

Southcentral Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

c/o U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

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Mr. Karl Johnstone, Chair
Alaska Board of Fish
P.O. Box 25526
Juneau, Alaska 99802-5526

Dear Chairman Johnstone:

I am writing on behalf of the Southcentral Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (Council) to provide comments on several State fisheries regulatory proposals that will be under discussion at the Board of Fisheries meeting commencing on December 3, 2014.

The Council is one of ten Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils formed under Title VIII of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) and chartered under the Federal Advisory Committee Act. Section 805 of ANILCA and the Council's charter establish its authority to initiate, review and evaluate regulations, policies, management plans, and other matters related to subsistence within the Southcentral Region. The Council provides a public forum for discussion and recommendations for subsistence fish and wildlife management in the region.

At its public meeting held in Kenai on October 15-16, 2014, the Council discussed and approved comments on several proposals submitted to the Alaska Board of Fisheries. Specifically, the Council deliberated on Proposals 37, 38, and 50, and submits the following for your consideration related to the Copper River basin.

Proposal 37. Require a department operated check station to monitor subsistence personal use harvest and permit compliance in the Chitina and Glennallen sub districts.

Support The Council, in past public meetings, has requested for a check station to monitor the amount of salmon taken and subsistence use out of the Chitina and Glennallen sub districts and supports a requirement for a department check station. The harvest information obtained from a check station will assist fisheries managers when developing regulatory proposals.

Proposal 38. Change the opening date for the Chitina Sub district personal use salmon fishery to open as early as June 1, but not later than June 11.

Oppose The Council does not support a June 1 opening for the Chitina Subdistrict personal use salmon fishery. The early season does not align with the current Federal Fishery management regulations.

Proposal 50. Prohibit use of barbed hooks, multiple hooks, and bait when fishing for Chinook salmon in the Upper Copper/Upper Susitna Area.

Oppose The Council opposes catch and release recognizing that catch and release increases the chance of mortality, and is not culturally acceptable within the Copper River basin. The Council's comment is consistent with its recent action taken on Federal Fishery proposal FP15-01 where allowing only barbless hooks would be an unnecessary restriction on subsistence users.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these Board of Fisheries proposals. If you have any questions please contact Donald Mike, Subsistence Council Coordinator, at 907-786-3629 or 1-800-478-1456.

Sincerely,



Ralph Lohse, Chair

cc: Southcentral Subsistence Regional Advisory Council Members
Eugene R. Peltola, Jr., Assistant Regional Director, Office of Subsistence Management
Chuck Ardizzone, Deputy Assistant Regional Director, Office of Subsistence Management
Carl Johnson, Council Coordination Division Chief, Office of Subsistence Management
George Pappas, State Liaison, Office of Subsistence Management
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