

Alaska Board of Fisheries  
Area M Finfish Proposals  
**Bristol Bay**

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**February 26, 2013**

Mr. Chairman and members of the Board, for the record my name is Frank Woods. I'm a 47 year old Bristol Bay salmon drift fisherman. I'm here to testify in behave of myself to proposals listed for this meeting of Area M. As you have heard Area M has been and always will be a mixed stock fishery. The management strategy is limited, when the department uses catch per unit effort and escapement strength determined by aerial surveys and weir counts to management these fisheries (Fisheries Management Report 2012) Dawn M. Wilburn and Robert Murphy. This is a reactive approach to management after the fish are already caught and/or not returning. In times of shortage what do we have as assurances the Alaska Department of Fish and Game have the tools to manage for conservation? In all other area's of the state the department uses the terminal stock and stream specific management tools to maintain healthy and sustainable returns. I question this type of management approach with no science to justify liberalizing and expanding Area M's fisherman ability to harvest other people's fish. Area M's harvesting capacity is based on run strengths from other areas. We have been really lucky with Bristol Bay that we have at least some harvestable surplus. It is not always that way. In years of shortage to some river systems this remote and hands off management approach does not work to protect these stocks.

Having no safeguards in place to protect the runs that pass through this mixed stock fishery in Area M. I am not going to testify with fancy graphs and or scenarios. I would ask you the Board of Fisheries side on specific proposals that might help management rebuild the Meshik and Nelson Lagoon runs. We don't want a hand out just preserve what we have.

With WASSIP before us as you can see is to help us make scientific decisions. In rural Alaska basketball is huge so I can relate this to a referee calling fowl and its time for a time out and a review of the regulation book so it's fair to all the players. In Closing I have taken on writing *Proposal 209* for North Peninsula. Terminalize Meshik, Ilnik and Nelson Lagoon the to help the villages of the lower Bristol Bay. I hope that more windows and terminalized river systems are put in place to assure less fishing time and area to meet minimum goals of the Peninsula , BB and the YK region. The June fishery is a mixed stock fishery. Board should take a look at the sustainable fishery policy for the board passed increased escapement goals for Bristol Bay in Naknek December 2012 for 4 of the 9 river systems. Where are these fish going to come from? Take for instance in the Nushagak that Chairman Johnstone has fished in. We have three river systems Wood, Snake and the Nushagak. We have specific plans and boundaries in times of shortage, example in river Wood special harvest area, Snake River section. Ect...

In years of low abundance sockeye bound for Bristol Bay are critical for escapement to the terminal streams WASSIP genetics and terminal management would prevent over harvest especially in poor years when the forecast is poor.

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**Proposal 210 and 211 support** as amended for same reasons as **209**

This is a mixed stock fishery. The Board should consider stream specific and terminalizing Meshik and Ilnik by the mixed stock, sustainable fishery policy.