Working Paper and Questionnaire for the Alaska Board of Fisheries Special Committee on Nushagak-Mulchatna King Salmon Management Plan October 21, 2019 Meeting

Meeting date and location: 10am – 3pm, October 21, 2019, Conference Room 104, Atwood Building, 555 West 7th Avenue, Anchorage

Parking Information: (Parking is available across the street at the Linny Pacillo Parking Garage – entrance on E. Street. Parking tickets can be validated inside the Atwood Building lobby.)

Board of Fisheries Members: Reed Morisky, Israel Payton
Other Board Committee Members: Bob Klontz, Brian Kraft, Bud Hodson, George Wilson, Dan Michels, Nanci Lyon, Peter Christopher Sr., Robert Heyano, Tom O'Connor
Stakeholder Study Team Leadership: Michael Link, Jeff Regnart, Tom Brookover

Goals of the Meeting
Establish a common understanding of the issues associated with the NMKSMP (the Plan) and begin to scope ways to improve the Plan, and ultimately, ways to improve management of Nushagak King salmon.

Objectives of the Meeting

- Introduce the 11-member Board Committee (BC) members to each other and the study team.
- Clarify the roles of the stakeholder-led study group and ADF&G staff in this effort.
- Establish a common understanding of challenges facing management. Begin to categorize options to address these to set the stage for future deliberations.
- Review the scope of planned and completed technical analyses to support the Board Committee.
- Discuss the Nushagak King Salmon Escapement Goal memo (July 11, 2019) and the implications for NMKSMP revisions, if any.
- Review any preliminary results from the study team (all would be sent out 7-10 days prior to 21st).
- Review a timeline for completion of this process and set dates for further meetings and deliverables.

Background
This will be the kick-off meeting of the Board of Fisheries Committee that was set up in February 2019 to develop and study options to consider for updating the Nushagak-Mulchatna King Salmon Management Plan (5 AAC 06.361). The committee (2018-291-FB) was formed to address Proposals 41, 42, and 43 considered at the December 2018 at the Bristol Bay. Relevant RC's from that meeting include 51, 68, 80, and 84.

A packet of additional information, background reading, and preliminary results for Committee members will be provided by the study team about 10-14 days prior to the October 21 meeting. A first draft of a questionnaire that will be discussed at the meeting is provided below.

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Draft Questionnaire for Board Committee members to assist with the problem definition stage.

1. What is working well with Nushagak King management? What problems/challenges do you see with management?
    a. Did the changes to the Plan made in December 2018 address any challenges?

2. How might these issues be addressed by:
    a. Further modifications to the management plan? (altering time, area, and gear)
    b. Improving assessment data? (sonar, test fishery, catch rates (CPUE) in the sport/subsistence fisheries, age-specific catch and escapement, preseason forecasts).
    c. Another means?

3. *At this stage*, do you see some of these issues stemming from the "nature of the beast" and for which changes to the Plan might do little to address? For example:
    a. Biological factors: a mixed-species and mixed stock fishery, overlapping run timing/patterns

4. What metrics would you use to characterize a successful fishery in each of the subsistence, in-river sport, and commercial fisheries? Metrics are measurable outcomes or objectives that can be used to assess the degree of success such as fishing access/opportunity, catch rate (CPUE) magnitude/consistency, allowable harvest magnitude/consistency, season timing/duration.

5. What are the more significant changes you have seen in the following areas, and how might they have affected the perception of what users see as a successful fishery. That is, what role have these factors played in creating real (or perceived) problems with King salmon management.
    a. Size and composition of the commercial, sport, and/or subsistence fisheries.
    b. Effects of sockeye abundance on meeting King salmon objectives.
    c. King salmon abundance.
    d. King salmon size?
    e. Confidence in the Portage sonar estimates of King (and sockeye) salmon.
    f. What other significant changes have occurred?
    g. Other?