

**Alaska Board of Fisheries
Teleconference
Fish Wheel Restrictions for the Tanana River, District 6 and
Consideration of a Future Joint Board Teleconference
July 17, 2012**

Meeting Summary

The Alaska Board of Fisheries (board) met by teleconference on July 17, 2012 for the purpose of discussing two topics:

1. An emergency petition concerning fish wheel restrictions for the Tanana River, District 6.
2. The need for a Joint Board of Fisheries and Game meeting to consider a request for removal of an advisory committee member.

Seven board members were present. Public listen-only teleconference sites were available at the Anchorage and Juneau Department of Fish and Game offices and the Fairbanks Legislative Information Office. The audio of the meeting was streamed on the Alaska Board of Fisheries website.

Emergency Petition

Board members discussed the petition which requested the use of commercial fish wheels for chum salmon on the Tanana River in District 6, with conditions to conserve king salmon similar to those in the regulations recently adopted by the board for District 4-A. The board reviewed the regulation for District 4-A which requires fish wheels to be closely attended and the live-release of king salmon unharmed. The reporting requirements for incidental take of king salmon with fish wheels for District 4 was also considered. Because of these requirements for fish wheels, the board felt that the number of incidental take of king salmon would be low and therefore would not be a conservation concern. They also agreed that a harvest opportunity for chum salmon could be provided for District 6 that would otherwise not be allowed.

The board adopted a finding of emergency in accordance with the Joint Board Petition Policy, 5 AAC 96.625(f), that the petition presented an unforeseen, unexpected event that would preclude a biological harvest and that delayed regulatory action would be significantly burdensome to the petitioner. The board adopted emergency regulations to add District 6 to 5 AAC 05.362(j), decided not to make the emergency regulation permanent at this time, but expressed intent to consider the issues during the 2012/2013 meeting cycle.

Request for Removal of an Advisory Committee

The board discussed the need to schedule a joint board meeting to consider a request for removal of a member of the Kenai/Soldotna advisory committee member who was recently convicted of a federal trapping violation. Board members commented on the process for removal and the pertinent regulation. They were informed that an appeal

against the conviction had been filed by the advisory committee member and knowing this, several board members agreed that it was premature to schedule a joint board meeting on this issue. Board members commented on the seriousness of the type of violation and felt it did not warrant the need for removal and, if it did, thought that the local advisory committee process itself could better address the removal question by allowing the community members to decide whether to re-elect the member. The Board voted unanimously to not issue a call for a joint board meeting.