting schedule.


For a copy of the proposed regulation changes, or for a copy of the November 1, 2013 **NOTICE OF PROPOSED CHANGES**, contact the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Boards Support Section, P.O. Box 115526, Juneau, AK 99811-5526, phone 907-465-4110, or access the Internet at: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fisheriesboard.meetinginfo>

Statutory Authority: AS 16.05 – AS 16.20; AS 16.40

Statutes being implemented, interpreted, or made specific: AS 16.05

Fiscal Information: The proposed regulatory actions are not expected to require an increased appropriation.

Date: January 15, 2014



Glenn Haight, Executive Director
Alaska Board of Fisheries



Kodiak/Aleutians Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
c/o U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1011 East Tudor Road, MS 121
Anchorage, Alaska 99503
Phone: (907) 786-3364, Fax: (907) 786-3898
Toll Free: 1-800-478-1456

FEB 08 2014

RAC KA13050.CJ

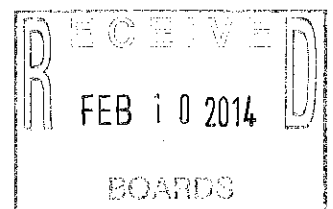
Mr. Karl Johnstone, Chair
Alaska Board of Fisheries
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Chair Johnstone:

The Kodiak/Aleutians Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (Council) held a public meeting on September 24-25, 2013, in Kodiak, Alaska. The Council is one of ten regional advisory councils formed under Title VIII of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) and represents subsistence users in the Kodiak Archipelago and among the Aleutian Islands. The Council provides a public forum for discussion and recommendations for subsistence fish and wildlife management on federal lands or others issues relating to subsistence in their region.

During its meeting, the Council received a presentation and briefing on Proposal 337, which would repeal the prohibition on subsistence Tanner crab fishing 14 days before the commercial king and Tanner crab commercial opening. Discussion at the meeting indicated the affected regulation, was put in place thirty years ago to protect subsistence users and to prevent "cheating" by commercial fishermen prior to the commencement of a commercial fishery. The Council indicated this regulation was put into place because fishermen were setting crab pots prior to a commercial fishing season under subsistence regulations; if the fishermen found concentrations of crabs, they would return to the spot during the open commercial Tanner crab fishery and harvesting the pocket crab.

The Council voiced opposition to Proposal 337, stating adoption of the proposal could allow commercial crab fishermen to engage in "prospecting" prior to a commercial Tanner crab fishery while claiming to be fishing under subsistence regulations. Council members expressed





Chair Johnstone

2

concerns over how subsistence users were impacted prior to the adoption of this regulation when schools of Tanner crabs near their communities were over-harvested, resulting in lowered success rates for subsistence users. The Council voted to support maintaining the two week pre-commercial Tanner crab commercial fishery season closure to all users to protect subsistence users.

The Council appreciates the opportunity to provide input to the Alaska Board of Fisheries on this issue. If you have any questions regarding this correspondence, please contact me through Carl Johnson, Council Coordination Division Chief, Office of Subsistence Management (OSM) at 1-800-478-1456 or (907) 786-3676.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Speridon M. Simeonoff".

Speridon Simeonoff, Chair

cc: Cora Campbell, Commissioner, ADF&G
Jennifer Yuhas, Federal Subsistence Liaison Team Leader, ADF&G
Tim Towarak, Chair, Federal Subsistence Board
Kodiak/Aleutians Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
Eugene R. Peltola, Jr., Assistant Regional Director, OSM
David Jenkins, Acting Fisheries Chief, OSM
Carl Johnson, Council Coordination Division Chief, OSM
Interagency Staff Committee
Administrative Record



**PACIFIC NORTHWEST CRAB INDUSTRY ADVISORY
COMMITTEE (PNCIAC)**

Lance Farr, Chair
8941 179th Place SW
Edmonds, Washington 98040
fffish@hotmail.com
C 206 669 7163; F 425 776 9894

January 20, 2014

Mr. Glenn Haight, Executive Director
Alaska Board of Fisheries
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 9981
Fax: 907 465 6094

Re: Support letter for emergency petition to the Alaska Board of Fisheries submitted by Alaska Bering Sea Crabbers

Dear Mr. Haight

The Pacific Northwest Crab Industry Advisory Committee (PNCIAC) is the Alaska Board of Fisheries (AKBOF) and North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) designated non-resident industry advisory committee, representing industry participants from Washington and Oregon. It was established in 1990 at the time that the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands King and Tanner crab Fishery Management Plan was approved by the Governor of the State of Alaska, followed by the Secretary of Commerce. PNCIAC has balanced representation of harvesters and processors. PNCIAC since its beginnings, has worked with the Board of Fisheries, ADF&G, the NMFS, and the NPFMC. Together, the PNCIAC and the agencies have worked together to improve resource management.

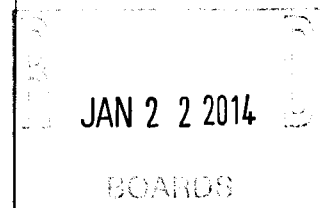
PNCIAC supports the emergency petition submitted by Alaska Bering Sea Crabbers to change the industry-standard size limit for retention of Bairdi crab for Eastern Subdistrict Tanner crab from 5.5 inches to 5.0 inches. PNCIAC agrees with ABSC letter outlining the benefits of the petition and notes that there is no biological impact to stock productivity. PNCIAC further believes that industry has only recently become aware that the Crab Plan Team anticipates a substantial increase in mature harvestable size in the Eastern Subdistrict, large numbers of which will not reach 5.5 inches in carapace width. If the size limit is not reduced (at 5.0 inches, it will still exceed the minimum biological size for reproduction, plus a buffer), there will be substantial foregone harvests in the next 3-5 years.

PNCIAC recommends the ABOF accept the Emergency Petition for the March 2014 Board of Fisheries Statewide King and Tanner crab meeting.

Thank you in advance for your consideration,

Regards,

Lance Farr, Chairman
PNCIAC





PACIFIC NORHTWEST CRAB INDUSTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PNCIAC)
January 2013 through December 2015

Keith Colbern
F/V Wizard

Lance Farr (Chair)
F/V Kevleen K

Kevin Kaldestad
Kaldestad Fisheries

Garry M Loncon
RAS Seafoods

Steve Minor
UniSea Seafoods

Gary Painter
F/V Trailblazer

Kirk Peterson
UniSea Inc.

Rob Rogers (Vice Chair)
General Mgr Floating Production
Icicle Seafoods

Vic Scheibert
Trident Seafoods Corporation

Dale Schwarzmiller
Peter Pan Seafoods Inc

Gary Stewart
F/V Polar Lady

Tom Suryan
Skippers For Equitable Access (SEA), President

Elizabeth Wiley
Westward Seafoods Inc.

Mark Gleason
Alaska Bering Sea Crabbers

Arni Thomson Secretary (non-voting)
Alaska Crab Coalition



Board Meeting: Statewide King and Tanner Crab and Supplemental Issues 03/03/2014

Name: Gene J. Sandone

Affiliation: YDFDA

Contact phone: 907-631-6033

Email: gjsandone@gci.net

Address: 4950 W. Clayton St.

Wasilla, AK

99623

Do you consent to your contact information being included on printed copies of your comments?

YES

COMMENTS FOLLOW+:



Sandone, Gene J.
G.Sandone Consulting, LLC
4950 W. Clayton St.
Wasilla, AK 99623
907-631-6033
March 3, 2014

Dear Chairman Johnstone:

I represent the Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Association (YDFDA). As you know, Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) proposals #371 and #377 were generated by the BOF through the Agenda Change Request (ACR) and Emergency Petition processes, respectively. These proposals will be discussed and deliberated during the March 2014 BOF statewide meeting in Anchorage.

As you know the Yukon River king salmon commercial fishery has not occurred for a number of years. Recently, subsistence harvests have been curtailed because of the poor king salmon runs returning to the Yukon. However, there have been relatively large summer chum salmon runs which have been precluded from harvest because of the concern for king salmon. Although the BOF in their January 2013 meeting allowed the use of beach seines and dip nets in the commercial summer chum salmon fishery during times of king conservation, only 15% of the 2013 total drainage surplus available to commercial harvest was taken. The Lower River districts took 29% of their commercial allocation, while the Upper River districts took only 14%. The overall commercial exploitation rate was only 15%; it should have been closer to 65%. The failure of these fisheries to harvest a substantial portion of the commercial surplus resulted in an escapement of approximately 2.6M salmon. Escapement goal analyses indicate that production falls to 1 return per spawner when escapement are between 1.8M and 2.0M in the Yukon River drainage. Escapements greater than this range will probably not replace themselves. Further, escapements have been in excess of 2.0M for the last three years, 2011-2013, and will probably result in reduced summer chum run sizes starting in 2015.

Both these proposals have the purpose of making the Lower Yukon Area commercial fishery for summer chum salmon more efficient while allowing the live release of king salmon. Because of variable run strength among different species and stocks of salmon migrating coincidentally throughout Alaska and also in Canada, Washington and Oregon, selective harvesting techniques may be more prominent in the management of fisheries in the future.

YDFDA brought these issues to the attention of the BOF and supports both proposals. Written comments provided in this packet partially provide rationale to support each proposal.

I look forward to seeing you at the March meeting and publically testifying in support of these proposals.

Sincerely,

Gene J. Sandone



YUKON AREA PROPOSALS TO THE ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES, MARCH, 2014

BY
Gene J. Sandone
YDFDA

1

Proposal # 371 **Would allow unrestricted commercial dip net size.**

- Proposer: YDFDA
- Purpose: to increase efficiency of this gear without causing harm to king salmon;
- Presently, there is a 5 ft straight line maximum on all dipnets (reflects personal use regulations);
- On hoop nets the 5 ft is measured as the diameter of the dipnet;
- On the triangle dipnets, the max straight line distance is from the base to the upper edge;
- Presently, the base of the triangle dipnet is approximately 4 ft;
- We would like to see the base length of the dipnet to be at least 6 feet.

2

Triangle dipnet with 4 foot base



3

Proposal #377 Would allow purse seine use in the Lower Yukon Area for commercial fishing for summer chum salmon

- Proposer: YDFDA
- Purpose: to harvest larger quantities of summer chum salmon without harming king salmon.
- Washington and Oregon are prohibiting gillnets on the Columbia River for fishing for salmon;
- Fishers there will be selectively harvesting hatchery kings and releasing wild kings using purse seines;
- **YOUTUBE VIDEO:** *Wild Release: Colville Confederated Tribes' Selective Salmon Harvest*
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ir8QiLqPhjY>

4



PROPOSAL 377 (cont.) SECONDARILY: SEEKING TO ALLOW USE OF MULTI-STRAND MONOFILAMENT WEBBING

NOT SEEKING TO ALLOW THE USE SINGLE STRAND MONOFILAMENT;

- Seeking to allow the use of multi-strand monofilament webbing similar to gillnet webbing.
- Increases efficiency because multi-strand monofilament is light weight and easier to pull through the water with the small boats used in the Lower Yukon.

5

Why allow purse seines ?

- Beach seines were basically not used during the summer season (no sites because of seasonably high water);
- Dipnet worked but are an inefficient method of catching summer chum salmon (9% exploitation rate);
- Poor participation in dipnet fishery by fishers (median=50 fishers in 32 openings in Districts 1 and 2)
- Over 2.0M summer chum salmon were targeted for commercial harvest (~65% of the run);
- Total drainage commercial harvest was only about 486,000 summer chum salmon (~15% of the run)
- 1.6M summer chum salmon commercial harvest foregone (~50% of the run)
- Drainage Escapement was over 2.6M (~81% of the run)
- Estimated 1.0M summer chum salmon foregone in the Lower Yukon Area alone.
- Value of the Lower Yukon summer fishery to fishers \$1.7M.
- Foregone revenue to the fishers: ~\$4.3M

6



2013 Summer Chum Salmon Run Summary

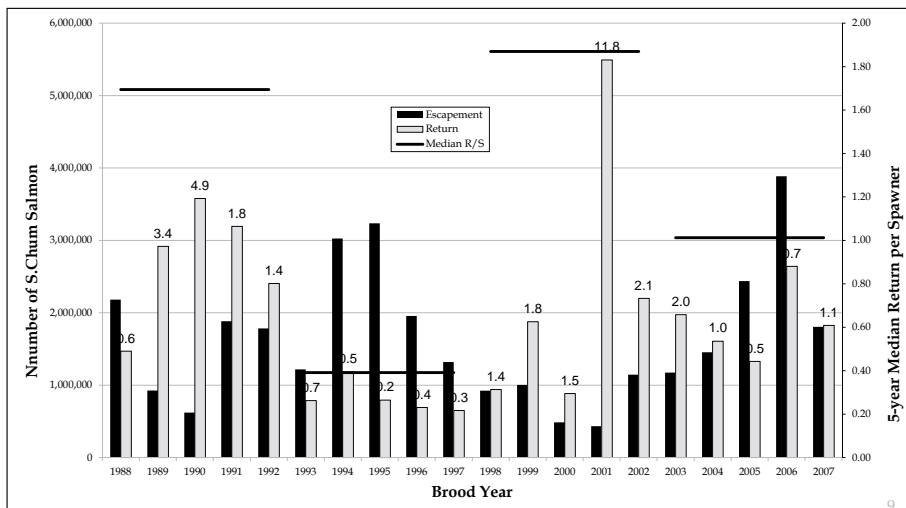
2013 YUKON AREA SUMMER CHUM SALMON SYNOPSIS		
	Numbers	Proportion
Est. Total Summer Chum Run	3,200,886	1.000
Targeted Drainage Escapement	1,000,000	0.312
Est. Subsistence Harvest	115,000	0.036
Targeted Commercial Harvest	2,085,886	0.652
Est. Drainage-wide Escapement	2,600,307	0.812
District 1 and 2 Com. Allocation	1,324,538	0.414
Actual District 1, and 2 Harvest	379,143	0.118
Value of the District 1 & 2 Fishery	\$1,721,524	
District 1 and 2 Foregone Com Harvest	945,395	0.295
Foregone revenue to Dist 1 & 2 Fishers	\$4,292,626	
Other District Com. Harvests	106,436	0.033
Total Area Foregone Com Harvest	1,600,307	0.500

Why allow purse seines?

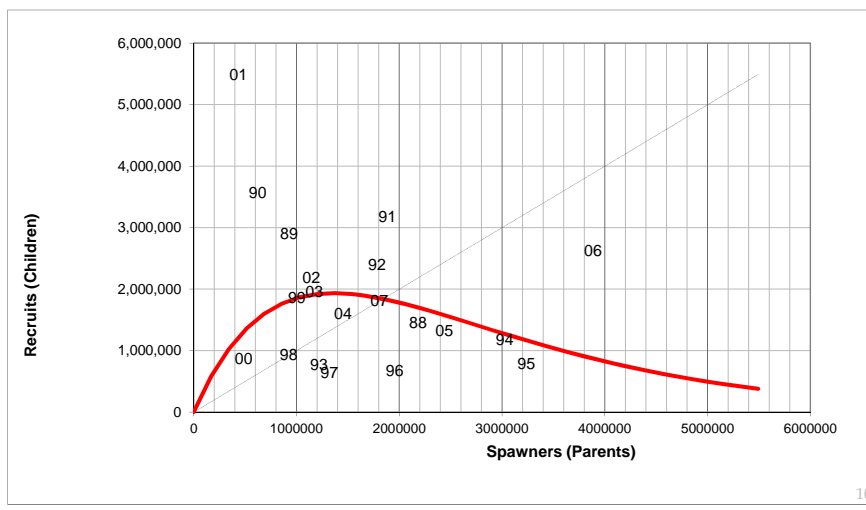
- Because of this high level of foregone harvest, escapements have been too high (2.6M in 2013);
- Summer chum salmon escapements have been in excess of 2.0M salmon for the last three years;
- Summer chum salmon escapements over 1.8M-2.0M have not replaced themselves (poor production);
- Therefore, it is anticipated that beginning in 2015, we may see lower summer chum salmon runs.



Summer chum Salmon Escapement, Return, and Return/Spawner

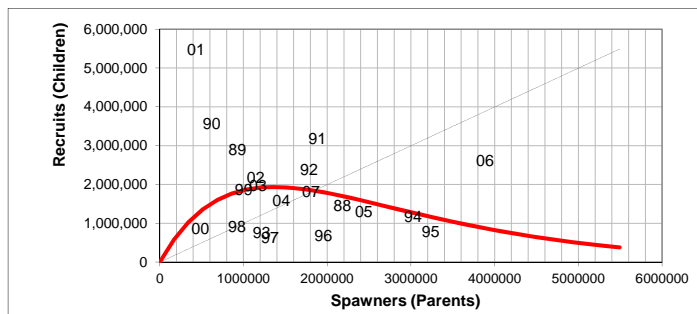


Recruits versus Escapement Summer chum Salmon (MSY)=700k-1.0M; S=R=1.8M-2.0M



Summer Chum Salmon Escapement Analysis

- VERY IMPORTANT NOT TO EXCEED 1.8M TO 2.0M ESCAPEMENT
- OPTIMAL ESCAPEMENT (MSY) IS BETWEEN 700,000 AND 1,000,000 SUMMER CHUM



11

CONCERN FOR KING SALMON

- How do we harvest large quantities of summer chum salmon without harming the king salmon?
- We need efficient selective harvest techniques.
- Beach seines don't work because of seasonably high water.
- Dip nets work, but are very inefficient. – poor catch per hour compared to a gillnet and poor participation by fishers;
- Purse seines may be the answer to catching large numbers of summer chum while allowing the live release of king salmon.

12

Free-swimming salmon dip netted out of the purse seine pool and either retained or released.



13



14

Board Meeting: Statewide King and Tanner Crab and Supplemental Issues
03/03/2014

Name: Gene J. Sandone

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Email: gjsandone@gci.net

Address: 4950 W. Clayton St.

Wasilla, AK

99623

Do you consent to your contact information being included on printed copies of your comments?

YES

COMMENTS FOLLOW:

Columbia River selective harvest salmon fisheries research, news articles, and emails.



Sandone, Gene J.
G.Sandone Consulting, LLC
4950 W. Clayton St.
Wasilla, AK 99623
907-631-6033
March 3, 2014

Dear Chairman Johnstone:

I represent the Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Association (YDFDA). As you know, Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) proposals #371 and #377 were generated by the BOF through the Agenda Change Request (ACR) and Emergency Petition processes, respectively. These proposals will be discussed and deliberated during the March 2014 BOF statewide meeting in Anchorage. YDFDA supports both these proposals.

The following written testimony provides information regarding the ban on gillnets in the Columbia River for salmon harvest and the testing that the agencies involved are conducting to selectively harvest salmon. This includes news articles, information from agency webpages and also emails that I received from agency personnel. Note that purse seines will be used for selective commercial harvest of salmon this coming fall.

I am presenting this information in the hopes that we can move forward on proposal #377 and not have to redo all the experiments and testing that the states of Washington and Oregon completed.

Sincerely,

Gene J. Sandone



Potential regulations and assumptions associated with a lower Columbia River alternative commercial gear

Potential Regulations and assumptions associated with Lower Columbia River Alternative Commercial Gear			
Regulations	Tangle Net	Beach Seine	Purse Seine
Area	Zones 1-3 (Warrior Rock line)	Same	Same
Timeframe	October 2 through October 15	TBD. Aug 25-Sep 25	Same
# days	8 days (Oct 2, 3, 7, 8, 9, 10, 14, and 15)	TBD	TBD
Hours	6 AM – 6 PM daily	TBD	TBD
Hours/day	12	TBD	TBD
Allowable Sales	Adipose fin-clipped coho, Chinook, and pink salmon	Ad-clipped Chinook, ad-clipped coho, and pink salmon	Same as Beach
Sanctuaries	Elokomin-A, Cowlitz, Kalama-A, and Lewis A	TBD but likely same as Tnet	Same
Max net length	150 fathoms	200 fathoms (including associated lead nets)	150-250 fathoms
Net Depth	No restrictions	≤200 meshes (~50 feet) if needed	
Mesh size/type	≤3.75 inch (stretched measure) multi-filament	≤3.5 inch (stretched measure), 3-strand nylon; twine size ≥#12. Bunt?	Same as Beach but require 50-60 fathoms of 1-1.5" knotless bunt
Measurement method	Hand tension	Same	Same
Stringers/Slackers	Not allowed	No restrictions	Same as Beach
Leadline	2#/fathom	No weight restrictions; chafing panel 2-3.5" mesh allowed	TBD
Corkline	Red cork every 25-fathom	No restrictions	Same
Recovery Box	Required for condition 2-5 salmon and steelhead	Not required or require live box	Possibly require
Boat length	Not restricted	Not restricted or 37/38 feet maximum	Same
Set time	30 minute maximum (1 st cork out to last cork in)	1.0-1.5 hr maximum from time net is closed (outer towed end reaches beach) until all fish are emptied from net.	Same as Beach?
Handling requirements		Hand or rubber coated dip net allowed for sorting. Penalty/DQ for dry sorting?	Same as Beach?
Observation	Cooperation required	Same	Same
License requirement	Commercial fishing license and CR Gillnet permit	TBD.	TBD
Participation requirements (unknown)	Mandatory state-sponsored live capture training	TBD but may require additional training specific to seines	Same as Beach?



Summary of options for determining who can participate in 2014 Columbia River seine fisheries

Option	Approach	Base Period	Advantages	Disadvantages
Open	All fishers with active CR permit eligible to participate. Fishing effort capped by current Columbia limited entry permit process. Require notice of intent to fish. Seine participants can/can't participate in gillnet fishery?	NA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Equal opportunity to participate regardless of recent participation. -Easy to implement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Test seiners may have competitive advantage -May allow fishery to over-exploit -Projecting catch and managing fishery may be difficult if participation is very high.
Open with qualifications <i>(supported at recent WDFW Emerging Fishery mtg)</i>	All fishers with active CR permit eligible to participate, except min 1,000#s salmon landings required in 1/5 2009-13 mainstem and/or SAFE. Require notice of intent to fish with or w/o fee. Seine participants can/can't participate in gillnet fishery?	2009-2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Equal opportunity for fishers who have been "active" in recent years. -Easy to implement except potential for interpretation of who qualifies (permit holder or fisher or both?) - 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Test seiners may have competitive advantage -May allow fishery to over-exploit - Projecting catch and managing fishery may be difficult if participation is very high.
Open with cap	All fishers with active CR permit eligible to participate. Require notice of intent to fish annually with or w/o . Available quota split evenly. Seine participants can/can't participate in gillnet fishery?	NA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Equal opportunity to participate regardless of recent participation. -Easy to implement. -Easy to manage due to quotas -Catch can be distributed over time -Caps harvest for experienced fishers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Individual quotas may not be economically viable if participant level too high. -Fishers could reserve quota with no intention of using. -Latent fishers get same quota as active fishers
Lottery	All fishers with active CR permit eligible. Not influenced by landings. Equal chance of being able to participate in seine fishery regardless of level of participation in gillnet fishery.	NA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Equal opportunity to participate but not everyone gets to fish. -Effort can be capped at a level that may improve economic return for participants. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Active fishers may not draw a seine permit -Fishers interested in seining may not draw a permit. -Fishers that haven't been fishing may draw a seine permit and not use it
Weighted Lottery	All fishers with active CR permit eligible. Chance of being able to participate in seine fishery weighted by base period landings in mainstem and Select Area commercial fisheries .	2006-2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -All fishers have chance to draw seine permit. -Odds of drawing influenced by base period fishing level. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Active fishers may not draw a seine permit -Fishers interested in seining may not draw a permit. -Number of permits capped. -Fishers that haven't been fishing may draw a seine permit and not use it. -Odds of drawing influenced by base period fishing level.
Individual Fishing Quota	All fishers with CR permit eligible. Require Individual shares based on	2006-2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -All fishers can participate. -Fishers maintain quota scaled to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Complicated. -Inactive current fishers would not secure



	total pounds of any commercial fish landed in mainstem and Select Area commercial fisheries during base period. Shares converted to LRH impacts or total Chinook reserved for LRH seine fishery. Shares might apply to coho also.		recent fishery participation level. -Inherently limits participation (self-regulates total effort since quota pooling likely ie buyback w/o \$\$\$). -Quotas could be bought/sold? -Allows for pooling options to maximize economic return.	enough quota to operate a unless IQFs were pooled. -Who manages catch share trading?
Competitive Bid	Fish available for harvest would be available to highest bidders. Assume multiple sub-quotas for multiple seine operations.	NA	-Harvest level easily set and controlled. -Produces revenue for the state.	-Fishers would be limited to those who bid highest. -Fishers interested in seining may not be able to afford it.
Selective	All fishers with CR gillnet permit may apply for seine permit but selection based on application criteria (base period landings, or other measure of participation).	2006-2012	-Harvest level easily set and controlled. -Permits likely issued to fishers interested in seining.	-Not all fishers have equal opportunity to participate. -Selection process highly controversial.

Developing alternative commercial fishing gear

Test fishing to begin on Columbia River for fall chinook and coho salmon

In late August, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) will begin conducting test fisheries on the Columbia River as part of an effort to develop alternative gear for commercial salmon fisheries. The goal of the project is to identify commercial fishing gear capable of capturing large numbers of hatchery fish, while allowing for the safe release of wild stocks.

Expanding on a pilot project conducted last year, WDFW will initially work with commercial fishers to test three types of fishing gear: modified purse seines, beach seines and trap nets. Future testing will involve other types of gear. This year's test fisheries for chinook and coho salmon are scheduled to run through October.

WDFW will receive \$1.9 million from the National Marine Fisheries Service to conduct this year's gear trials. As in last year's pilot project, all fish captured in the gear tests will be released back into lower Columbia River.

The need for alternative commercial fishing gear

All three types of fishing gear involved in the test fishery allow the fish to remain free-swimming until they are sorted and released. During last year's pilot project, participants caught and handled 884 fish, only one of which died.

That survival rate would be virtually impossible to duplicate with a gillnet, the primary type of commercial fishing gear currently used on the lower Columbia River. While gillnets are highly effective at catching salmon and steelhead, they provide a limited ability to sort and release fish while they are still alive.

This greatly restricts commercial fishing on the Columbia River, where many wild salmon and steelhead populations are listed for protection under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA).



Fishing test a beach seine during the 2009 pilot project.

Gear being tested this fall

- **Purse seine:** A long wall of mesh netting is drawn out in a circle from the primary boat by a smaller boat. The bottom of the net is closed like a drawstring purse, trapping the fish in the net, where they can be sorted while still in the water.
- **Beach seine:** Similar to a purse seine, except one end of the net is anchored to the shore. A small boat pulls the other end of the net away from the beach, then upstream and back to shore to form a webbed circle.
- **Trap net:** A stationary or floating funnel-shaped net with wings that leads fish into a series of increasingly smaller boxes where they eventually become trapped.

Because federal law strictly limits impacts on those fish, many fisheries must be curtailed even when large numbers of hatchery-reared fish are available for harvest.

For these reasons, identifying commercial fishing gear capable of catching large numbers of hatchery fish while protecting wild fish would not only support conservation efforts, but also provide additional financial benefits for commercial fishers and the state of Washington.

Maximizing economic benefits for coastal and river communities

Salmon hatcheries on the lower Columbia River have been the backbone of the Northwest fishing industry for nearly three-quarters of a century, producing more than 50 million fish per year.

This economic powerhouse was created by the federal Mitchell Act, passed in 1938 to provide mitigation for the impacts of dam construction on Columbia River salmon runs.

Today, 20 hatcheries built under that legislation account for:

- . More than 40% of the chinook salmon catch off the Washington and northern Oregon coasts
- . 35% of the coho salmon caught off Oregon and 25% off Washington
- . \$29.3 million contributed annually to local personal income from sport and commercial fisheries
- . 1,108 full- and part-time jobs throughout the region.

But maintaining these benefits presents a challenge at a time when fishing is constrained by the ESA and broad-based efforts to recover wild stocks. In fact, continuing current hatchery production levels relies on finding ways to catch those fish without putting wild stocks at risk.

Significant progress toward that goal has been made in recreational fisheries over the past decade with the development of mark-selective fisheries, which require anglers to release wild fish – identifiable by an intact adipose fin. Developing alternative gear for commercial fisheries that achieves the same result would go a long way toward maintaining the benefits of Mitchell Act hatchery production.



A purse seiner makes a set during the 2009 pilot project.

Controlling the number of hatchery salmon on the spawning grounds



PC 19
16 of 75

Maximizing the catch of hatchery fish isn't just an economic issue; it is also a major consideration in conserving and recovering wild salmon and steelhead populations.

As described in the Lower Columbia Basin Salmon Recovery Plan, allowing large numbers of hatchery fish to reach spawning areas can subject wild salmon and steelhead to “genetic deterioration, reduced fitness and survival (and) ecological effects such as competition or predation.”

The Hatchery Scientific Review Group (HSRG), an independent group of scientists appointed by Congress, echoes these concerns. In an assessment completed in 2008, the HSRG found that excessive numbers of hatchery fish are spawning in areas utilized by the nine primary wild chinook populations and the 10 primary wild coho populations in the lower Columbia River.

Unlike sport fisheries, commercial fisheries have the “catching power” to prevent large numbers of hatchery fish from reaching area spawning grounds. But that harvesting potential can only be fully tapped with fishing gear that allows for high survival of released wild fish.

Next steps

WDFW's goal is two-fold: To determine whether the alternative fishing gear can effectively catch large numbers of fish, and whether those fish can be sorted and released without injury. The department plans to continue testing these and other gear types through 2015. WDFW will develop fisheries for alternative gear as soon as it proves to be effective.

The pilot project in 2009 involved a purse seine, a beach seine and a trap net. This year's test fishery will include five purse seines, five beach seines and two trap nets.

Like last year, fishers working with WDFW will modify the gear as needed to achieve the best results. They will also fish the gear in various areas, and under various tides and conditions.

Published by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, 2010. 600 Capitol Way North, Olympia, WA 98501. Website: <http://www.wa.gov/wdfw>. Phil Anderson, Director, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. Miranda Wecker, Chair, Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission.

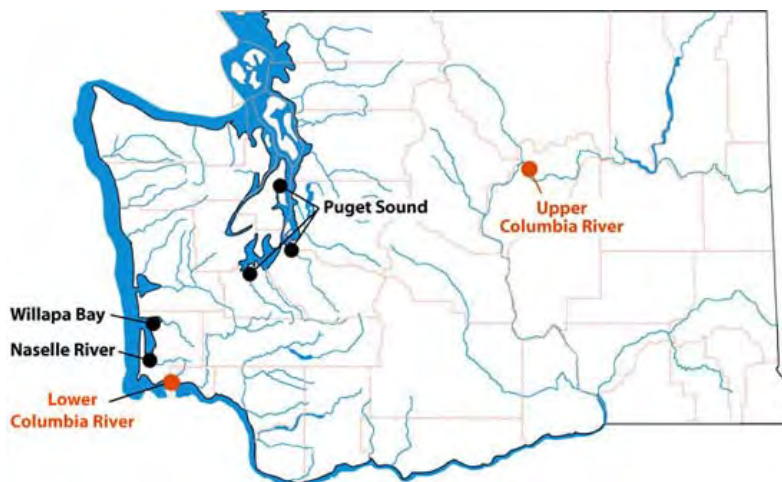
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The U.S. Department of the Interior and its bureaus prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability and sex (in educational programs). If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity or facility, please contact the WDFW ADA Coordinator at 600 Capitol Way North, Olympia, Washington 98501-1091 or write to: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of External Programs, 4040 N. Fairfax Drive, Suite 130, Arlington, VA 22203.



Commercial

Current Selective Fishing Research Projects



Current research projects in red. Past projects in black.

Lower Columbia River

WDFW hatcheries on the Lower Columbia River produce Chinook and coho that are the mainstay for coastal and lower river recreational and commercial fisheries. However, mixed in with these hatchery fish are many stocks that are listed under the Endangered Species Act and need protection from harvest. The economy of many communities benefit greatly from the sport and commercial fisheries. Therefore, to maintain fisheries in this area, it is highly desirable to develop a means to harvest hatchery fish with minimal impact to the wild stock.

In 2009, WDFW initiated a commercial selective gear implementation project in the lower Columbia River testing a purse seine, beach seine and trap net.

This program has been expanded in 2010 to include five purse seines, six beach seines and two trap nets.

For more information see:

- [Developing alternative commercial fishing gear](#)
- [Lower Columbia River Alternative Commercial Fishing Gear Study Year 1 Study Plan](#)
- [2010 Alternative Gear Implementation Project](#)
- [Colville Tribes, States Test 'Selective' Commercial Fishing Gear To Reduce Wild Fish Mortality](#)

Upper Columbia River

During 2006 and 2007 the Colville Confederated Tribes and WDFW began to explore using selective fishing gears as a means to collect broodstock for the planned Chief Joseph Hatchery and to improve harvest opportunity in the Okanogan Basin.

The Colville Tribe has significantly expanded this effort to include beach seines, tangle nets, trap nets and purse seines.

For more information see:

- [Colville Tribes Fish & Wildlife Selective Gear Deployment](#)
- [Colville Confederated Tribes Fish and Wildlife Department 2009 Live-Capture/Selective Harvest Summary](#)
- [Colville Tribes, States Test 'Selective' Commercial Fishing Gear To Reduce Wild Fish Mortality](#)

NEW! Request for Qualifications and Quotation (RFQQ) #11-0005

Alternative Commercial Salmon Fishing Gears & Methods:
Lower Columbia River & Estuary - Purse Sein, Beach Seine and Additional Methods

Map of Fishing Areas | Weekly Catch Data

Purse Seining on the Lower Columbia River

Click on photos to enlarge - Photo by Wild Fish Conservancy



Small purse seine on the Lower Columbia River. The net is deployed out in a large circle and ready to be drawn "purse" in.

The net is pulled in tighter, bringing any salmon in the net closer to the boat.



Fish are able to swim freely while crew members sort through them.

Salmon can be sorted via dip net enabling us to release wild fish unharmed.

The Friendliest Catch Colville Confederated Tribes' Selective Salmon Harvest



Revival Box

This Recovery Box is in use in current mark selective commercial fisheries for Spring Chinook in the lower Columbia River.

Selective fishing research in British Columbia revealed that handling and release of the live captured salmon were the most important factors that contributed to their post-release survival. The use of a recovery box provides fresh flowing oxygen to the salmon, helping them revive quickly.

In each of the selective fishing research projects, we use the recovery box for all salmon that appear lethargic or are bleeding. Fish are retained in this box until they become vigorous and actively seek to swim forward.

Approximately 36" long and 16" high, this wooden box is just wide enough for the salmon with its head facing the fresh water flow, but narrow enough to prevent it from turning around.

In a commercial selective fishery, each fishing boat will be equipped with a suitable recovery box. When a non-target fish is brought on board and requires some time to recover before release, it will be placed in the box until it is swimming vigorously. The recovery box provides the fish a protected place with extra water flow to recover from the stress of capture, and increases its chance of surviving after release.



Setup of holding tank and recovery box onboard a gillnetter's boat. Fish too lethargic to be released back into the river are placed into a recovery box for rejuvenation.



Salmon recuperating in a recovery box. To maximize oxygen flow to the fish's gills, its mouth is placed directly in front of the freshwater supply being pumped onboard.



Fish recovery box. Photo courtesy of: OR Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, Columbia R. Mgmt. Office



Recovery box in action: a Chinook is revitalized using water pumped from the river



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NW Fishletter #287, April 19, 2011

[1] Selective Fishing Methods May Help Future Wild Runs

Commercial fishermen may be netting more hatchery-raised Columbia River salmon in a couple of years, with less impact to ESA-listed stocks than now occurs, if another year of research bears out current trends.

By using fishing gear like purse seines that allow wild fish to be released relatively unharmed compared to those captured in gillnets, fishermen may end up with bigger paychecks and help wild stocks by reducing the number of hatchery fish that reach spawning grounds and undermine productivity of wild runs.

That was the take-home message from WDFW's southwest regional manager Guy Norman at last week's meeting of the Northwest Power and Conservation Council. He reported on the [2010 results](#) of selective harvest investigations in the lower Columbia, and said he was "very encouraged" about the future.

Norman said the latest information builds on 2009 results that looked at harvesting fall chinook with beach seines, purse seines and trap nets. He said 2010 allowed 30 days of fishing, from August to late October, a period when beach seines caught 8,000 chinook and coho, purse seines corralled another 14,000 fish, and two trap nets caught only about 50.

He said only 0.1 percent of the fish released from the nets died shortly thereafter.

Unfortunately, the \$1.9 million from the Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund and the Mitchell Act appropriation wasn't enough to pay for a long-term mortality study--a project that would involve a tagging and recovery effort way beyond the scope of the current research.



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Purse seine testing on the lower Columbia--courtesy WDFW.

The encouraging results may prove to be a big improvement over survival of chinook and steelhead released from gillnets, where recovery boxes are used to help revive fish before they are returned to the river.

Earlier WDFW research had estimated a whopping 40 percent post-release mortality for wild spring chinook and 30 percent for steelhead when traditional large mesh nets were used. When fishers used much smaller mesh tangle nets, managers expected chinook mortality to be cut by about 50 percent.

Norman said researchers last year had also placed some post-released fish in netpens to see how they fared, but hungry otters ended that part of the experiment.

WDFW plans to continue its research with beach seines and purse seines this coming season, and has committed funding for it, but the all-important long-term mortality study of released fish will only occur if another \$850,000 can be found. Norman said some carryover funds may be available, and getting the industry to partner may help, too.

In 2007, the commercial sector didn't express much interest in selective harvest options, but that has changed. He said there were 35 applications filed for 16 slots to test gear this coming season.

Norman acknowledged that more funds are needed for next year--no federal funding is yet lined up, and that could stifle data needs to help with fish allocation issues and a scientifically sound study of release mortality. But if all goes well, the selective harvest option could be in place by 2013, in the management plan for commercial fisheries--with the main focus on the fall season.

Norman said there are obvious periods when the seines would not be very efficient--like during the peak of the summer run, when the seines would easily catch too many sockeye and steelhead.

And it may take awhile before commercial fishermen step up, if they have to spend \$10,000 to \$30,000 to gear up for the fishery.

Since more people are required to operate the seine gear than the usual one-man gillnetting operation, more fish have to be caught to make it pay. But it's too soon to tell just how the new regime might affect harvest allocations.

And it could help reduce the number of hatchery fish on spawning grounds, Norman said.

Norman's presentation was a thinly-veiled plea for more money from BPA. Though the power-marketing agency has funded some previous research into selective fisheries, notably fish wheels, and currently supports a Colville Tribes project that's investigating the use of beach seines in the Upper Columbia, the agency has been generally more concerned about spring chinook issues than fall chinook.

During the spring, non-Indian commercial and sport fishers are only allowed to keep fish marked by a clipped fin that identifies them as hatchery fish. But during fall fisheries, they are allowed to keep unmarked chinook, since the largest component of the run is usually made of wild fish headed for Hanford Reach.



Seiners might be able to nab a much larger share of coho than they do now, an issue that will no doubt heat up since some upriver tribes have been working to boost coho numbers for their own harvest.

WDFW's Bill Tweit, told *NW Fishletter* later that the seine options would probably work out the best in the lower Columbia, where many hatchery fall chinook end up on spawning grounds with wild tules. But he said if all hatchery coho were marked, some could be harvested, and an allowance might be made to catch a portion of the unmarked wild run of upriver rights headed for the Hanford Reach. He said if all upriver hatchery chinook were marked (currently Priest Rapids Hatchery fish are not), then it would be easier for seine operators to sort fish and sell more upriver chinook that command a better wholesale price because they are in better condition than tules after they enter the river.

-Bill Rudolph

The following links were mentioned in this story:

[2010 results of selective harvest investigations](#)

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Seines on the way for lower Columbia River

By **Allen Thomas**, Columbian outdoors reporter

Published: October 23, 2013, 5:00 PM

8



Commercial salmon fishing with purse seines and beach seines — for profit not just testing — is coming to the lower Columbia River in the fall of 2014.

Washington and Oregon plan to allow a limited number of seines in 2014, 2015 and 2016, transitioning to the phase-out of gillnets from the main stem Columbia in 2017.

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife started the official process leading to commercial seining last week when it convened a meeting of an Emerging Fishery Advisory Board.

Washington law specifically requires a five-member advisory group to work with the agency in developing the details of new commercial fisheries.

Reforms jump-started by Oregon Gov. John Kitzhaber in mid-2012 and completed by the Washington and Oregon fish and wildlife



commissions this year are bringing the most sweeping overhaul of lower Columbia River fisheries in 80 years.

The reforms allocate more chinook salmon to sportsmen in the main Columbia and restrict gillnetting to off-channel sites like Youngs Bay near Astoria or Deep River in Washington.

The states are enhancing the off-channel sites for gillnetting, with Washington attempting to develop a new site in the Cathlamet Channel between Puget Island and the mainland.

The reforms also require live-capture commercial fishing methods in the main Columbia — such as purse seines and beach seines — designed to harvest abundant hatchery stocks and release wild fish.

The seines have been tested under contract to the states for the past couple of years.

"The whole thing is coming," said Ron Roler, Columbia River policy coordinator for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. "We just need to plan for it make it the best we can."

And there is a plethora of details still to iron out.

Just a few of those details include: how many initial beach seine permits and how many initial purse seine permits; what's the maximum size of participating vessels; how long can the seines be in the water; how many feet can the seines be; how are the permits distributed between the two states; how are the permits distributed between sections of the lower Columbia; what criteria is used to choose among applicants, and will be their be landing limits?

Then there are questions such as can beach seiners be on private property or use the beaches at state parks.

Greg Johnson, an advisory board member from Vancouver, predicted conflicts between beach seines and bank sport fishermen.

"I'm not so sure sport fishermen would stand days three days a week," said Darren Crookshanks, an advisory board member from Longview.

Closed sport-fishing days in the fall "could be an option," said Guy Norman, regional director of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The primary goal of the seining is to catch hatchery-origin tule (dark) chinook and early-stock coho to get those hatchery fish off the spawning grounds so they do not compete with threatened wild salmon.

That means the seining would be focused downstream of Woodland.

But the seining also has to catch enough "money fish," primarily chinook headed for the upper Columbia, to make fishing profitable.

Tule chinook earn a commercial fisherman 50 cents a pound, while a bright chinook fetches \$2 a pound.

Norman said the purse and beach seining fisheries in the lower Columbia are expected to evolve.

"There's a number of things to learn here in the next few years," he said.

Investing in the boats and equipment to purse seine can cost \$15,000 to \$20,000. That's a big investment to make in an industry as risky as commercial fishing in the Columbia River.

"There's most definitely a risk to be involved in it right way and a risk not to be involved in it right away," Roler said.

The gillnet fleet is far from excited about the coming changes.

"I feel like I'm going to get lynched when I go to my commercial fishermen at home and try to explain this," said Lance Gray, an advisory board member from Chinook.

"Listening to what's been said in this room makes me sick," said Bill Hunsinger, a Port of Astoria commission member.

He mentioned the plight of Snake River B-run steelhead, a run of just 10,700 this year and only 2,500 wild fish.

"You going to be running a bunch of steelhead through a seine fishery so the scales rub off and they die," Hunsinger said.

Norman said commercial fishermen might want to form partnerships to reduce seining costs.



"Forcing to partner up doesn't fit a lot of our people," Johnson said.

Mike Backman, a commercial fisherman from Cathlamet, said a lottery is the only fair way to award a limited number of seine permits.

He also noted the 13 test beach seiners and eight test purse seiners got their gear paid for under their contracts.

Norman said the advisory board will meet again in late November. The agency plans to take its proposal to the state Fish and Wildlife Commission for adoption in January or February.

Additional details, such as the seines share of the overall commercial allocation, will be ironed out in the annual North of Falcon planning process for summer and fall fishing.

"It's pretty apparent what's coming," said Crookshanks. "I'm 45 years old. I'm not ready to quit. If change is coming, I've got to change."



Allen Thomas (/staff/allen-thomas/)

Columbian outdoors reporter

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Tribes try selective fishing to boost catch without harming wild salmon



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Salmon Justice

News - From the December 12, 2011 issue by Dawn Stover

A Colville Tribe's selective fishing project is a success story for hatchery-born salmon. The tribe's selective fishing project is a success story for hatchery-born salmon. The tribe's selective fishing project is a success story for hatchery-born salmon.



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theoretically withers from the Columbia River. The net is folded the net, piling its floats on one side of the boat and pleating its lead-weighted hem on the other side. The purse seine slowly closes, while Colville Tribes harvest biologist Mike Rayton repeatedly thrusts a long plunger into the water, making "orca" bubbles to keep the frightened fish from fleeing the narrowing net.

The "moneybag" isn't hoisted aboard as it would be in a commercial fishing operation. Instead, the fishermen scoop out the fish and sort them. Hatchery-born salmon, identified by their clipped adipose fins, are clubbed and placed in a cooler. On most days, wild chinook salmon are returned to the river. But today, the men yell "Boot!" and slide one into a galosh-like black rubber sheath, handing it off to specialists from the Chelan County Public Utility District, who quickly transfer it to a tank on their own boat. Later, it will go to a hatchery to be used as natural-origin broodstock.

Today's catch is thin. "There's one," says Ives, as a 15-pound hatchery chinook lands on deck. "We didn't get skunked." In almost five hours on this August morning, they've caught only seven adult chinook, two jacks (chinook that return from the ocean before reaching full size), and two sockeye. Usually, this area -- at the mouth of the Okanogan River -- is a good place to find salmon in summer. When the Okanogan's temperature climbs above 70 degrees Fahrenheit, the fish hesitate to swim upstream toward their spawning grounds, so they temporarily congregate in the cooler Columbia. Last year, *Dream Catcher's* seven-man crew caught about 19,500 fish, tossing back just over 1,200 wild fish. But 2011 is cooler, so the fish don't linger.

Salmon was once a staple of the 12 Indian tribes now confederated under the Colville banner, but Washington's fish have been decimated by overfishing, dams and loss of habitat: Thirteen Columbia River stocks are federally listed as either threatened or endangered. The Colville Tribes hope that selective harvesting will allow them to catch their full allocation of salmon for ceremonial and subsistence use without jeopardizing wild runs' recovery. By harvesting only hatchery-born fish, program managers also hope to prevent summer and fall chinook runs in the upper Columbia River from joining spring chinook and steelhead as protected species.

Now in its third year, the Colville project is funded mainly by the Bonneville Power Administration -- a quasi-federal agency responsible for selling power from the region's federal hydroelectric dams while also mitigating their impacts. In addition to using purse seines, the tribes are experimenting with beach seines, tangle nets, weirs and even traditional dip-net fishing from scaffolds, giving tribal members numerous options for selectively catching fish in a variety of places and conditions. "We need to have a toolbox full of methods," says Joe Peone, the tribes' fish and wildlife director.

Farther downriver, Washington's Department of Fish and Wildlife has also been experimenting with selective harvesting using purse seines, to help limit fishing's impacts on endangered and threatened salmon runs without closing fisheries and thereby angering tribal, commercial and sport fishermen. The agency is especially interested in whether commercial fisherman on the lower Columbia could employ the technique. Most currently use gillnets there, which snag fish by the gills -- killing as many as 40 percent of them before they can be released. Along with tangle nets, which catch fish by the teeth, gillnets are the only commercial gear legally allowed on the Columbia. In theory, purse seining would protect more wild salmon while still allowing fishermen to harvest plenty of hatchery-origin fish, but in practice it's unclear whether the methods being tested now are applicable on a larger scale.

Past selective-harvest approaches, aimed primarily at sport fishermen, have scarcely touched the salmon declines. In the Columbia Basin, fisheries managers began clipping the fins of hatchery-born steelhead in the early 1980s to make them more readily distinguishable from wild steelhead, which anglers must throw back. In the 1990s, the wildlife department did so with hatchery coho and chinook; today, millions of Columbia River hatchery fish are marked this way.

"Focusing on mark-selected fishing as the magic tool to recover wild salmon populations is simply not going to work," says Stuart Ellis, a harvest management biologist for the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fisheries Commission, which provides technical and policy advice to the four tribes with treaty fishing rights and commercial fisheries on the Columbia -- the Yakama Nation, Nez Perce,

Warm Springs, and Umatilla. "Fisheries are not the 800-pound gorilla," Ellis says. "Selective harvesting is largely just an "easy way" to avoid taking tougher action on the 1 habitat loss.



And purse seining probably wouldn't be easy for most tribal and commercial fishermen on the Columbia regardless of how effective it might be. Because it requires much larger boats and crews, it would be prohibitively expensive for gillnet fishermen to switch, Ellis says.

The fisheries commission is also worried that catching and releasing wild salmon could harm their health. Although data from selective-harvest programs show that very few fish die immediately after being caught and handled, there may be a "gantlet effect" if the same fish are repeatedly caught and released during their arduous journey from the sea to spawning grounds. "Our tribes regard doing things like clipping fish or catching fish and releasing them as simply playing with your food," Ellis says.

But selective harvesting offers one clear benefit: It gives the Colville tribes a chance to obtain enough salmon for everyone. In summer 2010, the program sent huge plastic totes filled with fish to each of the reservation's four districts three times a week. Mary Marchand, an 84-year-old documentarian for the tribes' history department, says some tribal members even had enough salmon to dry and can for the winter. Before selective harvesting, the tribes' 10,000 members took home only about 900 fish annually.



It should also be noted that Washington State's push for mass marking all hatchery salmon by using the adipose fin clip undermined an international system for monitoring ocean and terminal catches. Previously, a salmon with an adipose fin clip meant it carried a coded wire tag in its snout, inserted when the fish was a juvenile. Sampling these tags in harvested fish coastwide allowed state, tribal and federal agencies in Canada and the U.S. to estimate harvest impacts on index stocks and reset harvest levels to limit impacts on weak and listed stocks. This coastwide monitoring effort is now much more complicated and expensive because the adipose fin clip was used as a mass mark for all hatchery fish. It is important to remember that the move to mass marking originated as a way to allow sport fisheries to continue in the Strait of Juan de Fuca and Puget Sound, not as a conservation tool.



The Colville Tribe and fisherman in the lower Columbia should be applauded for their efforts to experiment with new fishing techniques that can target fishing pressure on more abundant hatchery stocks and away from endangered and threatened wild stocks. This approach is not a panacea for all problems with Pacific salmon in the basin and cannot replace critical efforts to improve habitat and dam operations. However, selective fisheries do have the potential to improve the efficiency of hatchery-based fisheries and actually increase overall harvest quotas. At the same time, application of selective gear can protect wild populations at the greatest risk for extinction by simultaneously reducing fishing-related pressure on wild fish and reducing the proportion of hatchery fish on native spawning grounds. As our knowledge increases related to the critical factors affecting and controlling salmon productivity in the Columbia and other Pacific Northwest rivers, our management of all factors affecting the fish must also become more sophisticated. Experimenting with new fishing methods that allow ongoing harvest and respect our cultural and legal rights and responsibilities is a critical step towards attaining a triple bottom line in the region related to its ecology, economy and equity.

To learn about other efforts to restore wild salmon and steelhead to the waters of the Pacific Northwest, I encourage you to visit www.lltk.org

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Board Meeting: Statewide King and Tanner Crab and Supplemental Issues 03/03/2014

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99623

Do you consent to your contact information being included on printed copies of your comments?

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COMMENTS FOLLOW:

Test Purse seine Activities: Lower Yukon River 2013



Sandone, Gene J.
G.Sandone Consulting, LLC
4950 W. Clayton St.
Wasilla, AK 99623
907-631-6033
March 3, 2014

Dear Chairman Johnstone:

I represent the Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Association (YDFDA). As you know, Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) proposals #371 and #377 were generated by the BOF through the Agenda Change Request (ACR) and Emergency Petition processes, respectively. These proposals will be discussed and deliberated during the March 2014 BOF statewide meeting in Anchorage.

The following written testimony provides information associated with the test fishery conducted during the later portion of the summer season, July 2-6, last year and during the fall season. Because we developed this idea late in the summer season, we captured very few king salmon in the purse seine. However, based on experience using the purse seine in the Lower Yukon River, I believe that all king salmon, if captured, could be released alive with little or no harm to the fish.

If Proposal #377 passes, YDFDA is committed to develop a training video for fishers that desire to use purse seines so that we can further reduce any harm to any non-target fish species caught in the purse seine.

In addition to the request for purse seines, we secondarily requested that monofilament be allowed for the purse seine webbing. We want to make it abundantly clear that we are speaking about multi-strand monofilament, the same type that is used for the webbing on salmon gillnets. We are not asking for, or condoning, the use of single strand monofilament.

The following comments provide information on the purse seine test fishery conducted in the Lower Yukon River during the late summer and fall season last year.

Sincerely,

Gene J. Sandone



TEST PURSE SEINE ACTIVITIES: LOWER YUKON RIVER 2013

By
Gene J. Sandone
YDFDA
In support of BOF Proposal #377

1

BOF Proposal #377

- ❑ Would allow purse seines on the Lower Yukon River
- ❑ to harvest summer chum salmon
- ❑ while allowing the live release of king salmon
- ❑ in times of king salmon conservation

2

BOF Proposal #377

- ❑ **SECONDARILY**
- ❑ The proposal seeks to allow the purse seine webbing to be constructed of **multi-strand monofilament** (the type currently used in gillnets)
- ❑ Does not seek to allow single strand monofilament

3

2013 Yukon River Test Purse Seine Information and Results

- YDFDA and ADF&G cooperatively conducted a purse seine test fishery, within District 1 of the Yukon Area.
- Major goal:
 - to evaluate the purse seine gear; and
 - to develop procedures that would facilitate the live release of Chinook salmon.
- 2 Beach seine types were modified to fish as purse seines:
 - Multi-strand monofilament web
 - seine web (18-count throat).

4

2013 Yukon River Test Purse Seine Information and Results

- Also used a purse seine (12-thread count seine web).
- A total of 553 chum salmon were captured in 67sets.
- The vast majority of chum salmon, 73%, were captured during the July 2-6 sampling period in 22 sets.
- Catches of chum salmon were directly related to the number of chum salmon in the river, as indicated by sonar counts attributed to chum salmon.

5

One-boat seine set: deploying the seine



6

Moving toward the onshore cork line while a rope attached to the offshore cork line is being deployed



7

Upon reaching the onshore cork line, the line is picked up and secured to the front of the boat.



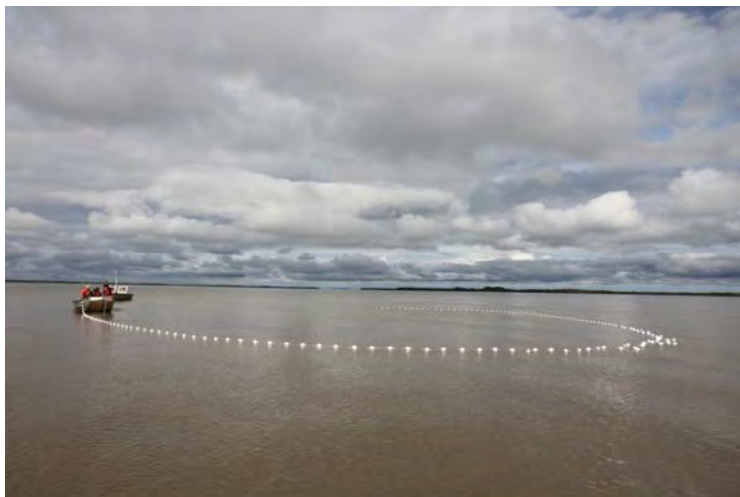
8

Note the rope attached to the outside cork line being held in the boat. Seine is drifted like a gillnet



9

Closing the set by pulling the offshore corks to the boat.



10

Closing the set



11

The offshore cork line end is secured near the stern of the port side of the boat, the onshore end is secured to the front starboard side of the boat.



12

Rings and leads are lifted into the boat by hand



13

**...and pulled over to the starboard side of the boat
to facilitate resetting of the seine.**



14

Seine is finished fishing; fish are trapped in the purse bag



15

The offshore corks and webbing are brought into the boat and stacked near the stern.



16

Free swimming salmon are dip netted out of the purse bag and either retained or released



17

Fish are either retained or released



18



CONCLUSIONS

1. Purse seine gear can be safely operated in the riverine environment of the Lower Yukon River;
2. Purse seine gear can be used to selectively harvest commercial quantities of chum salmon while allowing Chinook salmon to be released alive; and
3. Some small non-target fish, such as Bering cisco and small female pink salmon, were gilled in the 3.5 inch web. These fish were retained and used for subsistence.

19

RECOMMENDATIONS

Purse Seine Length

- At least 50 fathom in length;
- Max length unrestricted or set to 150 fathoms in regulation to allow experimentation by fishers;

Purse Seine Web

- Multi-strand monofilament (similar to gillnet mesh) and/or #12-thread count seine material;
- Maximum of 3.5 inch stretch mesh, maybe less (2.0 inch?)
- Number of meshes dependent on mesh size... should be at least 30 feet stretch meshes deep (3.5 inch stretch mesh x 100 meshes deep); may want to set a deeper maximum depth to allow for experimentation;

Purse Rings

- 2 x 5/16 inch stainless steel rings on 6-inch bridals;
- Spaced every 10 feet along the lead or "rib" line

20

RECOMMENDATIONS

Purse Seine Lead Line:

75 or 85 pound lead line (a heavier lead line may be necessary with increased water velocity in the spring)

Purse Line:

½ inch sinking purse line;

Corks:

extra large corks spaced every 18 inches

Cork Line:

floating cork line

Seine design:

rectangular, without taper;

possible use of rings set 2 to 3 feet above the lead line on a rib line at the end of the purse seine with a section of chaffing net below. The lead line is attached to the bottom of the chaffing net. This purse seine is used in Cook Inlet.

21

The End



22



AGENDA CHANGE REQUEST FORM ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES

The Board of Fisheries (board) will accept requests to change its schedule under certain guidelines set forth in 5 AAC 39.999. The board will accept these agenda change requests (ACRs) only:

- 1) for a fishery conservation purpose or reason; or
- 2) to correct an error in regulation; or
- 3) to correct an effect on a fishery that was unforeseen when a regulation was adopted.

The board will not accept an ACR that is predominantly allocative in nature in the absence of new compelling information, as determined by the board [5 AAC 39.999 (a) (2)].

Please answer all questions to the best of your ability.

1) *CITE THE REGULATION THAT WILL BE CHANGED IF THIS ACR IS HEARD. If possible, enter the series of letters and numbers that identify the regulation to be changed. If it will be a new section, enter "5 AAC NEW".*

Alaska Administrative Code Number 5 AAC 05.362. Yukon River Summer Chum Salmon Management Plan (k)

*(1) "NEW (C) **purse seine gear, with mesh size that does not exceed three and one-half inches stretched measure***

***5 AAC 39.170. Monofilament purse seine web unlawful Except in the Lower Yukon Area,** it is unlawful to use single- or multiple-strand monofilament purse seine web.*

2) **WHAT IS THE PROBLEM YOU WOULD LIKE THE BOARD TO ADDRESS? STATE IN DETAIL THE NATURE OF THE CURRENT PROBLEM.** Address only one issue. State the problem clearly and concisely. The board will reject multiple or confusing issues.

The Yukon River king salmon runs have declined to a point that during 2013 ADF&G requested that subsistence fishers reduce their normal subsistence harvest by 75%. During the 2013 season, severe subsistence restrictions were employed throughout the drainage to bolster king salmon escapements and to attempt to meet the agreed upon the minimum escapement of 42,500 king salmon in Canada plus the Canadian share of the TAC. Even with these unprecedented restrictions on subsistence fishing, only 2 escapements goals were achieved. King salmon escapements to all spawning tributaries within the drainage were substantially below average. Additionally, the Chinook salmon passage into Canada was approximately 31,000 fish, the worst since the Eagle sonar monitoring project was initiated in 2005. The 2013 total Yukon River king salmon run was most likely the worst on record.

In contrast, recent Yukon River summer chum salmon runs have been above average in run size. During the past few years, millions of commercially-harvestable summer chum salmon have passed through the Lower Yukon Area with very few being harvested because of the concern for the king salmon escapement. This foregone harvest has been substantial in recent years, more than 1.0M fish in both 2011 and 2012. Despite new commercial fishing gear allowed in 2013 by the BOF, including the use of dipnets, beach seines and shallower and smaller mesh size gillnets (5.5 stretch measure, 30 meshes deep), preliminary estimates indicate that at least 1.6M commercially available summer chum were passed onto the spawning grounds. This foregone harvest translates into a possible loss to the fishermen of over \$18M during the past three years. The actual value of the Yukon Area summer chum salmon harvest was approximately \$4M for the same 3-year period. In contrast, the value of the commercial harvests in the mid 1990s, when king salmon were commercially harvested, was approximately \$15M.

plq7



2013 YUKON AREA SUMMER CHUM SALMON SYNOPSIS		
	Numbers	Proportion
Est. Total Summer Chum Run	3,200,886	1.000
Targeted Drainage Escapement	1,000,000	0.312
Est. Subsistence Harvest	115,000	0.036
Targeted Commercial Harvest	2,085,886	0.652
Est. Drainage-wide Escapement	2,600,307	0.812
District 1 and 2 Com. Allocation	1,324,538	0.414
Actual District 1, and 2 Harvest	379,143	0.118
Value of the District 1 & 2 Fishery	\$1,721,524	
District 1 and 2 Foregone Com Harvest	945,395	0.295
Foregone revenue to Dist 1 & 2 Fishers	\$4,290,000	
Other District Com. Harvests	106,436	0.033
Total Area Foregone Com Harvest	1,600,307	0.500

Because of the concern for king salmon escapements and subsistence harvests, the commercial summer chum salmon fishery was severely curtailed starting in 2009. During 2011 and 2012, however, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) tried very hard to manipulate the District 1 summer chum salmon commercial gillnet fishery with time and area closures to harvest the abundant chum salmon while minimizing the king salmon harvest. However, the use of gillnets to commercially harvest summer chum salmon was initiated only when most of the king salmon had passed out of the area. Although most of the commercial fishing occurred late in the run during these years, thousands of king salmon were still incidentally harvested with gillnets. This level of king salmon harvest was generally deemed unacceptable because of poor king salmon escapements, restrictions on subsistence fisheries, and the failure to meet the commitment to Canada. Additionally, since most of the run had passed through the Lower Yukon Area before commercial fishing commenced, summer chum salmon harvests were very small in relation to the available surplus and run sizes. Accordingly, in addition to the direct monetary loss to the fishermen, fish buyers and processors found it very difficult to maintain markets for summer chum salmon because of the uncertainty surrounding the fishery timing and harvests.

Last January, the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) adopted new commercial fishing regulations for the Yukon River drainage designed to allow commercial fishing for summer chum salmon regardless of the king salmon run size. These new regulations were employed to allow for the commercial harvest of summer chum salmon even during times when subsistence fishing closures were implemented to protect king salmon. These new regulations gave ADF&G the authority to allow commercial fishing for chum salmon with dip nets and beach seines. Unlike gillnets, the use of dipnets and beach seines allow the live release of king salmon when king conservation measures are necessary.

These new gear options were specifically intended to allow for additional summer chum directed commercial fishing opportunity while allowing for the release of incidentally caught king salmon. Harvest results indicate that these gear types, primarily dip nets, accounted for 34% of the harvest in District 1 and 70% in District 2 and 50% for District 1 and 2 combined. Additionally, 928 king salmon were caught and released with dipnet gear type. Subsequent fishing with the new gillnet gear, 5.5 inch mesh, 30 meshes deep gillnets, accounted for

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36% of the District 1 harvest. This gear was not used in the District 2 fishery. Surprisingly, only 88 king salmon were harvested incidentally with this new gillnet gear in District 1. Finally, near the end of the summer chum run, the traditional 6 inch mesh, 50 mesh gillnet was allowed for 5 periods each District 1 and 2. This traditional gear type accounted for 31% and 30% of the District 1 and 2 summer chum salmon harvests, respectively. King salmon incidental harvest in this gear type totaled 301 salmon.

Summer Chum Salmon Harvest by gear and District, 2013.

Gear type	Chinook salmon		Summer Chum Salmon				
	Caught and Released	Caught but not sold	Number	Percent	Pounds	Average Weight	Percent Chinook
DISTRICT 1							
BS/DN	300	0	69,967	34%	422,886	6.0	0.4%
GN 5.5	0	88	74,452	36%	447,287	6.0	0.1%
GN 6.0	0	57	63,452	31%	406,858	6.4	0.1%
Totals	300	145	207,871	100%	1,277,031	6.1	0.2%
DISTRICT 2							
BS/DN	628	0	119,241	70%	693,176	5.8	0.5%
GN 5.5	0	0	0	0%	0	0.0	0.0%
GN 6.0	0	244	52,031	30%	325,158	6.2	0.5%
Totals	628	244	171,272	100%	1,018,334	5.9	0.5%
LOWER YUKON AREA SUBTOTAL							
BS/DN	928	0	189,208	50%	1,116,062	5.9	0.5%
GN 5.5	0	88	74,452	20%	447,287	6.0	0.1%
GN 6.0	0	301	115,483	30%	732,016	6.3	0.3%
Totals	928	389	379,143	100%	2,295,365	6.1	0.3%

Beach seines were employed by only a very few fishers on very few occasions because of the lack of beach sites caused by the high water in the Lower Yukon Area during the spring and early summer of 2013.

Although dipnets and beach seines were allowed 12 hours a day for 15 and 17 consecutive days in District 1 and 2, respectively, the associated commercial exploitation rate was dismal. Both types of gillnet gear was employed late in the season when most of the summer chum and king salmon had already passed through the lower river.

Although the target drainage-wide commercial exploitation rate was over 65%, the actual drainage-wide exploitation rate was only 14%. While District 1 and District 2 harvested about 29% of their allocation, which translates into a commercial exploitation rate of 12%, the upper river harvested only about 14% of their allocation with an associated commercial exploitation rate of approximately 3%. Although the exploitation rate using these new gear types was dismal, their use did prevent a complete failure of the commercial summer chum salmon fishery. In addition to the obvious positive effects an increased harvest would have on the people of the area and the stocks of interest, other positive factors may have included the return of fishers and fishers' family to fish camp because of the daily commercial fishing activity, less social problems.

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and less complaints from the area to government agencies.

The fishing power of the Lower Yukon Area fleet, which consists of approximately 700 commercial permit holders, in conjunction with the very large capacity of the processors, are adequate to harvest and process the entire surplus of commercially-available Yukon River summer chum salmon. Although gillnets can efficiently take this large harvestable surplus, it is not being taken because king salmon are incidentally taken in the gillnet fishery. Although the dipnets are a very inefficient method of harvest and beach seines may not be usable in the spring and summer because of high water, these gear type accounted for 50% of the total Lower Yukon Area harvest in 2013. Note that an additional 20% was taken with the newly allowed 5.5 inch/30 mesh gillnets. However, despite nearly continuous fishing with dipnets, beach seines, and gillnets, only a small portion of the total harvestable surplus was taken. Therefore, we are continuing our efforts to test other selective gear types and develop and propose new regulations that will aid in the harvest of substantial quantities of summer chum while not affecting the king salmon population. Accordingly, the primary purpose of this proposed regulation is to allow a directed-summer chum salmon fishery using purse seine gear. We sincerely believe that purse seine gear will be used to more efficiently harvest summer chum with little to no risk to the king salmon population. Because this is a small boat fishery, boats rarely exceed 24 feet and are generally powered by 115 hp outboards, it is necessary to have the seine as light as possible for efficient operations. Therefore, we also request the BOF to allow the use of monofilament webbing for purse seines in the Lower Yukon Area. Further we request the BOF to allow two boats to operate a single seine for efficiency and safety reasons.

3) WHAT SOLUTION DO YOU PREFER? Or, if the board adopted your solution, what would the new or amended regulation say?

Add purse seines to the allowable gear types used to harvest summer chum salmon within Districts 1, 2, and 3 within the Yukon Area in times of king conservation and allow the seine web to be made from monofilament. Oregon state biologists have stated that the immediate fish mortality associated with purse seine capture is near 0, even after being held in the seine for over an hour (John North, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Columbia River Fisheries Manager, personal communication). Because we are proposing possibly the only in-river purse seine commercial fisheries in the state, we believe that the fishers should have the latitude to test the length and depth of the purse seine to determine the optimal size in the Yukon River that harvests the abundant summer chum salmon without causing harm to the king salmon population.

Because seine webbing is very heavy and would no doubt decrease the efficiency of the purse seine we ask the board to lift the prohibition on monofilament seine webbing for purse seines operated in the Lower Yukon Area. Investigations into the reasons that monofilament webbing was prohibited yielded the following statement from ADF&G:

"My take on the mono prohibition is that it was put into place to limit gear efficiency³, similar to length, depth, and mesh size restrictions. Monofilament mesh would tow through the water easier than seine web², would be significantly less visible to fish than seine web³, and would gill fish at a much higher rate than seine web⁴. If the mono mesh size was similar to current purse seine mesh standards, the mono nets may gill smaller non-targeted fish species⁴. There would also be a higher potential for entanglement of fish larger than targeted species. i.e. Chinook⁵. Bird and mammal entanglement would likely be higher when using mono web⁶."

We believe that many of the reasons that monofilament was prohibited would be an argument for allowing monofilament webbing in purse seines used in the Lower Yukon Area. The below comments are in regard to the footnote numbers inserted in the above statement:

1. Efficiency in catching chum salmon is a desired advantage in the Lower Yukon Area summer chum salmon fishery;
2. monofilament gear does tow through the water easier than seine web. This also increases efficiency and is an advantage in this fishery;
3. having the seine less visible to fish is not applicable on the Yukon River because of the high

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- turbidity of the water;
4. using maximum 3.5 inch mesh webbing would result in few fish being gilled. Additionally, Kwik'pak Fisheries stated that they would buy any gilled commercial fish species in the purse seine fishery that was not taken home for subsistence. This includes pink salmon and Bering cisco.
 5. Further, we believe that with procedures developed in 2013 through testing of this gear, there would be little to no additional negative effect on the king salmon; and
 6. Entanglement of birds and mammals is highly unlikely in the Lower Yukon Area.

We also request the BOF allow an auxiliary boat in addition to the seine vessel to operate the purse seine gear in a two-boat operation. In a two-boat operation, the seine boat and the auxiliary boat will be attached to each end of the purse seine. When the purse seine is being closed, both the cork line and the lead line that was attached to the auxiliary boat will be transferred to the seine vessel for final pursing of the net.

Testing of both monofilament and seine web purse seines was conducted in 2013, primarily during the fall season by YDFDA, with approval from ADF&G. Based upon this test fishery, YDFDA developed procedures that will allow the harvest of summer chum salmon with little or no impact to the king salmon population. Additionally, YDFDA videotaped several days of fishing with the goal to construct a training video so that fishers that intend to use a purse seine gear next year, if approved, will have a sense and a basis of how the gear should be fished so that kings can be released unharmed.

Specifically, we request the BOF to:

- add a new section under 5 AAC. (k) (1) "NEW (C) purse seine gear, with mesh size that does not exceed three and one-half inches stretched measure;
- Within the Lower Yukon Area, allow monofilament to be used for purse seine webbing.
- Allow purse seines to be operated by two boats, a seine vessel and an auxiliary boat.
- We also request the no additional restrictions on the use of power to purse the seine and haul the rings and leads into the seine boat be implemented.

Additionally, if necessary, we also request the BOF to add the phrase, Except in the Lower Yukon Area to the general prohibition on using monofilament webbing in purse seines, 5 AAC 39.170. Monofilament purse seine web unlawful .

If the BOF desires to limit the size of the purse seine we suggest that purse seines shall not exceed 100 fathoms in length and 150 meshed in depth.

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4) STATE IN DETAIL HOW THIS ACR MEETS THE CRITERIA STATED ABOVE. If one or more of the three criteria set forth above is not applicable, state that it is not.

a) for a fishery conservation purpose or reason:

The proposed change to the regulation addresses the conservation issue for both Yukon River king and summer chum salmon. We sincerely believe that allowing purse seines as legal gear to harvest summer chum salmon on the Yukon River will result in a substantial increase in the number of chum salmon harvested. Additionally, we believe that it will allow the continued conservation of the king salmon resource by live release of king salmon back into the river. Further, the increase in chum salmon harvest will reduce the threat of summer chum salmon overescapement. Unpublished research (Sandone unpublished), which could be provided, indicates that the replacement point on the spawner-recruit curve for Yukon River summer chum salmon is approximately 2.1M salmon. In 2013, over 2.6M chum salmon, or approximately 84% of the total run, were allowed to spawn within the Yukon River drainage. Estimates of spawners in 2011 and 2012 were 1.9M and 2.1M, respectively. This many spawners may have negative impacts to the runs 4 and 5 years from now. Allowing purse seine gear for the harvest of summer chum salmon during times of king salmon conservation may play a significant part in reducing this threat in the future. YDFDA and Kwik'pak fisheries have and continue to invest heavily in the summer chum salmon fishery and market development over the past few years. It would be unconscionable for these future runs to fail because of overescapement.

b) to correct an error in regulation:

not applicable because there is no regulation concerning purse seines in the Yukon Area

c) to correct an effect on a fishery that was unforeseen when a regulation was adopted:

not applicable because there is no regulation concerning purse seines in the Yukon Area

5) WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF THIS PROBLEM IS NOT SOLVED PRIOR TO THE REGULAR CYCLE?

The total run of the summer chum salmon in 2013 was over 3.2M salmon. Allowing for a generous drainage-wide escapement target of 1.0M and an estimated subsistence harvest of 115K chum salmon results in a commercially harvestable surplus of over 2.0M summer chum salmon. The total allocation for the District 1 and 2 commercial fisheries was over 1.3M summer chum salmon, or 63.5% of the TAC. However, the summer chum salmon harvest in District 1 and 2 totaled only 379K salmon. Ex-vessel value of this harvest was \$1.7M. Harvest from other districts totaled approximately 106K salmon. The total 2013 Yukon Area commercial harvest totaled 486K summer chum salmon. The total 2013 foregone harvest within the Yukon Area is therefore over 1.6M salmon with the major portion of this foregone harvest, 945K salmon, resulting from the lack of the employment of efficient capture gear in Districts 1 and 2. Associated loss of revenue to District 1 and 2 fishers was approximately \$4.3M in 2013.

If new regulations regarding new methods of selective harvest or improvement to existing methods are not considered, the huge amount of foregone commercial harvest of Yukon River summer chum salmon in Districts 1 and 2 will continue into the future. This will no doubt result in continued loss revenue to fishers of the area and will allow too many summer chum salmon to escape the fisheries to spawn. Because spawning numbers of summer chum salmon in excess of 2.1M are suspected to drive the production rate below 1 return per spawner (Sandone unpublished data), future runs will probably be

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negatively affected by poor production from these broods. Poor future runs will result in reduced commercial harvest that will negatively affect not only the buyer processor and fishers of the region, but will probably also result in host of area economic and social problems.

6) STATE WHY YOUR ACR IS NOT PREDOMINANTLY ALLOCATIVE.
This ACR is not allocative because there is a huge unharvestable surplus of summer chum salmon that other districts either can't or don't want to harvest. We are only seeking methods to harvest the salmon that are allocated to District 1 and 2. This proposal seeks to allow purse seine as legal commercial gear in Districts 1, 2, and 3 so that a substantial portion of the allocation can be harvested with no or little additional negative effect to the king salmon population. It also seeks to eliminate the prohibition on using monofilament webbing for the purse seines in the Lower Yukon Area in order to increase the efficiency of the gear. Finally, this proposal seeks to allow a 2-boat operation in setting the purse seine, thus making it more efficient and possibly safer to use in a riverine environment..

7) IF THIS REQUEST IS ALLOCATIVE, STATE THE NEW INFORMATION THAT COMPELS THE BOARD TO CONSIDER AN ALLOCATIVE PROPOSAL OUTSIDE OF THE REGULAR CYCLE.
NA

8) STATE YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN THE FISHERY THAT IS THE SUBJECT OF THIS ACR (e.g., commercial fisherman, subsistence user, sport angler, etc.)
Commercial buyer and processor located in the Emmonak, Alaska

9) STATE WHETHER THIS ACR HAS BEEN CONSIDERED BEFORE, EITHER AS A PROPOSAL OR AS AN ACR, AND IF SO, DURING WHICH BOARD OF FISHERIES MEETING.
It has not been considered before.

Submitted by:
NAME Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Association (YDFDA)

Individual or Group

1016 W Sixth Ave SUITE 301 Anchorage, AK 99501
Address City, State Zip

907-238-3819; 907-351-2724 907-644-0326;907-631-6033 ragnaraydf@aol.com;
gjsandone@gci.net

Home Phone Work Phone Email

SIGNATURE: *Gene Sandone* DATE: 8/21/2013

Note: Addresses and telephone numbers will not be published.

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Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Assoc



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1016 West Sixth Avenue • Suite 301 • Anchorage • AK 99501
Tel: (907) 644-0326 Fax: (907) 644-0327

Chairman Karl Johnstone
Alaska Board of Fisheries
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Boards Support Section
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK
99811-5526

Dear Chairman Johnstone:

The purpose of this letter is to request the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) to consider an emergency petition to change the regulations for allowable commercial fishing gear in the Lower Yukon Area, Districts 1, 2, and 3 (**5 AAC 05.362. Yukon River Summer Chum Salmon Management Plan**), during times of king salmon conservation. Specifically, we are primarily asking the BOF to consider changing the regulation to include purse seines as legal commercial gear to harvest summer chum salmon in the Lower Yukon Area (**5 AAC 05.362 (k)**), during times of king salmon conservation. Additionally, and secondarily, if purse seines are allowed as legal commercial gear for the directed summer chum salmon fishery, we request the BOF consider allowing the option of using monofilament purse seine web.

We are making this request because we believe that an emergency warrants action by the BOF. We believe that 1. there is a very large commercially-available surplus of summer chum salmon that is being foregone because of king salmon conservation measures and, 2. we believe that a larger portion of this surplus could be taken with the use of purse seines in the Lower Yukon Area than current allowable selective harvest gear, with little or no impact to the incidentally caught king salmon. We are secondarily requesting consideration by the BOF that monofilament be allowed as an option for the material used in the construction of the purse seine web. Currently, the use of mono-filament purse seine web is prohibited under **5 AAC 39.170. Monofilament purse seine web unlawful**. The light-weight monofilament web would facilitate the use of purse seines by the relatively small boats used in this fishery and would also have the additional advantage of using smaller mesh size (possibly 2 inches or smaller) so that the risk of gilling non-target fish species, such as Bering cisco and pink salmon, could be substantially reduced. Note that this petition does not ask for consideration of purse seine gear with monofilament web. This petition requests the BOF to consider allowing purse seine gear, regardless of the material used for the web. If purse seine gear is considered and the emergency petition is accepted, then we would like the BOF to consider allowing monofilament purse seine web to the proposal as a secondary item.

We believe that an emergency situation exists because of the following 4 reasons:

1. A very large commercially-available surplus of Yukon River summer chum salmon is not being taken because of the concern over poor king salmon runs;
2. Because of this foregone summer chum salmon harvest there is a resulting very large escapement of summer chum salmon that will negatively impact future runs from parent years 2011-2013 and possibly 2014;



3. The king salmon run in 2014 may be so low that gillnet fisheries in the Yukon Area may not be allowed. Summer chum salmon commercial harvests will be low and possibly lower than in 2013 because of the inefficiency of the current selective harvest gear; and
4. Unforeseen circumstances precluded the use of the legal use of beach seine gear during the summer season in 2013. Few, if any, beach seine sites were available because of normal seasonal high river water levels. We believe that this situation will be a common occurrence in the future.

1. **Emergency Situation:** A very large commercially-available surplus of summer chum salmon is not being taken because of the concern over poor king salmon runs.

Rationale: The summer chum and king salmon runs into the Yukon River have very similar run timing, making selective harvest management extremely difficult and nearly impossible with gillnets. Accordingly, directed summer chum salmon gillnet fisheries have been severely curtailed and nearly eliminated to protect the poor king salmon runs from incidental harvest in these fisheries. This management strategy has resulted in extremely large commercially-available Yukon River summer chum salmon surpluses not being harvested. Specifically, because of the concern for king salmon, the commercial summer chum salmon fishery was severely curtailed starting in 2009. During 2011 and 2012, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) tried very hard to manipulate the District 1 summer chum salmon commercial gillnet fishery with time and area closures to harvest the abundant chum salmon while minimizing the king salmon harvest. However, the use of gillnets to commercially harvest summer chum salmon was initiated only when most of the king salmon had passed out of the area. The fishery in District 2 was further delayed because of the nature of the river, consisting of one channel, and the passage of late arriving king salmon migrating through areas that were not open to fishing in District 1. Although most of the commercial fishing occurred late in the run during these years, thousands of king salmon were still incidentally harvested with gillnets. This level of king salmon harvest was generally deemed unacceptable because of poor king salmon escapements, restrictions on Alaskan subsistence fisheries, and the failure to meet the king salmon commitment to Canada. Additionally, since most of the runs had passed through the Lower Yukon Area before commercial fishing commenced, summer chum salmon harvests were very small in relation to the available surplus and run sizes. Accordingly, in addition to the direct monetary loss to the fishermen, fish buyers and processors found it very difficult to maintain markets for summer chum salmon because of the uncertainty surrounding the fishery timing and harvests.

In the last three years, foregone drainage-wide summer chum salmon commercial harvests have numbered over 1.0M summer chum salmon, with over 1.6M foregone harvest occurring during 2013. In 2013, despite new commercial fishing gear allowed in 2013 by the BOF, nearly 80% of the targeted drainage-wide commercial harvest was not taken because of gear inefficiency, the inability to use beach seine gear, the overriding concern for the king salmon runs, and poor markets in the Upper Yukon Area. Accordingly, because of the low summer chum salmon harvest, the associated value of the commercial fishery was substantially reduced from the potential value. In 2013, the actual value of the District 1 and 2 summer chum salmon fishery was approximately \$1.7M. The potential value of the 2013 District 1 and 2 summer season fishery was in excess of \$6.0M. In 2013, the estimated average income for Lower Yukon Area fishermen in 2013 was only \$4,483 (ADF&G 2013). In contrast, the value of the commercial harvests in the mid 1990s, when king salmon were commercially harvested, was approximately \$15M.

We believe that there is an emergency situation regarding the continuing extremely large foregone summer chum salmon harvest. We also believe that there is a critical need for new selective fishing methods to effectively harvest the abundant summer chum salmon while causing minimal harm to any king salmon captured. Recent research suggests that most non-target fish species, particularly non-target salmon species, can be released to the river alive with little if any

harm (Sandone 2013a). Additionally, the BOF has previously allowed a purse seine salmon fishery to harvest the target salmon species with the stipulation that king salmon over 28 inches in length be returned to the water unharmed (**5 AAC 18.395. Retention of king salmon taken in a commercial fishery**). Therefore, we suspect that when the BOF passed this regulation, the overriding concern about harm being done to released king salmon from purse seine capture, was minimal. We believe that the use of purse seines in the Lower Yukon Area would serve the dual purpose of selectively harvesting summer chum salmon while allowing the live release of king salmon to the river unharmed.

2. **Emergency Situation:** Because of this foregone summer chum salmon harvest there is a resulting very large escapement of summer chum salmon that will negatively impact future runs from parent years 2011-2013 and possibly 2014.

Rationale: Foregone harvest resulted in escapements approaching or exceeding 2.0M salmon in the last three years (Figure 1). Based on recent research (Sandone 2013b), we believe that allowing more than 2.0M summer chum salmon to spawn within the Yukon River drainage will be detrimental to future runs and may not provide enough yields to support a commercial fishery and, quite possibly, a full subsistence fishery. According to the *Yukon River Summer Chum Salmon Management Plan (5 AAC 05.362)* the subsistence fishery should have been closed in 2000 and 2001 because the total run sizes in those years were less than the 600,000 salmon threshold to allow for a subsistence fishery to occur (Figure 1).

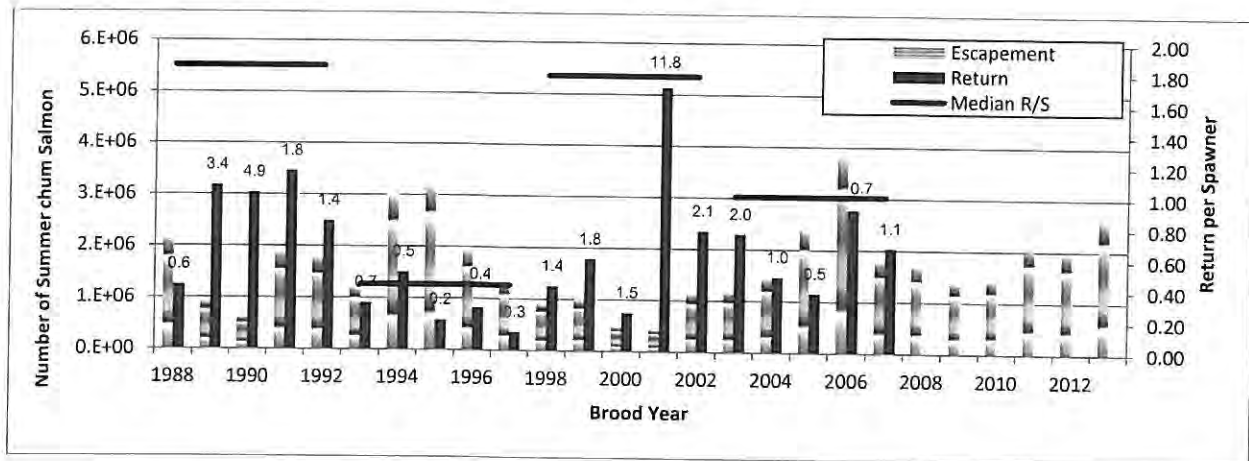


Figure 1. Yukon Area Summer chum salmon escapement (1988-2013), return (1988-2007), return per spawner (1988-2007). Number above the return bar indicates the return per spawner. Horizontal black lines represent the 5-year median return per spawner for the years indicated. (Taken from Sandone 2013).

Poor to below average summer chum salmon runs during the period 1998-2001 were, at least in part, due to the large parent-year escapements in 1994 through 1996 (Figures 1 and 2). These large escapements may have also affected the production of the 1997 brood year (Figures 1 and 2). However, this is speculation and needs more research to determine the affect of large escapements over a number of years on subsequent brood year production.

Note that escapements greater than 2.0M summer chum salmon have not replaced themselves (Figure 2). Note also that it appears that the 5-year cyclical nature of summer chum salmon runs and productivity is most likely based on escapement size, where large runs and escapements are followed by low runs and escapement (Figure 1). There is a cause and effect relationship.

Therefore, we are very concerned about future runs because there has not been a case on record where escapements have approached or exceeded the replacement point for three years in a row. Further, we suspect that the 2014 run, resulting from parent year escapements in 2009 and 2010 (Figure 1) should be similar to the 2013 run, which was over 3.2M salmon. If this occurs and if additional commercial harvest is not allowed by allowing new more efficient gear, we suspect that the 2014 escapement could be at least similar to the 2013 escapement of 2.6M salmon. If this occurs, then escapements would have exceeded the 2.0 replacement point for 4 consecutive years. Accordingly, we believe that an emergency exists because the threat of summer chum salmon escapements exceeding the theoretical replacement point jeopardizes not only future commercial harvests, but possibly subsistence harvests as well, when the progeny from the 2011-2014 parent years return in 2015-2019.

We believe that there is an emergency situation regarding the very large summer chum salmon numbers escaping to spawn within the Yukon River drainage, and the negative impact of these successive extremely large escapements on future returns. We also believe that there is a critical need for new selective fishing methods to effectively harvest the abundant summer chum salmon while causing minimal harm to any king salmon captured. We believe that the use of purse seines in the Lower Yukon Area would serve this dual purpose.

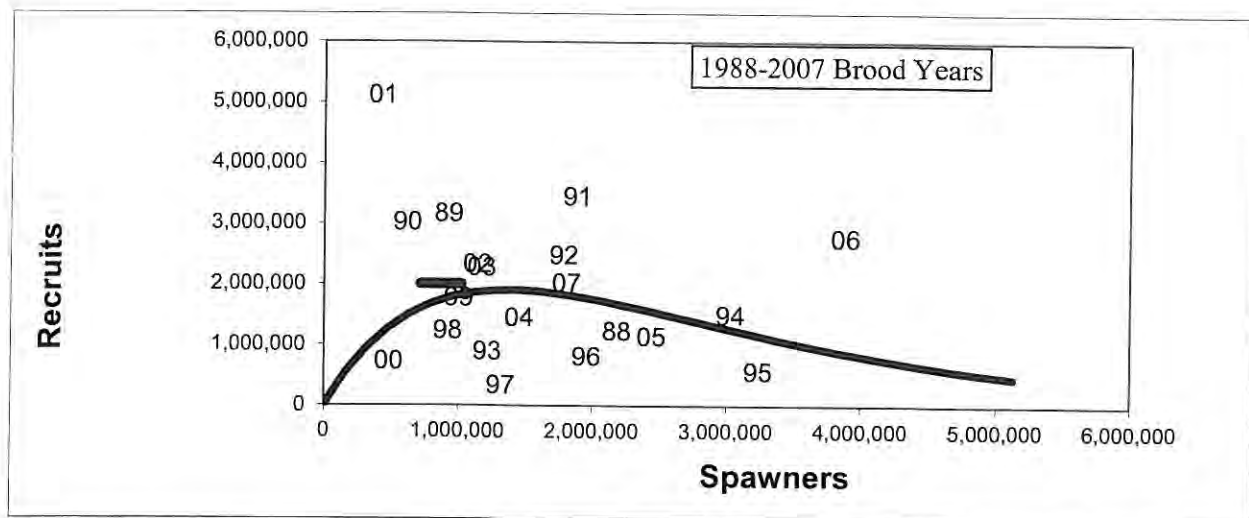


Figure 2. Spawner-Recruit graphic for Yukon River summer chum salmon, brood years: 1988-2007. Note numbers on graph denote the brood year. The dotted line represents the return per spawner of 1.0. The thick short horizontal line indicates the 80% CI of the estimated S_{msy} . The heavy curved line is the fitted spawner-recruit line through the data points (brood years). Note that in this graph, the replacement point, defined by the intersection of the 1:1 line with the spawner-recruit curve is less than 2.0M salmon. (Taken from Sandone 2013)

3. **Statement:** The king salmon run in 2014 may be so low that gillnet fisheries in the Yukon Area may not be further curtailed or prohibited. Summer chum salmon commercial harvests will be low and possibly lower than in 2013 because of the inefficiency of the current usable selective harvest gear (dipnets).



Rationale: The preseason projection for the 2013 king salmon run size was between 98,000 and 114,000 salmon (Figure 3; JTC 2013). Considering that total run sizes observed in recent years have fallen closer to the lower end of their respective preseason projection ranges, initial management of the 2013 run was focused on an anticipated total run size of approximately 100,000 (ADF&G 2013). In response, ADF&G initially asked subsistence fishers to limit their harvest of king salmon to 25% of their normal harvest (ADF&G 2013). During the season, subsistence fisheries were severely restricted. Under this conservative management strategy, all three pulses of king salmon were protected by closing subsistence fisheries as the king salmon pulses migrated through Districts 1-5. Very limited fishing was allowed between pulses to harvest the abundant chum salmon, where available, and other resident fish species. Based on the aggressively conservative actions taken in 2013 and inseason harvest reports, ADF&G speculates that the king salmon subsistence harvest may be less than the observed 2012 harvest (ADF&G 2013). If subsistence fishers did indeed take only 25% of their normal harvest, the total 2013 king salmon run was probably not much greater than 80,000 salmon. At this run size level and assuming that half of the run was Canadian-origin, the Canadian component run size probably approached the lower bound of the Interim Management Escapement Goal (IMEG) for Canadian-origin salmon passing into Canada. At this level, there would be very little harvest, if any, available over escapement requirements.

Note that there has been an odd-even year cycle in the king salmon run size, with even years being smaller than the previous odd year's run since 1997 (Figure 3). Therefore, we believe that there is a high probability that the 2014 run will be smaller than the 2013 run. At this run size level, and assuming that 50% of the Yukon River king salmon run is Canadian-origin, even if no Canadian fish were harvested, the low end of the IMEG for escapement in the Yukon River in Canada of 42,500 salmon will not be attained. Therefore, we believe that one of the most likely management scenarios may be to further restrict and limit subsistence fishing time with gillnets. A likely strategy would be to allow subsistence fishing with 4-inch or smaller gear in the hopes that very few king salmon would be harvested using the smaller gear. Fish wheels will probably be manned so that any king salmon caught by the fish wheel could be released. A possible accompanying management strategy would be to preclude or further limit commercial fishing with gillnets of any size in the Lower Yukon Area. Note that we believe that there is probably more damage that occurs to a king salmon caught and released from a fish wheel than caught and released from a purse seine.

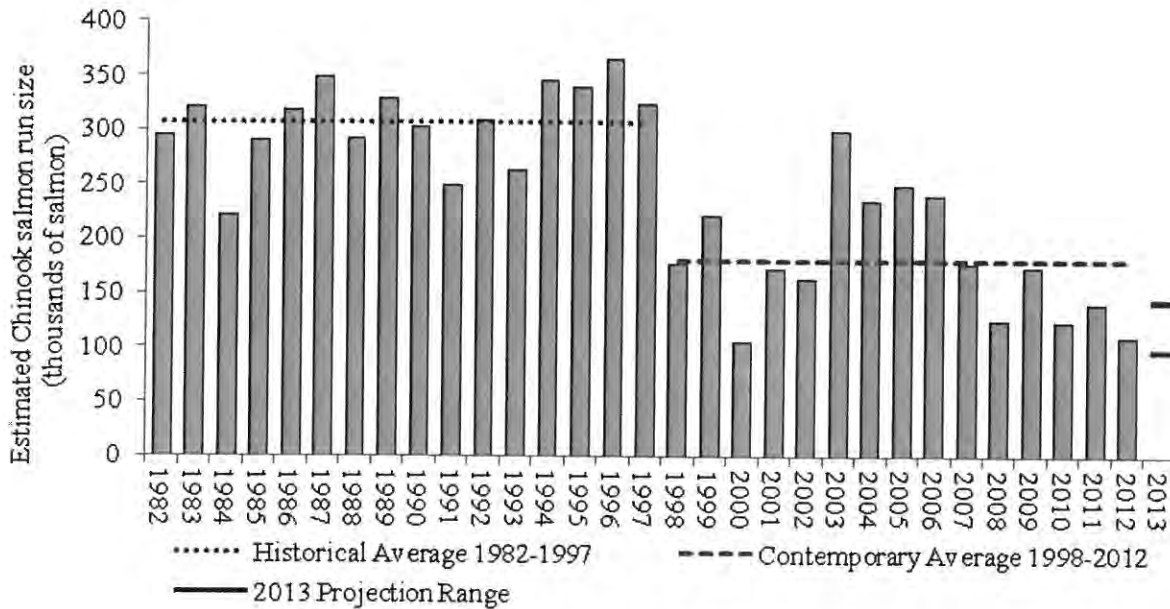


Figure 3. Yukon River King salmon historical estimated total run size and projected run size in 2013, illustrating the drastic decline beginning in 1998. (Taken from JTC 2013).

Last January, the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) adopted new commercial fishing regulations for the Yukon River drainage designed to allow commercial fishing for summer chum salmon regardless of the king salmon run size. These new regulations were employed to allow for the commercial harvest of summer chum salmon even during times when subsistence fishing closures were implemented to protect king salmon. These new regulations gave ADF&G the authority to allow commercial fishing for chum salmon with dip nets and beach seines. Unlike gillnets, the use of dipnets and beach seines allow the live release of king salmon when king conservation measures are necessary. However, dipnets are very inefficient at catching salmon and the use of beach seines were precluded because of the seasonal high water and the resulting lack of suitable beach seine sites. Last year, catch per hour per fisher for the dipnet harvest in District 1 and 2 combined was 0.33 salmon/hour/delivery; for the 5.5 inch/30 mesh deep nets it was 3.90 salmon/hour/delivery; for the 6.0 inch/50 mesh deep gillnets it was 1.45 salmon/hour/delivery. Note that there were many more fish available for harvest during the dipnet fishery, which was conducted during the mid-50%, or peak, of the summer chum run. The gillnet fisheries occurred during the last quarter of the summer chum run or later, with the 6.0 inch/50 mesh deep nets occurring very late in the season. A gross estimate of the exploitation rates associated with these fisheries are: ~9% for the dipnet fishery; ~14% for the 5.5 in/30 mesh deep gillnet fishery; and ~36% for the 6.0 in/50 mesh deep gillnet fishery. In 2013, the overall District 1 and 2 target commercial exploitation rate was over 41%; the actual commercial exploitation rate was approximately 12%. Another negative ramification of the inefficiency of the dip net gear type was the low participation in this fishery. A total of 384 permit holders fished in the Lower Yukon Area in 2013, which was approximately 22% below the 2003–2012 average of 489 (ADF&G 2013). This total number of permit holders includes all gear types.



Although the target drainage-wide commercial exploitation rate was over 65% or over 2.1M salmon, the actual drainage-wide commercial exploitation rate was only 15%, or 486,000 salmon. While District 1 and District 2 harvested about 29% of their allocation, which translates into a commercial exploitation rate of 12%, the upper river harvested only about 14% of their allocation with an associated commercial exploitation rate of approximately 3%. Approximately 1.0M salmon available for harvest in the Lower Yukon Area were allowed to pass through the fishery and arrive on the spawning grounds. Foregone harvest allocated to the Upper Yukon Area was approximately 600,000 salmon. Although the exploitation rate using these new gear types in the Lower Yukon Area was dismal, their use did prevent a complete failure of the commercial summer chum salmon fishery. Dipnet gear accounted for 50% of the total District 1 and 2 commercial harvest, while 5.5 inch/30 mesh gillnet gear accounted for an additional 20%.

We believe that there is an emergency situation regarding the potential further restriction of the directed commercial summer chum salmon gillnet fisheries in the Lower Yukon Area. We also believe that there is a critical need for new selective fishing methods to effectively harvest the abundant summer chum salmon while causing minimal harm to any king salmon captured. We believe that the use of purse seines in the Lower Yukon Area would serve this dual purpose.


4. **Statement:** Unforeseen circumstances precluded the use of the legal use of beach seine gear during the 2013 summer season. Few, if any, beach seine sites are usually available during the summer season because of normal seasonally high river water levels. We believe that this situation will be a common occurrence in the future.

Rational: Last January, the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) adopted new commercial fishing regulations for the Yukon River drainage designed to allow commercial fishing for summer chum salmon regardless of the king salmon run size. These new regulations were employed to allow for the commercial harvest of summer chum salmon even during times when subsistence fishing closures were implemented to protect king salmon. These new regulations gave ADF&G the authority to allow commercial fishing for chum salmon with dip nets and beach seines with the live release of king salmon. Based on beach seine test fishing during the fall of 2012, we had great expectations for the use of beach seines to selectively harvest relatively large numbers of summer chum salmon. We did not anticipate that there would be virtually no sites where a beach seine could be legally set because of normally high water during the summer season. Although dipnets were used during the season, there were only rare uses of beach seines because of the lack of adequate seining sites. To legally set and retrieve a beach seine, the seine must be set from and retrieved to a beach. Since there are extremely few sites, if any, where a beach seine could be legally set, we believe that an alternative gear to selectively harvest summer chum would be the purse seine where setting and retrieving is accomplished within the water column of the river. We also believe that live-release of king salmon that are caught in a purse seine would have less negative impact on the fish than those caught in a beach seine. Note also that monofilament is legal beach seine web gear, whereas it is not for purse seine web.

We believe that there is an emergency situation regarding the lack of adequate sites to legal set and retrieve a beach seine, thereby precluding the use of a gear type that had great potential to harvest large numbers of summer chum salmon. We also believe that the use of purse seine gear would be an acceptable substitute for the unusable beach seine gear. We further believe that there is a critical need for new selective fishing methods to effectively harvest the abundant summer chum salmon while causing minimal harm to any king salmon captured. We believe that the use of purse seines in the Lower Yukon Area would serve all these purposes.



In conclusion, we believe that the above outlined statements present an unforeseen and unexpected events which precludes the taking of a biologically allowable resource harvest by delayed regulatory action (#1, 3, and 4) and possibly threatens the resource (#2) to the extent that the allowable resource harvest in the future may not be available. We sincerely appreciate this opportunity to request consideration of this emergency petition to the BOF and provide the associated information in support of the statements above which we consider emergency situations. We encourage the BOF to consider each statement alone but also in conjunction with the other statements, as a whole. We would be more than happy to provide you with any literature, analysis, or other documents that are either cited in this letter or used to support the associated statement rationale.

Sincerely, 

Ragnar Alstrom
Executive Director



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SECTIONS

Purse seine proposal for Yukon River would aid catch-and-release of king salmon

Craig Medred | January 5, 2014

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Catch-and-release salmon fishing on the Yukon River is being pitched to the Alaska Board of Fisheries, only this time there's a big twist.

Where normally catch-and-release is thought of as a sport-fishing technique to allow fishing as a cultural pursuit in times when fish are few in number, what is being proposed on the Yukon is catch-and-release in a commercial fishery. The idea is not new. It has been pioneered on the Columbia River in the Pacific Northwest where wild king salmon -- or Chinook as they are more often called there -- are in short supply.

Three years ago, the Bonneville Power Administration and the Colville Confederated Tribes, which hold treaty fishing rights on the Columbia, began experimenting with the use of purse seines to corral schools of salmon. Wild fish were [removed unharmed from the seines](#), while hatchery fish were harvested.

The tribe calls this "[the friendliest catch](#)." The technique is now being expanded into other mixed-stock, commercial fisheries on the Columbia, both tribal and non-tribal.

And the Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Association thinks the technique is the answer to a troubling bycatch problem on the Yukon.

Yukon closures hit hard

Once famous for its large runs of king salmon, the Yukon has seen those runs shrink drastically even as chum salmon have proliferated. The problem for fishermen is that the chums and kings swim upriver together, and because the favored, traditional fishing technique -- a gill-snagging gillnet -- indiscriminately catch both species of salmon, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game has often in recent years been forced to severely restrict or shut down fishing.

Because of fishing restrictions to protect kings, Gene Sandone, a former state fisheries biologist now working with the Yukon Association, estimates fishermen in the lower river communities of Alakanuk, Emmonak, Grayling, Kotlik, Nunam Iqua and Mountain Village were last year forced to watch \$5 million worth of fish swim past them.

"It's very grim," he said. "This area, the Wade-Hampton Census District, is the poorest place in the nation."



An area of far Western Alaska larger than the state of Maryland, [the Wade-Hampton](#) is home to 10,000 people, more than 90 percent of them Alaska Native, predominantly Yup'ik. About a third live at or below the official poverty level. The median household income is a meager \$11,380 a year in a place where the price of home heating fuel is nearing \$10 a gallon.

Villagers this time of year can find themselves facing tough choices between spending what cash they have on food, heating oil to stay warm, or snowmachine gas to enable them to collect driftwood from along the Yukon to heat their homes.

And despite the time, energy [and risk of the latter](#), firewood often offers the best economic option for staying warm and fed. For people living in these sorts of drastic economic situations to watch valuable fish that could be caught swim past each summer is heartbreaking.

Location, location, location

The state Board of Fish did try to help Yukon communities out by last year allowing the use of king-friendly dipnets and beach seines to fish the river.

"Everyone was touting the dipnets," Sandone said, "and some people did really well where they had good sites."

A dipnet is basically a landing net with a long handle. It is an ancient technique for catching salmon that dates back to Alaska prehistory. Dipnetting is most common now in the state's personal-use fisheries to catch salmon for home use, but commercial dipnetting did yield about half of the 400,000 chums caught in the lower Yukon last year.

That catch represented about a quarter of the estimated allowable harvest of 1.6 million.

"It prevented a disaster," Sandone said. But no more than that. More than a million harvestable salmon went upstream.

Sandone calculated the dipnet exploitation rate on the returning chum at 9 percent. The gillnet fishery the dipnets replaced used to catch about 40 percent. As for the beach seines, they were a good idea gone bust. Fishermen discovered they lacked sites where the nets worked.

"We believe that there is (still) a very large, commercially-available surplus of summer chum salmon being foregone because of king salmon conservation measures" the association said in an emergency petition submitted to the Fish Board earlier this month. "We believe that a larger portion of this surplus could be taken with the use of purse seines in the Lower Yukon area than current allowable, selective-harvest gear with little or no impact to the incidentally caught king salmon."

The association pretty much termed the beach-seine experiment a failure.

"Based on beach seine fishing during the fall of 2012, we had great expectations for the use of beach seines to selectively harvest relatively large numbers of summer chum salmon," it reported. "We did not anticipate that there would be virtually no sites where a beach seine could be legally set.... Few, if any, beach seine sites are usually available during the summer season because of normal, seasonally high, river-water levels," the association reported. "We believe that this situation will be a common occurrence in the future."



Purse seines fare better

Sandone said he did get to experiment with a purse-seine test fishery in the river for a time last summer and it seemed to work pretty smoothly.

Where normally large craft with booms, pulleys and winches are needed to pull seine nets, Yukon fishermen were able to use small boats and muscle power to corral, trap and then handle fish with a smaller drifting seine.

"We used two regular, 25-foot fishing boats," Sandone said. One floated downriver as the other looped the cork line of a monofilament net around a school of fish. A standard lead-line held the net down in the water.

Once a group of fish were encircled, fishermen hand-pulled a rope from the rings on the bottom of the net to close. Then it was just a matter of tightening the circle to squeeze the fish into a manageable area.

With the fish so contained, the kings were dipped out with a rubberized net and released unharmed. The chums were dipped out and killed.

"It is a lot of work," Sandone admitted, "but these fishermen are ingenious ... We were catching quite a few fish."

Or at least they were until a state biologist told them monofilament purse seines cannot legally be used in Alaska. That forced Sandone's experiment back to a heavy net with nylon threads. It was almost too heavy to pull. The fishermen are asking the board to allow the monofilament nets on the Yukon along with legalizing purse seines.

Sandone said he saw no fish killed when his group was using a monofilament seine, and he doesn't expect to see any killed. He said in-river purse seining seems a benign as dipnetting, which also allows for the easy release of kings.

One 'loophole'

The only problem anyone saw with dead kings last summer, Sandone added, was caused by what Sandone called a "loophole" in the state law for the dipnet and beach-seine fisheries.

The state allowed fishermen to keep any kings that accidentally died in their nets while being caught. A few people took advantage and claimed fish died.

"There is always concern for letting a dead fish go," Sandone said, but he added that from what he saw on-river it is hard for him to believe a fish could actually die in a dipnet or seine. An injury is a possibility, he said, though remote. But it may be that the state has to require the release of all kings, even those possibly injured, to prevent people from exploiting a loophole in the law.

He firmly believes the chum catch on the lower Yukon could be quadrupled with no additional harm to the kings.

"This could revolutionize the fishery," he said, "but Fish and Game is not jumping on the bandwagon."



With Yukon king runs looking like they could be worse in 2014 than they were in 2013, and v officials upping the pressure to get their kings safely through Alaska fisheries and back to spawning grounds in the Yukon Territory, the safest and easiest thing for state fisheries biologists to do would be to shut early-season Yukon fishing down to nothing, or almost nothing.

Sandone and the fishermen with whom he is working think they have a better idea. It remains to be seen whether the state Board of Fisheries, the ultimate arbiter in these affairs, will give them a shot at employing it.

The petition to allow seining is on the board's agenda for March.

Contact Craig Medred at [craig\(at\)alaskadispatch.com](mailto:craig(at)alaskadispatch.com)

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Yukon commercial fisherman may able to use purse seine gear

by [Ben Matheson](#) on [December 30, 2013](#)

As fish managers attempted preserve the Yukon River king salmon last summer, commercial chum fisherman tried out some new gear. They used dip nets and beach seine gear by emergency order during the many king salmon closures. They brought in nearly 200,000 fish, but some say that's not enough for their income, or for the future of the fishery.

A proposal from the Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Association would allow purse seine gear. They argued that the dipnets used last summer are inefficient and too many chums are escaping to spawn. The Board of Fish earlier this month found that it is indeed an emergency by a 4-3 vote. This added the proposal to their March agenda.

Gene Sandone is a former state biologist and a consultant for YDFDA, the group pushing the gear change. He says last summer's experiment was a good start, but doesn't full address the economic or biological needs.

"The dipnets I think prevented a disaster, they are extremely inefficient gear," said Sandone."Participation was fairly low during the midpoint of the run."

Over 1.6 million summer chums were missed in the harvest last year, and a good 2.6 million were counted as escapement. Sandone points to research that says that too many chums escaping upriver could be detrimental to future runs. The return curve drops off as you approach 2 million.

"Because of basically limitations in the Yukon, if you put 2 million fish on the spawning ground you may get 2 million back, so it's basically a return per spawner of one or less, so you may get less fish back than you put on the spawning ground," said Sandone.

YDFDA and Fish and Game experimented with purse seines last summer, all powered by history of that gear type on the Yukon.



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“We said why not, let’s give it a try, see if it’s doable,” said Sandone. “We had no idea whether we could do it in the river with the currents, the tides the snags, proved that we could do and we want to give it a try.”

Sandone points to plans on the Columbia river in Washington for banning gillnets and using purse seines instead. That allows for the release of king salmon without much stress. Sandone says he believes the board wants to do something to help Yukon fisherman.

“Based on the test fishing we did last year I’m convinced we can release any non-target fish alive back into the river. With purse seines, they’re much more efficient than dip nets and I suspect we could put a dent into the large surplus of summer chum salmon next year if the board approves the proposal,” said Sandone.

Commercial fisherman could stand to benefit. Lower Yukon fisherman earned under 2 million dollars last year in the summer chum fishery. They gave up more than 4 million dollars in forgone harvests.

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BOF agrees to consider another Yukon River proposal in March

BY MOLLY DISCHNER

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Published: 2013.12.11 04:36 PM

Alaska's Board of Fisheries will add an additional Yukon River proposal to its agenda in March after determining today that there's an emergency in the summer chum fishery.

The board made an emergency finding in response to a petition from the Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Association, or YDFDA.

YDFDA asked the board to consider allowing purse seines as an alternative gear for the summer chum fishery on the lower Yukon to allow harvest of chums while protecting king salmon, which are a stock of concern.

The board made its finding of emergency in a 4-3 vote.

Board members Orville Huntington, John Jensen, Fritz Johnson and Tom Kluberton, voted in favor of the emergency finding. Sue Jeffrey, Karl Johnstone and Reed Morisky voted against it.

Some Yukon River fishermen want the purse seines as a way to provide fishing opportunity despite the stringent restrictions being made to conserve kings.

YDFDA, the community development quota organization for a stretch of the Bering Sea coast that includes the mouth of the Yukon, submitted the emergency petition at the start of the board's Lower Cook Inlet meeting Sunday. The decision came today, at the end of that meeting.

Last January, the board agreed to allow beach seines and dipnets in the Yukon River



commercial summer chum fishery. Typically, the fishery is prosecuted with gilln

Beach seines proved ineffective because of a requirement that both ends be on dryland, while dipnets worked, but were less efficient.

As a result, ADFG estimates that there was a foregone harvest of one million chum salmon in 2013. Under the current regulations, that would likely occur again next year.

ADFG's John Linderman told the board that it currently looks like there will be restrictions to conserve kings again in 2014.

Kluberton spoke extensively in favor of the emergency designation, noting that the definition of emergency includes a provision about a resource harvest opportunity that will be foregone if a regulation is changed. He also noted that the board had implemented the beach seine regulation intending for it to be useful, but it hasn't worked.

Huntington said he supported discussing the fishery change, even though many from his region are opposed. Huntington is from Huslia. Upper river fishermen have opposed many of the efforts to provide more fishing opportunity on the lower river, largely citing concerns about king salmon.

Johnstone was the most vocal in opposition to the emergency, and said he wanted to help the Yukon fishermen, but didn't believe that the emergency designation was justified.

Yukon River fisherman John Lamont showed up to support the purse seine request, and Doug Karlberg, who manages the Yukon River Gold processing plant in Kaltag, sent a letter of support.

After the emergency finding was made, the board was informed that it would be improper to make a regulation at that meeting because there had not been public notice, and because an emergency regulation would last only 120 days, and be inactive by next summer.

In March, the board will talk about a possible allowance for purse seines. The details of such a regulation have not yet been worked out, but the board was clear that it would require kings to be released alive.

Other Yukon River proposals will also be discussed at the March meeting, including dipnet size restrictions for the chum fishery on the lower river, commercial fishing with a wheel on the upper river and a regulatory change regarding injured or dead kings in the lower river chum fishery.

Those were all brought forward as agenda change requests at the board's October work session. The board also discussed the purse seine fishery at that time. Initially the ACR carried,



but after a motion for reconsideration the board voted to remove it from the agenda

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Board Meeting: Statewide King and Tanner Crab and Supplemental Issues
03/03/2014

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Wasilla, AK

99623

Do you consent to your contact information being included on printed copies of your comments?

YES

COMMENTS FOLLOW:

Yukon River purse seine news articles and previous BOF submissions.

Sandone, Gene J.
G.Sandone Consulting, LLC
4950 W. Clayton St.
Wasilla, AK 99623
907-631-6033
March 3, 2014

Dear Chairman Johnstone:

I represent the Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Association (YDFDA). As you know, Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) proposals #371 and #377 were generated by the BOF through the Agenda Change Request (ACR) and Emergency Petition processes, respectively. These proposals will be discussed and deliberated during the March 2014 BOF statewide meeting in Anchorage. YDFDA supports both these proposals.

The following written testimony provides information regarding the idea of using purse seines on the Lower Yukon River to harvest the abundant summer chum salmon while releasing the king salmon back to the river alive. This information is in support of Proposal #377.

Sincerely,

Gene J. Sandone



Adak Community Development Corporation

PO Box 1943 Adak, Alaska 99546

(907) 592-2335

February 28th, 2014

ADF&G Board of Fisheries
Boards Support Section
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526
(907) 465-6094 FAX

Re: Proposal 350 to 356

Dear Chairman Karl Johnstone,

Adak Community Development Corporation (ACDC) is a non-profit community organization dedicated to promoting seafood harvesting and processing capacity in Adak.

ACDC submitted Proposals 350 through 356 and supports their adoption by the Board.

The Board previously set the stage for a State Waters Red King Crab (RKC) fishery in the Aleutians between 171 and 179 degrees west longitude, by adopting vessel size and pot limits for state waters in that area. This suite of proposal is intended to advance the process of developing a harvest management strategy for the State Waters RKC fishery in the area, by addressing current regulations that are inconsistent with a small boat fishery with a low GHL.

Ideally, we would like the Commissioner to be given the most flexibility practical in managing the fishery especially in terms of opening dates and reporting requirement.

Proposal 350

The 1st step in creating a management plan is to define a management district. Currently Area O is a single district for the entire Aleutians. The area west of 179 is part of the federal IFQ management plan for RKC, but the area east of 179 is not included in the federal IFQ plan for RKC. We suggest that the area for which the Board created the vessel size and pot limits in state waters be defined as the Adak District.

Proposal 351

We are concerned that mandatory observer coverage would be impractical and prohibitively expensive in a small boat fishery with a 10 pot limit. These proposed reporting requirements are based on those used in some Gulf of Alaska crab fisheries.



We would like the Commissioner to have latitude to use these or other alternate monitoring methods.

Proposal 352

While the area east of 179 isn't part of the federal IFQ fishery for RKC, it is still part of the federal management plan. We are working with ADFG and the Crab Plan Team to re-examine whether the two areas should be treated as separate stocks. We will be asking the NPFMC to consider removing RKC east of 179 from the federal FMP, so that all RKC between 171 and 179 are fully state managed.

In the interim there are no meaningful effort limitation measures in federal waters in the proposed Adak District other than a 90' vessel limit and a 250 pot limit. Because we anticipate small GHL's as the fishery develops, the RKC fishery would be unmanageable if federal waters are open at the same time as the State Water fishery. We would like the Commissioner to have the authority to open State Waters for RKC in the proposed Adak District while keeping the federal waters closed. Alternatively, the Board could extend the vessel size limits and pot limits to federal waters.

Proposal 353 and 355

The goal of the State Water RKC fishery in the proposed Adak District is to support a local fleet, such that vessels have options in multiple fisheries. We believe that registering 21 days in advance of the fishery and standing down from other fisheries such as State Water pot cod, imposes an un-necessary cost burden of idle time on vessels. We suggest that the advance registration and 'stand down' times be minimized to 7 days or less. With the small pot limits we don't expect the fishery to be a derby fishery with all vessels starting as the 'gun goes off'. Some vessels may want to continue in pot cod or halibut fisheries and enter at a later date. There is no purpose served by lengthy pre-registration or 'stand down' requirements.

Proposal 354

The State Water fishery is a small boat fishery. The current regulations for Area O set the season opening date at Oct. 15th. This was originally intended to split effort between the federal RKC fisheries in the Aleutians and Bristol Bay. A small boat fleet should not be forced to fish in October in the Aleutians. The Commissioner should be given latitude to set an opening date as early in the summer as possible based on biological constraints relative to mating, molting and meat fill as applied to the RKC stock in the Adak area.

Proposal 356

Current regulations require tank inspections to be conducted by a "local representative of the department." ADFG does not maintain personnel in Adak on a regular basis. As a result, local vessels could have to travel 800 miles to Dutch Harbour and back for tank inspections. This is an un-necessary cost burden. The Commissioner should have the latitude to waive tank inspections if ADFG staff is not available in Adak, or to allow the



inspection to be delegated to a Law Enforcement Officer certified by the Alaska Police Standards Council.

Other Golden King Crab Proposals

ACDC supports Proposal 348 to increase the WAG GHL.

Conclusion

Overall, our goal is for the Commissioner to have the most latitude possible in developing and adapting a harvest management plan for the State Water RKC fishery in the proposed Adak District.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dave Fraser", written over a light blue horizontal line.

dave fraser
Adak Community Development Corporation
PO Box 1943
Adak AK 99546