ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES
JANUARY 15-20, 2013
ARCTIC-YUKON-KUSKOKWIM FINFISH

PROPOSAL 88 – 5 AAC 74.010. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Tanana River Area. Close Rainbow Lake to fishing for rainbow trout from October 1–May 14 as follows:

(c)(18) in Rainbow Lake, **rainbow trout, landlocked salmon, Arctic char/ Dolly Varden, and Arctic grayling may be taken only from May 15 through September 30, with a combined bag and possession limit of one fish,** [THE BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT FOR RAINBOW TROUT, LANDLOCKED SALMON, ARCTIC CHAR/ DOLLY VARDEN AND ARCTIC GRAYLING, COMBINED IS ONE FISH] which must be 18 inches or greater in length; all fish that are less than 18 inches in length must be released immediately.

ISSUE: Rainbow Lake is designated as a special management water under the *Tanana River Area Stocked Waters Management Plan* (5 AAC 74.065). Under this category, a stocked water body is managed so "that there is a high probability of an angler catching more than one fish a day that is 18 inches or greater in length". In recent years, access to Rainbow Lake has improved and fishing effort has increased to a level such that all large fish 18 inches or greater in length are being harvested and fewer anglers are getting the opportunity to catch a fish 18 inches or larger.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Rainbow Lake anglers' expectations of catching more than one 18-inch fish will not be met.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Rainbow Lake anglers who fish from May 15 through September 30 and wish to catch fish 18 inches or larger.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Rainbow Lake anglers who wish to fish from October 1 through May 14.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Remove Rainbow Lake from the special management designation under the *Tanana River Area Stocked Waters Management Plan*.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F12-227)

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PROPOSAL 89 – 5 AAC 74.010. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Tanana River Area; and 5 AAC 74.065. Tanana River Area Stocked Waters Management Plan. Close Little Harding Lake to fishing for northern pike and remove Little Harding Lake from the Tanana River Area stocked waters management plan as follows:

5 AAC 74.010(c)(15) in Little Harding Lake, **sport fishing for northern pike is closed** [RAINBOW TROUT MAY BE TAKEN ONLY FROM MAY 15 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, WITH A BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT OF ONE FISH, WHICH MUST BE 18 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH,];

5 AAC 74.065(g)(1) repealed [LITTLE HARDING LAKE];

ISSUE: Little Harding Lake is currently managed under the *Tanana River Area Stocked Waters Management Plan* as a special management stocked water for a trophy rainbow trout fishery. However, the lake has not been able to produce a trophy fishery in many years despite restrictive regulations (1-fish limit 18" or greater; open season May 15–September 30). In addition, sampling in Little Harding Lake in 2011 captured several large northern pike in the lake, which supported recent angler reports of northern pike in the lake. As a result, the department plans to stop stocking Little Harding Lake and remove the gabion and barrier grate from the channel that connects Little Harding and Harding lakes to allow the northern pike in Harding Lake access to the spawning and rearing habitat of Little Harding Lake. Harding Lake has been closed to fishing for northern pike since 2000 due to low abundance. This proposal would close Little Harding Lake to northern pike retention until that time when the northern pike population can sustain a fishery.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? If the department removes the barriers that keep northern pike from accessing Little Harding Lake and the lake is not closed to retention, anglers would be able to catch and harvest the northern pike that move into Little Harding Lake from Harding Lake. Anglers would continue to expect Little Harding Lake to be managed as a trophy rainbow trout fishery, when it is unable to provide that type of fishery.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Anglers who wish to fish for northern pike in Harding and Little Harding lakes.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Anglers who wish to fish for rainbow trout and northern pike in Little Harding Lake.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F12-229)
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PROPOSAL 90 - 5 AAC 74.065. Tanana River Area Stocked Waters Management Plan. Remove Little Harding Lake, Harding Lake, Summit Lake, Monte Lake, and Donnelly Lake from special management and leave Rainbow Lake in special management as follows:

Amend paragraph (g) to delete all lakes designated for special management except Rainbow Lake. The new regulation would specify only Rainbow Lake for special management.

ISSUE: Some waters classified as Special Management in the Tanana River Area Stocked Waters Management Plan are not best suited to their current classification and are biologically unable to meet their management objectives.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Lakes will continue to be unable to meet management objectives.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No, at least not for stocked rainbow trout. However it might increase the amount of spawning habitat available for northern pike in Harding and Little Harding Lakes.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? People who like to fish for northern pike.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Midnight Sun Trout Unlimited (HQ-F12-004)

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PROPOSAL 91 – 5 AAC 74.010. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Tanana River Area; and 5 AAC 74.065. Tanana River Area Stocked Waters Management Plan. Update the Tanana River Management Area stocked waters regulations and management plan as follows:

5 AAC 74.010(c)(15) repealed. [IN LITTLE HARDING LAKE, RAINBOW TROUT MAY BE TAKEN ONLY FROM MAY 15 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, WITH BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT OF ONE FISH, WHICH MUST BE 18 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH.]

5 AAC 74.010(c)(29) in stocked waters, the bag, possession, and size limit for rainbow trout, Arctic char/Dolly Varden, landlocked salmon, and Arctic grayling is 10 of all stocked species combined, of which no more than one fish may be 18 inches or greater in length; for the purposes of this paragraph, "stocked waters" include Backdown Lake, Ballaine Lake, Bathing Beauty Pond, Bear Lake, Big "D" Pond, [BIG LAKE], Birch Lake, Bluff Cabin Lake, Bolio Lake, Brodie Lake, Bullwinkle Lake, Chena Lake, Chet Lake, CHSR 25.0 Mile Pit, CHSR 30.0 Mile Pit, CHSR 42.8 Mile Pit (Red Squirrel Pit), CHSR 45.5 Mile Pit, CHSR 47.9 Mile Pit, Coal Mine Road #5, Craig Lake, [CRYSTAL LAKE], Dick's Pond, Doc Lake, Donna Lake, Forest Lake, Four Mile Lake, Fourteen Mile Lake, Geskakmina Lake, Ghost Lake, Grayling Lake, Hidden Lake (Eielsen Air Force Base), Hidden Lake (Tetlin NWR.), Horseshoe Lake, "J" Lake, Jan Lake, Johnson R. #1 Pit, Kenna Lake, Ken's Pond, Kids Fishing Pond, Kimberly Lake, Last Lake, Lisa Lake, Little Donna Lake, Little Lost Lake, Long Pond, Lost Lake, Luke Lake, Lundgren Pond, Manchu Lake, Mark Lake, Meadows Rd. #1, Meadows Rd. #2, [MEADOWS RD. #3], [MEADOWS RD. #4], Meadows Rd. #5, [MEADOWS RD. #6], Monterey Lake, Moose Lake, Mullins Pit, Nenana City Pond, Nickel Lake, No Mercy Lake, Nordale #2, North

Chena Pond, North Pole Pond, North Twin Lake, Olnes Pond, Otto Lake, Parks 261 Pond, Parks 285 (White Alice Pit), Parks 286.3, Paul's Pond, [PILEDRIVER SLOUGH], Polaris Lake, Quartz Lake, Rangeview Lake, Rapids Lake, Richardson Hwy. 28 M. Pit, Richardson Hwy. 31 M. Pit, Richardson Hwy. 81 Mile Pit, [ROBERTSON #2], Rockhound Lake, Round Pond, Shaw Pond, Sheefish Lake, Silver Lake (Mosquito Creek Lake), Sirlin Drive Pond, South Johnson Lake, South Twin Lake, Steese Hwy. 29.5 Mile Pit, Steese Hwy. 31.6 Mile Pit, Steese Hwy. 33.5 Mile Pit, Steese Hwy. 34.6 Mile Pit, Steese Hwy. 35.8 Mile Pit, Steese Hwy. 36.6 Mile Pit, Stringer Rd. Pond, Triangle Lake, [TSCHUTE LAKE], Wainwright #6, Weasel Lake, West Iksgiza Lake, [WEST POND], Z Pit (Chena Floodway);

5 AAC 74.010(c)(31) repealed. [IN SUMMIT LAKE (CANTWELL), THE BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT FOR RAINBOW TROUT, LANDLOCKED SALMON, ARCTIC CHAR/DOLLY VARDEN, ARCTIC GRAYLING, AND LAKE TROUT COMBINED IS ONE FISH, WHICH MUST BE 18 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH; ALL FISH CAUGHT THAT ARE LESS THAN 18 INCHES IN LENGTH MUST BE RELEASED IMMEDIATELY.]

5 AAC 74.065(g) Water bodies managed under the special management approach include

(1) **repealed.** [LITTLE HARDING LAKE];
(2) Harding Lake;
(3) **repealed.** [SUMMIT LAKE];
(4) Monte Lake;
(5) Donnelly Lake; and
(6) Rainbow Lake

ISSUE: In conjunction with each Alaska Board of Fisheries cycle, the department reviews stocked waters to ensure consistency between the *Statewide Stocking Plan for Recreational Fisheries* and the Tanana River Management Area stocked waters regulations and management plan. Stocked waters are removed from the stocking plan, are no longer stocked, and are removed from corresponding regulations due to a loss of public access, poor fish growth or survival, or insufficient fishing effort. As new waters are identified and included in the stocking plan they are added to the regulations.

Sampling in 2011 at Little Harding Lake captured several large northern pike and very few stocked rainbow trout over 18 inches. Sampling in 2010 at Summit Lake resulted in no stocked fish species being captured and access to the lake has been restricted. Since neither of these lakes is meeting the goals of the special management approach, they are being removed from that designation and from the stocking plan. The proposed language will update the Tanana River Area stocked waters regulations and management plan.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The stocked waters listed in regulation will not be correct.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The public will benefit by having up-to-date regulations.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F12-226)
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PROPOSAL 92 – 5 AAC 69.130. Methods, means, and general provisions – Finfish; 5 AAC 70.030. Methods, means, and general provisions – Finfish; 5 AAC 71.030. Methods, means, and general provisions – Finfish; 5 AAC 73.030. Methods, means, and general provisions – Finfish; and 5 AAC 74.030. Methods, means, and general provisions – Finfish. Allow large hooks in all waters for taking fish other than salmon as follows:

5 AAC 69.130, 5 AAC 70.030, 5 AAC 71.030, 5 AAC 73.030, and 5 AAC 74.030.

(b) In all **waters** [LAKES], multiple hooks with a gap between the point and shank greater than one-half inch may be used for taking fish other than salmon.

ISSUE: Current regulations which prohibit the use of multiple hooks with a gap between the point and shank greater than one-half inch (large treble hooks) in flowing waters of the five Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim (AYK) sport fish management areas were established with the objective of discouraging the illegal practice of snagging salmon. Commercially manufactured lures designed to capture large fish, such as northern pike, are frequently equipped with large treble hooks. A high percentage of AYK northern pike and sheefish sport fisheries occur in flowing waters. Many anglers unwittingly violate current regulations in flowing waters by using lures as manufactured. There is no biological justification for continuing to prohibit the use of large treble hooks in flowing waters when fishing for fish other than salmon.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Anglers may not use large commercially manufactured lures equipped with large treble hooks without replacing the hooks.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Anglers desiring to use large treble hooks while fishing to catch large fish other than salmon.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game. (HQ-F12-242)
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PROPOSAL 93 – 5 AAC 71.010. Seasons and bag, possession and size limits for the Kuskokwim-Goodnews Area; and 5 AAC 74.010. Seasons and bag, possession and size limits

for the Tanana River Area. Clarify that a single-hook artificial lure is an artificial lure with one single-hook or one fly as follows:

5 AAC 71.010(d)(1) only **one** unbaited, single-hook artificial **lure** [LURES] may be used in the

(A) Aniak River drainage upstream of Doestock Creek;

(B) Kisaralik River drainage upstream of 60° 49.50' N. lat., 160° 55' W. long. (Akiak Village Lodge site);

(C) Kwethluk River drainage, upstream of 60° 31.96' N. lat., 161° 05.47' W. long. (Pulamaneq (Pocahontas) Creek);

(D) Kasigluk River drainage;

(E) Kanektok River drainage;

(F) Goodnews River drainage;

5 AAC 74.010(d)

(7) in Fielding lake,

(B) only **one** unbaited single-hook artificial **lure** [LURES] may be used;

…

(12) in Little Harding Lake, only **one** unbaited single-hook artificial **lure** [LURES] may be used;

ISSUE: Current regulations are unclear whether artificial lures with two single hooks or two artificial flies may be used when regulations state that only unbaited, single-hook artificial lures may be used. The unbaited, single-hook artificial lure regulations are in place to provide for sustained yield of rainbow trout, Arctic grayling, Dolly Varden, or lake trout; allowing an artificial lure with a single hook or only one artificial fly to be fished reduces potential hooking mortality. Prefacing the language by the word "one" clarifies that only one artificial lure with one hook or only one artificial fly may be used. This would provide consistency in area regulations within the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim (AYK) region.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Regulations will remain unclear.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The public, enforcement staff, and ADF&G personnel all benefit from clear regulations. Rainbow trout, Arctic grayling, Dolly Varden, or lake trout populations in these water bodies will likely experience lower levels of hooking mortality.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Sport anglers who prefer to fish using artificial lures with more than one hook or fish with two artificial flies.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F12-224)

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PROPOSAL 94 – 5 AAC 74.010. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Tanana River Area. Modify method and means regulation for the Chena River to be consistent with the area regulations as follows:

(d)(5)(A) only one unbaited single-hook, artificial lure may be used, except that a treble hook with a gap between hook and shank **greater than** [OF] one-half inch [OR GREATER] may be used **when taking fish other than salmon**;

ISSUE: In 2007, the Alaska Board of Fisheries amended Chena River methods and means to allow anglers the use of a large treble hook to catch northern pike in conjunction with regulations protecting Arctic grayling. However, the hook size description adopted into regulation was not the same as what is currently defined in area regulations for large multiple hooks (5 AAC 74.030(b)). This proposed change will make the large treble hook size description consistent throughout the Tanana River Management Area.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The Chena River treble hook regulation will remain inconsistent with the area regulation.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The public, enforcement staff, and ADF&G personnel all benefit from clear regulations.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Anglers who wish to use a single large treble hook to catch salmon in the Chena River.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F12-228)

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PROPOSAL 95 - 5 AAC 71.030. Methods, means, and general provisions - Finfish. Prohibit putting fish parts in water where use of bait is prohibited as follows:

Notwithstanding 5 AAC 75.995 (36), "bait" means any substance applied to fishing gear or placed in the fresh water by a person for the purpose of attracting fish by scent, including fish eggs in any form, natural or preserved animal, fish, fish oil, shellfish, or insect parts, natural or processed vegetable matter and natural or synthetic chemicals.

ISSUE: On many of the freshwaters of the Kuskokwim - Goodnews Area it has become a common practice for individuals, often individuals working as sport fishing guides or sport fishing assistant guides to place substances defined as "bait" in 5 AAC 75.995 (36) into the waters in an effort to attract fish by scent. This practice is commonly referred to as "chumming". Bait applied to fishing gear is currently prohibited in many, if not most, of the waters where this is a common practice. The bait prohibitions found in 5 AAC 75 apply to freshwaters distributed

throughout the Kuskokwim - Goodnews Area are the result of multiple cycles of Board deliberation. These prohibitions were adopted to address a wide range of both biological and quality of experience issues. These bail prohibitions are appropriate and well supported. This proposal seeks to prohibit the practice of chumming as it is occurring today in those freshwaters of the Kuskokwim - Goodnews Area where bait is now prohibited.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Chumming alters the natural feeding routine of the rainbow trout, char and Arctic grayling. Fish concentrate in locations where quantities of bait are frequently placed in the water. Catch rates can increase dramatically as a result of the practice of chumming. Individual fish are caught and handled more often than would occur in a more natural setting. Although most areas are governed by "catch and release" regulations there is still some incidental mortality associated with this practice and that amount increases with increased number of catches. There is also a quality of experience issue that arises when multiple groups of sport fishermen are present in the proximity of each other on the same water and some are adhering to both the wording and the spirit of the bait prohibition and others are engaging in the practice of chumming. Catch rates are normally higher for individuals in the group that is chumming. The antagonism created by situations such as this are not helpful in maintaining the world class quality of the sport fishery in the Kuskokwim - Goodnews Area and if left unaddressed will likely lead to its diminishment.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. This proposal seeks to prohibit the practice commonly referred to as chumming specifically in those freshwaters of the Goodnews-Kuskokwim Area where the use of bait is currently restricted by regulation. A wide range of biological and quality of experience issues arise from common occurrence of the practice of chumming. The Alaska Board of Fisheries has throughout the years consistently taken the position that fisheries for wild rainbow trout must be managed conservatively and with emphasis on maintaining the quality of the sport fishing experience. "5 AAC 75.222. Policy for the management of sustainable wild trout fisheries" lays out an excellent framework. Most of the special regulatory development found in 5 AAC 75 specifically addresses the wild trout fisheries in this area. Prohibiting chumming will enhance the State's consistent efforts to protect both the biological integrity and quality of experience of the wild trout fisheries in the freshwaters of the Goodnews-Kuskokwim Area.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Prohibition of the practice of chumming will have a positive effect on the wild rainbow trout resource by maintaining catch rates at levels historically observed in fisheries where bait is prohibited. Conflicts between groups of sport fishermen over the appropriateness of chumming will cease to occur. The probability of achieving the dual goals of wild trout management, maintenance of historical size, age composition and abundance of the trout population and the maintenance of the quality of sport fishing experience will be enhanced.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Sport fishermen who are now chumming the freshwaters of the Goodnews-Kuskokwim Area where the use of bait is prohibited in an effort to increase their catch rates on wild rainbow trout will find it more challenging to hook these prized fish.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Prohibition of chumming through adoption of the recommended regulatory wording is, in my opinion, the only practical way to eliminate this practice.

PROPOSED BY: Pat Vermillion (HQ-F12-057)
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PROPOSAL 96 - 5 AAC 74.010. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Tanana River Area. Increase the season for northern pike to year-round as follows:

In the lakes of the Tanana River drainage upstream of the Robertson River, the open season for northern pike would be January 1-December 31. The daily bag and possession limit would remain five fish with only one over 30 inches or longer.

ISSUE: Pike season in the lakes of the Tanana River drainage was set to protect the pike spawning season, but the season is too conservative. Opening the season year round will not effect spawning.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Fishing opportunity will be needlessly lost.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Improve fishing opportunity with longer seasons.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Sport fishers.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Upper Tanana Fortymile Advisory Committee (HQ-F12-091)
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PROPOSAL 97 - 5 AAC 73.010. Seasons, bag, possession and size limits, and methods and means for the Yukon River Area. Reduce northern pike bag and possession limits in the Yukon River from Holy Cross to Paimiut Slough as follows:

5 AAC 73.010(c)(1) in all waters of the Innoko River Drainage, including all waters draining into the Yukon River **and waters of the Yukon River** from Holy Cross downstream to and including Paimiut Slough, the bag and possession limit for northern pike is three fish, of which only one fish may be 30 inches or greater in length;

ISSUE: The GASH AC is concerned that there are too many pike being taken during the winter subsistence fishery, including too many large, spawning able females. In the past several years we have observed multiple (20-40) groups of people (3 to 6 people per group) coming up and camping for several days at a time. While camping, these folks ice fish for pike night and day with tip up poles and when done leave with sled loads of fish. Currently there is NO bag limit during this subsistence fishery. The GASH AC is very concerned what this targeted fishing pressure will have on the pike stocks of both the Yukon and the Innoko River Drainages, and we would like to see some form of limits being placed to insure that there are pike available for future generations and for multiple user groups.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? There will be continued overfishing of an important fish stock for the people of this area. This will result in a population crash which will lead to either complete closure of the fishery, or more severe restrictions being put in place on this fishery. This will also impact the sport fishery in the Innoko drainage, since it has been shown that Innoko pike overwinter in this area. This will lead to the loss of opportunity for not only subsistence fishermen, but for sports fishermen as well.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Both Subsistence users as well as sport fishermen

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one interested in conserving pike for subsistence and sport fishermen.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Grayling Anvik Shageluk Holy Cross Advisory Committee (HQ-F12-073)

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PROPOSAL 98 - 5 AAC 01.234. Limitations on subsistence fishing with hook and line gear. Reduce northern pike bag and possession limits for subsistence fishers in the Yukon River from Holy Cross to Paimiut Slough as follows:

5 AAC 01.2XX. **For subsistence fishing in all waters of the Innoko River drainage, including all waters draining into the Yukon River and waters of the Yukon River from Holy Cross downstream to and including Paimiut Slough, with a hook and line attached to a rod or pole, the following provisions apply:**

1) **The methods and means specified in 5 AAC 73.010, 5 AAC 73.030, 5 AAC 75.021 and 5 AAC 75.022; and**
2) **The bag and possession limits for northern pike specified in 5 AAC 73.010.(c)(1).**

ISSUE: The GASH AC is concerned that there are too many pike being taken during the winter subsistence fishery, including too many large, spawning able females. In the past several years we have observed multiple (20-40) groups of people (3 to 6 people per group) coming up and camping for several days at a time. While camping, these folks ice fish for pike night and day with tip up poles and when done leave with sled loads of fish. Currently there is NO bag limit during this subsistence fishery. The GASH AC is very concerned what this targeted fishing pressure will have on the pike stocks of both the Yukon and the Innoko River Drainages, and we would like to see some form of limits being placed to insure that there are pike available for future generations and for multiple user groups.

Tying the sport and subsistence bag limits together makes sense. We abide by the sports fishing bag limit when fishing in the summer with rod and reel. If we are truly concerned for the population of the pike, the summer bag limit should carry over to when the pike are more vulnerable with being grouped up together and hungrier; such as they are in the winter.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? There will be continued overfishing of an important fish stock for the people of this area. This will result in a population crash which will lead to either complete closure of the fishery, or more severe restrictions being put in place on this fishery. This will also impact the sports fishery in the Innoko drainage, since it has been shown that Innoko pike overwinter in this area. This will lead to the loss of opportunity for not only subsistence fishermen, but for sports fishermen as well.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Both future subsistence users as well as future sport fishermen.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one interested in conserving pike for subsistence and sport fishermen.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? N/A.

PROPOSED BY: Grayling Anvik Shageluk Holy Cross Advisory Committee (HQ-F12-074)
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PROPOSAL 99 – 5 AAC 01.225. Waters closed to subsistence fishing. Repeal the regulation prohibiting subsistence retention of northern pike in portions of the Tanana River drainage as follows:

(d) **Repealed.** [WATERS OF THE TANANA RIVER DRAINAGE ARE CLOSED TO THE SUBSISTENCE TAKING OF PIKE BETWEEN THE MOUTH OF THE KANTISHNA

RIVER AND DELTA RIVER AT BLACK RAPIDS ON THE RICHARDSON HIGHWAY AND CATHEDRAL RAPIDS ON THE ALASKA HIGHWAY, EXCEPT THAT PIKE MAY BE TAKEN FOR SUBSISTENCE PURPOSES IN THAT PORTION OF THE TOLOVANA RIVER DRAINAGE NOT INCLUDED IN THE NONSUBSISTENCE AREA DESCRIBED IN 5 AAC 99.015(A) (4).]

ISSUE: Retention of northern pike for subsistence uses is prohibited in the Tanana River drainage between the mouth of the Kantishna River upriver to the Delta River at Black Rapids on the Richardson Highway and Cathedral Rapids on the Alaska Highway, excluding the Tolovana River drainage. Northern pike may be retained if harvested while subsistence fishing in the Tanana River drainage downriver and upriver of these closed waters.

Available harvest data from Subdistrict 6-B salmon fishery permits suggest there is no biological concern if retention of northern pike was allowed within this area. Subsistence salmon fishing permits are required in this portion of the Tanana River drainage and although the permits include provisions stating northern pike cannot be retained in the waters identified in this regulation, fishermen may not be aware they cannot retain northern pike. Since 2002, an average of 70 northern pike have been reported annually as harvested incidentally in the Subdistrict 6-B subsistence salmon fishery, which occurs within a portion of the area closed to retention of northern pike for subsistence purposes. Because these permits are for the taking of salmon, incidental harvest of northern pike may be greater than reported.

The Fairbanks Nonsubsistence Area, that portion of the Tanana River upriver from the upstream mouth of the Wood River to the Johnson River on the west bank, and the Volkmar River on the east bank, including the Delta River to Black Rapids, is managed under the personal use fishing regulations and would not be affected by this proposal.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Subsistence fishermen will continue to be prohibited from retaining northern pike within that portion of the Tanana River drainage from the Kantishna River upriver to the Wood River and from the Johnson River on the west bank and Volkmar River on the east bank upriver to Cathedral Rapids.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Not applicable.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Subsistence fishermen who wish to retain northern pike caught in that portion of the Tanana River drainage from the Kantishna River upriver to the Wood River and from the Johnson River on the west bank and Volkmar River on the east bank upriver to Cathedral Rapids.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F12-222)

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PROPOSAL 100 - 5 AAC 01.225. Waters closed to subsistence fishing. Allow retention of northern pike in Yukon and Tanana subsistence salmon fisheries as follows:

Allow incidentally caught pike to be legally retained fisher in Yukon and Tanana Subsistence salmon fishery.

ISSUE: Current regulation requires waste of incidentally caught pike in the subsistence salmon fishery in the Yukon and Tanana River Drainage. Our understanding is that this incidental catch is very minimal, and we would like to see these fish be able to be utilized by the fishers.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued waste of incidentally caught pike in these fisheries.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, incidentally caught pike will be able to be utilized, and therefore the resource would be respected by allowing consumption rather then waste.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Subsistence fishers in these fisheries, and the pike themselves.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? N/A.

PROPOSED BY: Fairbanks Advisory Committee (HQ-F12-210)
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PROPOSAL 101 - 5 AAC 01.220. Lawful gear and gear specifications. Ban the use of gillnets in the subsistence fishery for pike in both Ten Mile Lake and Mark Lake as follows:

Make use of all gillnets illegal for subsistence fishing in Ten Mile Lake and Mark Lake. All other methods of subsistence harvest of fish in Ten Mile Lake and Mark Lake would still be allowed.

ISSUE: Over harvest of pike over 30 inches in gillnets set for whitefish in Ten Mile Lake and Mark Lake in the Upper Tanana River Drainage near Northway. This over harvest of large pike has resulted in a decline in the size of pike in these lakes.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Breeding female pike will continue to be over harvested and the pike populations will continue to be at risk.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. It would reduce the harvest of adult female pike and would allow the population to increase, resulting in additional pike fishing opportunity. This will also result in an increase of larger pike.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All sports and subsistence fishermen.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Upper Tanana Fortymile Advisory Committee (HQ-F12-051)
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PROPOSAL 102 - 5 AAC 01.175. Waters closed to subsistence fishing. Allow for the subsistence take of grayling in the Nome River by the use of jigging with hook-and-line gear as follows:

Allow subsistence take of Grayling by jigging under ice in Nome River.

ISSUE: Lack of opportunity to harvest Arctic Grayling by jigging under ice in Nome River.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued lack of opportunity.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Subsistence fishermen have not been able to harvest.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Subsistence fishermen.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Allow subsistence Grayling fishing October 15 – May 1.

PROPOSED BY: Tom Sparks (HQ-F12-038)
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PROPOSAL 103 – 5 AAC 04; 5 AAC 05; 5 AAC 07. Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Region fishery regulatory changes and/or management plans pertaining to chum and sockeye salmon in the Kuskokwim Area, Yukon Area, Norton Sound-Port Clarence Area, and Kotzebue Area. Placeholder for possible regulatory changes based on results from Western Alaska Salmon Stock Identification Project (WASSIP) as follows:.

ISSUE: This is a placeholder proposal to allow fishery stakeholders, the board, and the department an opportunity to discuss proposed regulatory changes in the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim (AYK) Area based upon results of the Western Alaska Salmon Stock Identification Project, which will not be available until late summer 2012.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Potentially important information regarding fisheries management will not be utilized until the next Alaska Board of Fisheries cycle for AYK Region in 2015/2016.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Unknown.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Unknown.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Unknown.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F12-218)
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PROPOSAL 104 – 5 AAC 01.286. Customary and traditional subsistence uses of fish stocks and amounts necessary for subsistence uses. Review amounts reasonably necessary (ANS) for subsistence for salmon in the Kuskokwim River drainage as follows:

(a) The Alaska Board of Fisheries (board) finds that the following fish stocks are customarily and traditionally taken or used for subsistence:

(1) halibut, Pacific cod, and all other finfish, except as specified in (2)–(4) of this section, in the Kuskokwim Area;

(2) salmon in the Kuskokwim Area, except the Kuskokwim River drainage;

(3) king, chum, sockeye, coho, and pink salmon in the Kuskokwim River drainage;

(4) herring and herring roe, along the coast between the westernmost tip of the Naskonat Peninsula and terminus of the Ishowik River, and along the coast of Nunivak Island.

(b) The board finds that the following amounts of fish are reasonably necessary for subsistence uses:

(1) 64,500–83,000 king salmon in the Kuskokwim River drainage;

(2) 39,500–75,500 chum salmon in the Kuskokwim River drainage;

(3) 27,500–39,500 sockeye salmon in the Kuskokwim River drainage;

(4) 24,500–35,000 coho salmon in the Kuskokwim River drainage; and

(5) 7,500–13,500 salmon in the remainder of the Kuskokwim Area.

ISSUE: This proposal provides an opportunity for the Alaska Board of Fisheries (board) and public to revisit the ANS for subsistence findings for salmon stocks in the Kuskokwim area. The ANS for subsistence findings in codified regulations were set by the board in 2001 based upon the harvest history on the Kuskokwim River during the years 1990–1999. The ANS ranges were based on the low harvest and mean (average) harvest over the 10 years (Table 1).

Table 1.–Estimated subsistence salmon harvests of Kuskokwim Area salmon used for ANS determination in 2001.

Kuskokwim River					Remainder of Kuskokwim Area				
	Minimum	Average	High	ANS		Minimum	Average	High	ANS
King salmon	64,795	82,762	96,436	64,500-83,000	King salmon	3,535	4,511	6,699	
Chum salmon	39,970	75,143	126,508	39,500-75,500	Chum salmon	1,006	3,004	4,961	
Sockeye salmon	27,791	39,204	52,984	27,500-39,500	Sockeye salmon	823	2,073	3,420	
Coho salmon	24,864	34,803	50,370	24,500-35,000	Coho salmon	1,682	3,416	5,922	
					Salmon				7,500-13,500

Kuskokwim Area subsistence salmon harvests have been estimated by ADF&G Division of Commercial Fisheries (1960–1987) and Division of Subsistence (1988–2007) annually since 1960. Harvest estimation methods changed in 1988 and again in 2008. The board may determine that an ANS revision may be justified due to a new harvest estimation method deployed retroactively by ADF&G Division of Commercial Fisheries beginning in 2008. This new method attempts to provide a more complete estimation of subsistence salmon harvests by species than previous methods. As a result, individual community estimates tend to be larger compared to estimates utilizing the previous method. The differences result from changes in the stratified sampling design and a new statistical approach that models harvest estimates from unsurveyed or underrepresented communities based on historical community-level harvest estimates.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Board assessments of subsistence salmon harvests relative to the codified ANS findings will be more challenging given methodological differences between new harvest estimates and existing ANS findings. These challenges relate to the fact that the new method tends to result in harvest estimates that are higher than the previous 1988–2007 estimates. If the ANS findings are not revised based upon this new method, then the existing ANS findings in regulation may underrepresent the amount of each salmon stock necessary for subsistence harvests.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All users of the salmon resources of the Kuskokwim Area will benefit from decisions based upon the best available information, which provides the board with an unambiguous metric for assessing reasonable opportunities for subsistence uses of Kuskokwim Area salmon populations and stocks.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? If the board chose not to revise ANS findings for Kuskokwim River salmon stocks, and the department continued to utilize the new harvest estimation method, then subsistence users may suffer because ANS findings would no longer be consistent methodologically with the annual harvest monitoring program.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? No action. However, this proposal provides the board with the opportunity to update the ANS with the best available harvest information, as well as provides the public with an opportunity to review and comment upon the proposal regarding the ANS for subsistence uses of Kuskokwim Area king, chum, sockeye, and coho salmon stocks.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F12-220)
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PROPOSAL 105 – 5 AAC 07.365. Kuskokwim River Salmon Rebuilding Management Plan. Update and clarify *Kuskokwim River Salmon Rebuilding Management Plan* and strategies as follows:

5 AAC 07.365. Kuskokwim River Salmon Rebuilding Management Plan.

(a) The purpose of this management plan is to provide guidelines for the [REBUILDING AND] management of the Kuskokwim River salmon fishery that will result in the sustained yield of salmon stocks large enough to meet the escapement goals, amounts necessary for subsistence, and for nonsubsistence fisheries.

(b) It is the intent of the Board of Fisheries that the Kuskokwim River salmon stocks shall be managed [DURING JUNE AND JULY] in a conservative manner consistent with the Policy for the Management of Sustainable Salmon Fisheries (5 AAC 39.222) **to meet escapement goals** and the subsistence priority.

(c) In the subsistence fishery, in the Kuskokwim River drainage, in the waters of the mainstem of the river and other salmon spawning tributaries, unless otherwise specified by the department,

(1) the subsistence salmon net and fish wheel fisheries will be open **seven** [FOR FOUR CONSECUTIVE] days per week [IN JUNE AND JULY AS ANNOUNCED BY EMERGENCY ORDER]; however, the commissioner may alter fishing periods by emergency order **consistent with migratory timing as the salmon runs progress upstream** based on run strength [AND] to achieve escapement goals;

(2) during subsistence closures **announced by emergency order,** [OF THREE CONSECUTIVE DAYS PER WEEK IN JUNE AND JULY,] all salmon nets with a mesh size larger than four inches must be removed from the water, and fish wheels may not be operated; [HOWEVER, THE COMMISSIONER MAY ALTER FISHING PERIODS BY EMERGENCY ORDER BASED ON RUN STRENGTH AND TO ACHIEVE ESCAPEMENT GOALS;]

(3) **repealed.** [AS THE SALMON RUN PROGRESSES UPSTREAM FROM DISTRICTS 1 - 2, AND FURTHER UPSTREAM, THE PROVISIONS OF (1) OF THIS SECTION WILL BE IMPLEMENTED IN THE MAINSTEM OF THE KUSKOKWIM RIVER AND SALMON SPAWNING TRIBUTARIES;]

(d) In the commercial fishery,

(2) only those waters of District 1 [DOWNSTREAM OF THE ADF&G REGULATORY MARKERS LOCATED AT BETHEL] may be opened during the first commercial salmon fishing period;

(3) the commissioner shall open and close the Kuskokwim River commercial salmon fishery by emergency order; [IF INSEASON INDICATORS OF RUN STRENGTH INDICATE

A RUN STRENGTH THAT IS LARGE ENOUGH TO PROVIDE FOR A HARVESTABLE SURPLUS AND A REASONABLE OPPORTUNITY FOR SUBSISTENCE USES AND FOR NONSUBSISTENCE FISHERIES, THE SUBSISTENCE FISHING SHALL REVERT TO THE FISHING PERIODS AS SPECIFIED IN 5 AAC 01.260;]

(5) Districts 1 and 2 commercial fishing periods are from **12:00** [1:00] p.m. through **6:00** [7:00] p.m.; when longer fishing periods are allowed, the extra time is to be divided before **12:00** [1:00] p.m. and after **6:00** [7:00] p.m.;

(6) in June, **when** [AND UNTIL COHO SALMON RELATIVE ABUNDANCE EXCEEDS] chum salmon relative abundance **exceeds king salmon relative abundance**, the department shall manage, to the extent practicable, the commercial salmon fishery based on the chum salmon run strength;

(8) [WHEN CHUM SALMON ABUNDANCE IS SUFFICIENT TO PROVIDE FOR ESCAPEMENT AND SUBSISTENCE NEEDS, AND] when coho salmon relative abundance exceeds chum salmon relative abundance, the department shall manage, to the extent practicable, the commercial salmon fishery based on the strength of the coho salmon run;

(9) **repealed.** [WHEN THE CHUM SALMON RUN IS PROJECTED TO BE INADEQUATE TO MEET ESCAPEMENT AND SUBSISTENCE NEEDS, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL MANAGE THE COMMERCIAL COHO SALMON FISHERY TO MINIMIZE THE INCIDENTAL HARVEST OF CHUM SALMON AND TO PROVIDE FOR COHO SALMON ESCAPEMENT AND SUBSISTENCE NEEDS;]

(11) If the king salmon run is projected to be inadequate to meet escapement goals and to provide for a reasonable subsistence opportunity, and if the commissioner determines that there is a harvestable surplus of chum salmon sufficient to provide for escapement needs and a reasonable opportunity for subsistence, the commissioner may, by emergency order, open a directed chum salmon fishery and the department shall manage to the extent practical, the commercial chum salmon fishery to minimize the harvest of king salmon.

ISSUE: This proposal requests changes to the Kuskokwim River management plan to reflect current management practices, and provides greater flexibility during periods of conservation need for salmon in order to meet escapement, provide for subsistence opportunity, and manage overlapping salmon runs. The proposal would also allow for the opportunity to commercially harvest chum salmon when abundance is beyond what is necessary for escapement and subsistence.

In January 2001, the Alaska Board of Fisheries modified the *Kuskokwim River Salmon Rebuilding Management Plan* to provide guidelines for management of subsistence, commercial, and sport fisheries for Kuskokwim River salmon. Management of the Kuskokwim River salmon fishery is complex due to overlapping multi-species salmon runs, and subsistence and commercial fisheries. Salmon fishery management has been very conservative and the commercial fishery closed unless king and chum salmon run strength are clearly adequate to provide for escapement and subsistence needs. The purpose of the management plan is to provide guidelines for management of the Kuskokwim River salmon fishery that ensure the

sustained yield of salmon stocks large enough to meet escapement goals, reasonable subsistence opportunity, and harvests for fisheries other than subsistence.

A set subsistence fishing schedule was established within the original plan, but is not necessary every year. If subsistence closures are established, the department needs flexibility in the duration of the closure and the ability to progressively implement such closures upstream as salmon migrate.

Commercial fishing throughout most of the 2000s was limited by stock of concern designations for king and chum salmon, poor market conditions for chum salmon, limited processing capacity, and low effort. Market conditions for chum salmon have improved in recent years; however, the fishery is still limited by processing capacity and low effort. Given record king, chum, and sockeye salmon escapements observed from 2004 to 2006, large surpluses of these species were available for commercial harvest, but were underexploited given the conditions listed above. Returns of king salmon from these record escapements have produced poor returns in recent years. Measures taken to conserve king salmon have resulted in forgone commercial chum salmon harvest and these fish continue to be underexploited despite available harvestable surpluses beyond escapement and subsistence needs. Managing for overlapping salmon species based upon abundance, while minimizing the harvest of a less abundant species to the extent practical will benefit resource users.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The existing plan does not reflect current management practices and provides less flexibility in management of overlapping salmon runs than the proposed plan. More flexibility will ensure Kuskokwim River salmon runs are managed for sustained yield.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The resource and fishermen.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F12-223)

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<u>PROPOSAL 106</u> - 5 AAC 07.365. Kuskokwim River Salmon Rebuilding Management Plan. Adopt a drainagewide optimum escapement goal (OEG) for king salmon in the Kuskokwim River, adjust tributary goals accordingly, and add preseason and inseason management tools as follows:

The preferred solution is for 1) the Board to adopt a drainage-wide OEG for Kuskokwim River Chinook salmon in lieu of the ADF&G goal, 2) for any adjustments made to tributary goals to be based on the OEG rather than the ADF&G goal, and 3) for a management plan be developed that

provides pre-season and in-season guidelines for achieving the escapement goals. In-season guidelines should direct managers to take actions that target achieving the mid-point of the escapement goal range when using in-season tools to project end-of-season escapements. Currently the primary in-season tool is the Bethel Test Fishery, which has limited precision in projecting final escapements. Given this imprecision, managers would need to target the mid-point of the escapement goal in order to assure ultimately achieving escapement within the escapement goal range. The management plan should also detail how localized management actions could be taken to protect individual tributaries experiencing low returns. Finally, the Department should consider including minimum numbers of female Chinook salmon required at monitored tributary escapements.

ISSUE: The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) intends to adopt a drainage wide escapement goal for Kuskokwim River Chinook salmon, and we request the Board consider establishing an Optimal Escapement Goal (OEG) in lieu of the ADF&G goal. The ADF&G goal is to be based on a recent retrospective run reconstruction. Details about the run reconstruction have not been released, and details about the analysis for developing the escapement goal have yet to be determined by ADF&G.

Linked to this drainage wide goal, ADF&G plans to adjust existing tributary goals so that they are in proportion to each tributary's average contribution to drainage wide escapement, and we request that any such changes be proportioned based on the OEG rather than the ADF&G goal. Again, details from ADF&G are lacking, but the key risk is that under the ADF&G goal there may be inadequate numbers of females in the tributary escapements. The concern is maintaining genetic diversity throughout the drainage.

We also understand that Department is considering submitting a placeholder Management Plan for the Kuskokwim River Chinook Management. A final concern is the lack of Management Plan details that should provide guidelines to managers and the public as to how ADF&G plans to proceed in-season to achieve the escapement goal. Currently the primary in-season tool is the Bethel Test Fishery, which has limited precision in projecting final escapements.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? If the ADF&G goal is too low, as might occur if based strictly on Ricker spawner-recruit analysis, it may at times reduce densities of fish to such low levels that subsistence fishermen will need to significantly increase fishing time to catch the same amount harvested historically, which would be a substantial economic hardship. If not adopted, at risk is providing adequate subsistence harvest opportunity, and the ability of subsistence fishermen to harvest salmon within the range of Amounts Necessary for Subsistence.

At risk is assuring adequate distribution of spawners throughout the drainage, and assuring adequate numbers of spawning females. Both could have negative consequences in maintaining genetic diversity throughout the drainage. Also at risk is the long-term sustainability of the fishery should escapement distribution be inadequate and/or inadequate numbers of females Chinook salmon be allowed to spawn (i.e., inadequate egg deposition, which could lead towards perpetuating low returns).

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? This should not affect fish quality. However, the quality of escapement maybe affected. At risk is providing adequate numbers of females Chinook in the escapement; i.e, inadequate egg deposition, which could lead towards perpetuating low returns.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Those most likely to benefit are subsistence fishermen, particularly subsistence fishermen upstream of Subdistrict W1-B, who will be assured catch rates (densities of salmon available for harvest, or fish per hour) comparable to historical levels.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those most likely to suffer are also subsistence fishermen, particularly those within Subdistrict W1-B, who may be subjected to harvest restrictions in order to pass fish upstream to meet escapement goals and to provide for upriver subsistence harvest opportunity. Commercial fishermen would also suffer because in some years there may be foregone commercial harvest to achieve escapements above Maximum Sustained Yield and to provide for subsistence harvest opportunity.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Other alternatives are to 1) accept the ADF&G goal without a management plan but the details are unknown) 2) Request that ADF&G to take no action at this time; i.e., post-pone establishing the drainage-wide escapement goal and consequent modification to tributary goals until: 1) full vetting occurs of the Chinook salmon run reconstruction including review from non-ADF&G experts, 2) reasonable local outreach can occur that informs stakeholders of the intended actions and allow ADF&G opportunity to gather public input and address concerns.

Not having adequate information available about the Department's plan leaves only the option to recommend that an OEG be established.

PROPOSED BY: Association of Village Council Presidents (HQ-F12-079)

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PROPOSAL 107 - 5 AAC 01.2XX. Kuskokwim River king salmon possession limits. Allow subsistence taking of 10 or more king salmon only for drying and cold-smoke use in the Kuskokwim River Area as follows:

The taking and use of more than ten (10) subsistence caught Chinook salmon per household in June is only allowed for the seasonally dependent processing and preservation practice of outdoor drying and "cold" smoking.

This is consistent with the Board's discretion for application of subsistence criteria, and in accordance with directives in 4FA-09-1515 Civil (Ref BOF Proposal #200 of March, 2010 meeting), regarding 5AAC 99.010 (b), that "The Board can look to see that the taking and use reflects the cultural, social, spiritual and nutritional values embodied in subsistence laws." to further the standard of protecting a subsistence way of life; and consistent with AS 16.05.258(b)(2)(A) that the Board "shall adopt regulations that provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses of those stocks or populations;" or, (C) that the Board "shall adopt regulations to differentiate among consumptive uses that provide for a preference for the subsistence uses, if regulations are adopted under (B) of this paragraph".

Neither should this proposal in any way be misconstrued, interpreted or adapted to trigger the need to consider establishing a Tier II subsistence fishery in the Kuskokwim Area under A.S. 16.05.258(b)(4) or 5 AAC 99.010(c), since reasonable opportunity for ALL subsistence *uses* of ALL subsistence *users* is maintained, and this Board action would not reduce them below that level. Yet at the same time it could significantly reduce overall harvest impact on quantity and quality of related management, subsistence use and escapement objectives for the Kuskokwim Management Area.

ISSUE: 1) Harvest and processing limitations in customary and traditional subsistence use of Kuskokwim King salmon;

2) The need for the oldest and most practical methods and means of preserving sufficient quantities of King salmon for the winter, is dependent on this seasonal activity occurring during June (i.e. "dry fish"), whereas those involved with more recent technological methods are not (i.e. "freezer/export fish"); and
3) The increasing levels of individuals who catch large amounts of "freezer/export fish" opportunistically are largely lacking in the region's cultural background, and do not have a similarly situated level of need.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The oldest and most practical customary and traditional practice of drying and smoking enough King salmon for subsistence use throughout the winter will continue to be diminished or denied at the expense of more recent activities. In addition the cultural teachings inherent to the multi-family and multi-generational practice directly associated with summer fish camp and dry fish processing/preservation activities will continue to be increasingly disenfranchised. Ten (10) King salmon per household should be more than adequate to satisfy the "freezer/export fish" component of the harvest.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Removal of restrictions imposed at the expense of a subsistence activity for an essentially opportunistic one, could go far towards improving the full range of management objectives.

It would also reduce the amount of unavoidable and shameful waste of time, effort and resource which occurs when management actions force people to harvest and process their yearly subsistence needs for salmon later in the season: When the weather patterns deteriorate and cause loss through souring and rot, and causing much greater amounts of fly egg deposition with resulting prevalence of maggot infestation.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The vast majority of fishers throughout the drainage who depend on use of Kuskokwim King salmon for their families' primary winter supply of subsistence fish.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Individuals who would opportunistically harvest subsistence King salmon without limitation, regardless of individual need, processing/use capability or extended negative impacts to others.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? The prospect of Community Harvest Permits could be explored or incorporated for points of issue in this proposal, but uncertain as to what extent they would be effectively addressed.

PROPOSED BY: Orutsararmiut Native Council (HQ-F12-147)
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PROPOSAL 108 - 5 AAC 01.280. Subsistence fishing permits. Require a permit and reporting requirements for all subsistence-caught salmon transported out of the Kuskokwim Management Area as follows:

Require a permit and reporting requirement for all subsistence caught salmon transported out of the Kuskokwim Management Area.

ISSUE: There is no existing method or means of tracking the numbers or species of salmon being shipped out of the Kuskokwim Area other than commercial harvests. Local observations from Bethel residents over the last three-four years report increasing numbers of individuals traveling back and forth throughout the season with full allocation of 150# baggage in fish boxes each time. The Kuskokwim Salmon Management Working Group requested assistance from the USFWS to pursue the matter, but were informed it was not in their area of jurisdiction. Requests were made of regional air freight, cargo and passenger airlines to provide this information voluntarily, but they declined to do so. Anecdotal reports are heard from the middle and upper river of more people coming in to fish the Kuskokwim – especially for King salmon, since so many other areas have been severely restricted or closed altogether in recent years. We may only speculate at present on how much impact this activity is having on Kuskokwim salmon stocks – or what level if any may be associated with commercial interests.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The current situation will continue and can only get worse.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Not Applicable.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Subsistence fisheries that rely on Kuskokwim salmon for primary source of sustenance. Management entities that currently have no other reliable means of data gathering or accounting for these salmon numbers in management decisions.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Anyone who may be taking advantage of, or abusing, the ability to gather large quantities of salmon from the Kuskokwim area for personal gain.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None that would adequately address scope of the issue or current anecdotal aspect.

PROPOSED BY: Orutsararmiut Native Council (HQ-F12-148)
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PROPOSAL 109 - 5 AAC 01.2XX. Customary trade of subsistence-taken finfish. Allow for sale of subsistence-taken finfish in the Kuskokwim River Area as follows:

Add a new section in Article 5 as 5 AAC 01.xxx for Customary Trade of subsistence-taken finfish.

(a) In the Kuskokwim Area, the customary trade of subsistence-taken finfish is permitted as specified in this section. A person who conducts a customary trade in subsistence-taken finfish under this section must: (1) obtain a customary trade record keeping form from the department before the person conducts the customary trade, and accurately record the cash sale on the form within the 24 hours after the sale occurs; the form requires the reporting of (A) the date of each sale; (B) the buyers name and address; (C) the species and amount of finfish sold; (D) the location where the finfish were harvested; (E) the dollar amount of each sale; (F) the form of processing used; and (G) any other information the department requires for management or enforcement purposes; (2) return the customary trade record keeping form to the department as prescribed by the department on the form; (3) display the customary trade record keeping form upon request by a local representative of the department or a peace officer of the state.

(b) A person may not sell subsistence-taken finfish under this section for more than $500 total per household in a calendar year.

(c) A person who receives subsistence-taken finfish in exchange for cash in a customary trade may not resell the fish.

(d) A sale or purchase of finfish authorized under this section, including the delivery of fish to a purchaser, may occur only in the Kuskokwim Area.

ISSUE: Escalating levels of, and concerns about, present and future individuals selling fish for significant cash income (i.e. commercial activities) under protection of customary trade.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? As the human population of the area (thru either resident or in-migration) continues to increase this problem can only get worse. If it is not addressed now, it will only be putting it off to be "solved" later.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Not Applicable

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The vast majority of subsistence fishers in the Kuskokwim area.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Individuals present and future who take advantage of the lack of limitations to essentially practice commercial activities under a protective guise of customary trade.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Status quo – Unacceptable

PROPOSED BY: Orutsararmiut Native Council (HQ-F12-149)
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PROPOSAL 110 - 5 AAC 07.331. Gillnet specifications and operations. Remove the option for gillnet mesh to be up to 8 inches in District 1 of the Kuskokwim River Area as follows:

5 AAC 07.331 (c) In Districts 1 and 2, salmon may be taken only with gillnets with six-inch or smaller mesh. [, EXCEPT THAT IN DISTRICT 1, THE COMMISSIONER MAY OPEN FISHING PERIODS, DURING WHICH THE GILLNET MESH SIZE MAY BE NO GREATER THAN EIGHT INCHES.]

ISSUE: The allowance of up to 8" mesh gear in W-1 of the Kuskokwim commercial fishery remains in regulation, while the large Chinook salmon (primarily females) that would be targeted by this gear should be directed towards enhancing the quality of escapement, with any harvestable surplus of that stock component fully allocated to the subsistence fishery.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? An unnecessary regulation will remain on the books.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Adoption of this regulation is consistent with the escapement and subsistence priority management objectives in the Kuskokwim River.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? People who rely on the long-term integrity of Kuskokwim Chinook salmon stocks.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those who might attach some sentimental value to the illusory hope of returning to the directed commercial Chinook fishery of 1973-1985 (appx.).

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? We initially considered amending the regulation to remain effective only after July 1, but further discussions supported eliminating it altogether as a more realistic action.

PROPOSED BY: Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group (HQ-F12-150)
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PROPOSAL 111 - 5 AAC 71.010. Seasons and bag, possession, and size limits for the Kuskokwim – Goodnews Area. Close all sport fishing on the Eek River as follows:

Closed to Sport Fishing: All species of fish on the Eek River.

ISSUE: Sport Fishing on the Eek River.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The village of Eek has a long standing law passed down from our Elders not to play with our food.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? The Proposal will bring the use of this river to what it has always been used for by the First Peoples- A Subsistence Gathering River.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All subsistence users.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No-one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Native Village of Eek (HQ-F12-152)
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<u>PROPOSAL 112</u> - 5 AAC 01.270. Lawful gear and gear specifications and operations; 5 AAC 07.331 Gillnet specifications and operations; 5 AAC 71.010. Seasons and bag, possession, and size limits for the Kuskokwim - Goodnews Area. Close all sport and commercial guide fisheries in the Kwethluk River from June 1 through July 25 and limit the size of net gear used in both subsistence and commercial fisheries for the same time frame as follows:

1. Allow subsistence fishing using only 4" or less mesh size setnets (no more than 60' in length).
2. Allow driftnets with only 4" or less mesh size nets no more than 60' in length.

ISSUE: Close all sport fisheries and commercial guiding operation from June 1-July 25 every summer from the mouth of Kwethluk River to the headwaters.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Whenever there is subsistence closures on the river(s)- sports fisher are allowed to fish any species of fish (including salmon).

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? It will enhance the escapement of salmon spawners to their spawning grounds at the headwaters of salmon stream.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Everyone, it will enhance the biological health of the salmon species on the Kwethluk River.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Commercial guide operators from June 1-July 25 (only).

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? (1) whole mainstem closure- to will hurt subsistence fishers.

PROPOSED BY: Organized Village of Kwethluk, Kwethluk IRA Council (HQ-F12-072)
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PROPOSAL 113 - 5 AAC 71.010. Seasons and bag, possession, and size limits for the Kuskokwim - Goodnews Area(c)(7) and (8). Prohibit catch and release fishing for salmon on the Kanektok and Arolik Rivers as follows:

Catch and release salmon sport fishing is prohibited on the Kanektok River Drainage and Arolik River Drainage.

Exception: (A salmon may be released only if it is observed to be too unhealthy for human consumption).

ISSUE: Catch and release salmon sport fishing is considered a violation of traditional beliefs amongst the Yup'ik People who call the Kanektok and Arolik rivers their home. Yup'ik residents have observed numerous occasions where salmon have been mishandled by sport fishermen ever since their home rivers became a popular sport fishing destination.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Yup'ik residents will continue to observe the salmon stocks on the Kanektok River Drainage and Arolik River Drainage steadily decline due to salmon being mishandled by sport fishermen. Here are some examples;

1. Salmon that are handled and released are more prone to illness due to the protective layer of mucus on their skin being removed. Knotted landing nets also cause this protective layer to be removed.

2. Salmon that are dragged up on gravel bars then kicked back into the water are injured. Sand and gravel may also get into their gills damaging these sensitive areas.

3. Oversized hooks are known to penetrate through the mouths of salmon and pierce their eyes, injuring their mouths and eyes.

4. Salmon that are removed from the water for prolonged periods of time take much longer to recover and have a reduced chance of survival when released.

5. Salmon that are fought too long become overly exhausted and when released are seen to roll over on to their bellies and float down river too weak to recover.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, by allowing more salmon to reach their spawning grounds without interference and mishandling from sport fishermen who practice catch and release fishing, thus allowing for a higher success rate of salmon completing their natural spawning cycle.

Current sport fish regulations for the Kanektok River Drainage and Arolik River Drainage allows for and provides opportunities for sport fishermen to harvest their daily bag limit of salmon for human consumption, this proposal reinforces that State of Alaska approved regulation.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All users of the salmon resource will benefit.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one will suffer.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Native Village of Kwinhagak IRA Council (HQ-F12-020)
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PROPOSAL 114 - 5 AAC 5 AAC 71.010. Seasons and bag, possession, and size limits for the Kuskokwim - Goodnews Area. Prohibit sport fishing on all salmon spawning beds on the Kanektok and Arolik River drainages as follows:

Sport fishing is prohibited on all salmon spawning beds on the Kanektok River Drainage and Arolik River Drainage.

ISSUE: Sport fishermen who practice catch and release fishing on salmon spawning beds are molesting, disturbing, harassing and stressing salmon during this critical time when salmon are trying to fulfill their natural spawning cycle.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Female salmon which are caught and released from spawning beds have a higher chance of aborting their eggs prematurely due to the stress from being hooked, fought and released.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, by allowing more salmon to successfully complete their natural spawning cycle on their spawning beds without interference and mishandling from sport fishermen.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All users of the resource will benefit with this regulation change.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one will suffer.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Native Village of Kwinhagak IRA Council (HQ-F12-021)
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PROPOSAL 115 - 5 AAC 01.188(b). Customary trade of subsistence-taken finfish. Increase the amount of money a household may receive from the sale of subsistence-caught fish from $200 to $500 as follows:

(b) Change 200 to 500.

ISSUE: Increase the sale of subsistence fish to 500.00.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Unreported sales.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? More product may be sold.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Subsistence fishermen wanting to help pay for gas.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Tom Sparks (HQ-F12-040)
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PROPOSAL 116 - 5 AAC 01.190. Subdistrict 1 of the Norton Sound District Chum Salmon Management Plan; 5 AAC 04.3XX. Norton Sound Subdistrict 1 Salmon Management Plan. Create a new commercial fishery for pink or chum salmon to be opened and closed by emergency order (EO) in Subdistrict 1 of Norton Sound as follows:

Give ability of ADF&G to EO commercial fishery when subsistence needs are met. Current regulations mandate four years in a row for chum (Tier I) and do not allow for pink.

ISSUE: Lack of commercial fishery in Subdistrict 1 when high pink salmon or excess chum.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Lack of opportunity in Subdistrict 1 when high numbers of pink and chum.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Allows to harvest in high pink years and chum.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Commercial fishermen.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Change four year to two year in Tier I.

PROPOSED BY: Tom Sparks (HQ-F12-037)
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PROPOSAL 117 - 5 AAC 04.350(4). Closed waters. Allow commercial fishing in Subdistrict 1 west of the longitude of Cape Nome for all species of salmon as follows:

All waters of Subdistrict 1 of the Norton Sound District are open to commercial fishing.

ISSUE: The waters of Subdistrict 1 of Norton Sound District west of the longitude of Cape Nome are closed to commercial fishing. This closure eliminates the opportunity to commercial fish for any salmon species even in times of record runs.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? There will be a waste of salmon by creating an overabundance of spawning salmon in streams. Foregone harvest opportunity.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? More opportunity for commercial fishermen to fish throughout Subdistrict 1.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? No other solutions considered.

PROPOSED BY: Howard Farley (HQ-F12-063)
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PROPOSAL 118 - 5 AAC 04.390. Subdistricts 2 and 3 of the Norton Sound District Salmon Management Plan. Allow for a commercial set gillnet fishery in Golovin Bay once 4,800 coho salmon have escaped into the Niukluk River as follows:

A commercial setnet fishery opportunity will commence in the Golovin Bay Subdistrict once 4,800 cohos have escaped into the Niukluk River.

ISSUE: In years with weak coho returns, under the present management, the commercial setnet fishery is turning our coho run into a reduced opportunity for subsistence fisherman in the fresh water drainage.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Inconsistent coho salmon fishery for subsistence, sport fish, and commercial fishing will continue for years to come. Fewer and fewer coho spawners will reach the spawning grounds.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. Our proposal increases the number of coho salmon spawners in the Golovin Bay Subdistrict drainage system.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All subsistence, sport fish and commercial users of the coho salmon resource.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Short term the Golovin commercial setnet fishery, until escapement numbers increase.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Increasing the lower limit escapement goal to 4,800. We rejected this solution because we don't know enough about the capability of 2,400 coho spawners producing the return to fulfill the needs of all the users.

PROPOSED BY: Council Native Corporation (HQ-F12-026)
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PROPOSAL 119 - 5 AAC 04.390. Subdistricts 2 and 3 of the Norton Sound District Salmon Management Plan. Allow for a commercial coho salmon fishery when there would be no impacts to the chum salmon escapement goals as follows:

5 AAC 04.390. Subdistricts 2 and 3 of the Norton Sound Districts Chum Salmon Management Plan.

(3) in the commercial Coho salmon fishery, the fishery may occur only [WHEN THE NORTON SOUND DISTRICT INDEX RIVERS SPECIFIED IN 5 AAC 04.358 ARE ACHIEVED OR] when the department determines that further restrictions would have no impact on achieving chum salmon escapement goals.

ISSUE: Chum escapements must be met in three Subdistricts 1 rivers before commercial Coho salmon fishing may take place in the Subdistricts 2 and 3. It is believed that this was not the intent of the regulation when written.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Commercial coho salmon fishing may be restricted in Subdistricts 2 and 3 because of poor chum returns to Subdistrict 1 rivers. Subdistrict 2 and 3 each have enumeration project on rivers within their boundaries and should be managed on escapements from those rivers.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Commercial fishermen of Subdistrict 2 and 3 will possible benefit with more fishing time.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Wes Jones (HQ-F12-168)
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PROPOSAL 120 - 5 AAC 04.395. Subdistricts 5 and 6 of the Norton Sound District and the Unalakleet River King Salmon Management Plan. Allow for commercial chum and pink salmon fisheries before July 1 in the Unalakleet and Shaktoolik Subdistricts as follows:

5 AAC 04.395. Subdistricts 5 and 6 of the Norton Sound District and the Unalakleet River King Salmon Management Plan.

(c) If the projected **king salmon escapement** is below the lower end of the escapement goal range, all fishing for **king salmon** will be closed.

(h) In Subdistricts 5 and 6 the commercial pink and chum salmon fishery in Subdistricts 5 and 6, the fishery may occur only if it is determined there is a harvestable surplus of pink or chum salmon and that a directed pink or chum salmon commercial fishery will not have a significant impact on escapement or subsistence use of king salmon;[A COMMERCIAL PINK OR CHUM SALMON FISHERY MAY NOT BEGIN BEFORE JULY 1 IF EITHER THE GILLNET MESH SIZE OR SUBSISTENCE FISHING PERIODS ARE RESTRICTED IN THE KING SALMON SUBSISTENCE FISHERY.]

(1) Before July 1, a commercial pink or chum salmon fishery may not occur if either marine king salmon subsistence fishery gillnet mesh-size is restricted to 6-inches or less or marine king salmon subsistence fishing time is reduced.

(2) A commercial pink or chum salmon fishery may not occur before July 1 if the king salmon subsistence fishery is closed before July 1.

(i) King salmon may not be sold for commercial purposes in any pink or chum salmon commercial salmon fishery unless the midpoint of the North River king salmon escapement goal is reached.

ISSUE: This proposal is meant to allow for targeted commercial chum and pink salmon fishing prior to July 1 in the Unalakleet and Shaktoolik Subdistrict.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Opportunity to harvest surplus chum and pink salmon will be lost. Residents will not optimize the opportunity to engage in the targeted chum salmon commercial fishing, despite surplus.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, fresher fish earlier in the run.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Commercial fishermen will benefit with increased harvest opportunity.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Southern Norton Sound Advisory Committee (HQ-F12-154)
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PROPOSAL 121 - 5 AAC 01.160. Fishing seasons and periods. Allow beach seines to harvest pink salmon for subsistence in Norton Sound Subdistricts 5 and 6 except as specified by emergency order (EO) as follows:

5 AAC 01.160 (6) **Notwithstanding (3) of this section,** in Subdistricts 5 and 6, salmon other than king salmon may be taken by beach seine **at any time, except as specified** [DURING PERIODS ESTABLISHED] by emergency order.

OR

5 AAC 01.160 (6) **Notwithstanding (3) of this section,** in Subdistricts 5 and 6, salmon other than king salmon may be taken by beach seine **from July 1 to August 10, except as specified** [DURING PERIODS ESTABLISHED] by emergency order.

ISSUE: Pink seining in Subdistricts 5 and 6. Currently pink seining is only allowed by emergency order. Pink salmon are abundant and there is harvest opportunity being missed. In the last three years the best drying weather has been missed because an EO had not been issued.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Opportunity to harvest pink salmon during good drying weather will be lost and the potential for waste is increased.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? The quality of the resource harvested will improve as fishers will be able better time harvest with good drying weather and reducing the risk of wanton waste.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Alaskan residents living in the Norton Sound.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Southern Norton Sound Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F12-156)
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PROPOSAL 122 - 5 AAC 01.160. Fishing seasons and periods. Allow subsistence fishing in Norton Sound Subdistrict 1 unless restricted by emergency order (EO) as follows:

Have Subdistrict 1 the same as Port Clarence District fish anytime except by EO.

ISSUE: Restriction in Subdistrict 1.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued lack of opportunity to fish when weather is good.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? By allowing subsistence fishermen to harvest when weather is good less fish will be wasted as well as gear.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All Subdistrict 1 subsistence fishermen.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Perhaps commercial fishermen (if ever opened).

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Five days in marine waters and five days in fresh waters.

PROPOSED BY: Tom Sparks (HQ-F12-039)

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PROPOSAL 123 - 5 AAC 01.170. Lawful gear and gear specifications. Allow subsistence fishing with beach seine nets in Subdistrict 1 without having to issue an emergency order (EO) as follows:

Remove section (e) to allow seine nets without an EO.

ISSUE: Lack of opportunity to effectively harvest salmon by seine net in Nome Subdistrict.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Fishermen will continue to use gillnets or rod and reel which is less effective, time consuming and with gillnets marks fish up.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Quality of fish harvested will improve as well as more effective harvest.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Subsistence fishermen with seine nets.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one, ADF&G can close as necessary.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Continue with ADF&G EO does not allow effective harvest.

PROPOSED BY: Tom Sparks (HQ-F12-042)

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PROPOSAL 124 - 5 AAC 01.175(c)(2). Waters closed to subsistence fishing. Remove Sinuk River from closed waters and open a subsistence fishery for retention of sockeye salmon by beach seine in the Sinuk River up to Boulder Creek as follows:

Allow for red salmon harvest by seine up to Boulder Creek on Sinuk River.

ISSUE: Lack of opportunity to harvest red salmon above ADF&G marker with net.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Management will continue to focus on chum salmon and not allow for efficient harvest of reds.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Quality of subsistence caught fish will improve in terms of red salmon.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Those subsistence fishermen wanting to harvest red in the Sinuk River by seine.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one. Closure can take place by EO.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Keep regulation same, allow for seine below regulatory marker.

PROPOSED BY: Tom Sparks (HQ-F12-041)
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PROPOSAL 125 - 5 AAC 01.170. Lawful Gear and Gear Specifications. Allow use of a dip net as a legal subsistence gear for chum salmon in the Pilgrim River subsistence fishery as follows:

5 AAC 01.170. Lawful Gear and Gear Specifications. (a) Salmon may be taken only by gillnet, beach seine, fish wheel, or as specified in (h) of this section, by a hook and line attached to a rod or pole, **or as specified in (l) of this section, by dipnet**.

(l) the commissioner may, by emergency order, open and close fishing periods and waters during and where a dipnet may be used to take salmon.

ISSUE: In years when sockeye salmon returns to the Pilgrim River are expected to meet or exceed escapement goals, the opportunities to take salmon during the subsistence fishery are limited by few locations where beach seine gear can be used effectively. During years with large returns, there is no reason not to allow the use of dipnets to take Pilgrim River sockeye salmon. Dipnet gear in inexpensive relative to good beach seine gear. The use of dipnet gear would provide opportunity to subsistence fishersmen that has not been available.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Additional opportunity to harvest fish during large return years will not be available. It is unlikely that the use of dipnet gear will provide a large increase in fishing power by subsistence fishers. During periods of low clear water, dipnet fishing is not expected to be effective. However, during periods of high and discolored water following summer storms, dipnet gear may be effective in taking sockeye salmon in Pilgrim River and lower Kuzitrin River waters.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No, it only provides additional opportunity during times of abundance. While my intent is to effect change for the Pilgrim River sockeye fishery, the proposed language provides latitude for the Department to consider allowing dipnet fisheries in times of abundance by emergency order anywhere in Norton Sound - Port Clarence Area.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Fishers who have had limited opportunity to harvest Pilgrim River sockeye salmon due to the expense of gear and/or the limited number of sites where beach seine can be used effectively.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? I didn't consider any other solutions.

PROPOSED BY: Dan Reed (HQ-F12-055)

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PROPOSAL 126 - 5 AAC 04.310. Fishing seasons. Allow for an extension to the commercial fishery for coho salmon in the Norton Sound Subdistricts by emergency order (EO) as follows:

5 AAC 04.310 FISHING SEASONS. Except as provided in 5AAC 01.190 and 5AAC 04.320-AAC 04.390, salmon maybe taken only as follows:

(2) in Subdistricts 2 and 3, from a date established by emergency order between June 8 to June 20, through August 31 **or extended by emergency order;**

(3) in Subdistricts 4-6, from a date established by emergency order between June 8 to June 20, through September 7 **or extended by emergency order.**

ISSUE: The Coho salmon runs are still running strong on some years when the season is closed by regulation in Norton Sound Subdistricts 2 to 6. When escapement needs have been met and there are salmon still migrating at the time of the regulatory closure the department should be given the authority to extend the season.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Harvestable salmon will be lost as the fishery is closed by regulation when there is a surplus of salmon.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Commercial fishermen of Subdistrict 2 to 6 will benefit with more fishing time on years that the runs are late or the run strong late in the season.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Wes Jones (HQ-F12-169)

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PROPOSAL 127 - 5 AAC 04.331. Gillnet specifications and operations. Allow for an increase in amount of commercial gillnet gear in the Norton Sound pink salmon fishery by emergency order (EO) as follows:

5 AAC 04.331. Gillnet specifications and operations.

(f) In the Norton Sound District when mesh size is restricted to four and one-half inches or less (pink fishery) the department by emergency order may increase the amount of gear used by a permit holder to 150 or 200 fathoms.

ISSUE: Increase the harvest of pink salmon during the commercial salmon fishery in Norton Sound.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Opportunity to harvest surplus pink salmon will be lost. Small windows of opportunity to prepare fish will be lost, increasing the chance pink salmon being wasted due to poor weather conditions.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. The chance of fish spoiling are reduced due to more time to prepare during good weather.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Commercial fishermen will benefit with increased harvest opportunity.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one. Pink salmon are abundant in the areas were commercial pink fishery will take place.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Southern Norton Sound Advisory Committee (HQ-F12-155)

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PROPOSAL 128 - 5 AAC 04.3XX. Use of pink salmon for bait in the Norton Sound - Port Clarence Area. Allow commercial salmon fishermen the Norton Sound - Port Clarence Area to fish for pink salmon with set gillnet gear and use it for bait in other commercial fisheries as follows:

The holder of a valid CFEC interim use or limited entry permit may take but may not sell pink salmon for use as bait in the commercial fishery which the permit is held as follows:

(1) except as provided in (3) of this section pink salmon may be taken at any time in marine waters only;

(2) pink salmon may be taken only by set gillnet as specified in 5 AAC 04.330;

(3) in the 48 hours before, during and 48 hours after an open commercial herring fishing period in the Norton Sound-Port Clarence Area, a vessel or crew member or permit holder that participates in that commercial salmon fishery opening may not take or possess salmon under this section in any subdistrict in the Norton Sound-Port Clarence Area;

(4) a person or vessel may not take more than two tons of pink salmon under this section in a calendar year unless that person or vessel first applies for and receives from the department a permit authorizing the person or vessel to do so;

(b) A permit issued under (a)(4) of this section may require a permittee to report to the department the amount of pink salmon taken under the permit.

ISSUE: Allow holders of a valid CFEC interim use or limited entry permit commercial permit holders to harvest pink salmon for bait in the Norton Sound-Port Clarence Area for use as bait in the commercial fishery for which the permit is held.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Millions of pinks will go up the river to spawn without harvest by fishermen.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Commercial permit holders needing bait.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one. Excess numbers of pink salmon going up streams to spawn.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Howard Farley (HQ-F12-064)
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PROPOSAL 129 - 5 AAC 70.011. Seasons and bag, possession, and size limits for the Northwestern Area. Re-open a sport fishery for chum salmon in the Nome Subdistrict with a daily bag limit of three chum salmon as follows:

A new regulation should replace the chum salmon closure in the sport fishing regulations for the Nome Subdistrict with a daily bag limit of three chum salmon.

ISSUE: Nome Subdistrict waters were closed to sport fishing for chum salmon in 1992 in a coordinated effort to rebuild chum salmon runs because of a history of weak returns. The effort included subsistence restrictions and closures and resulted in Tier II subsistence fishing regulations for the Nome Subdistrict from 1999 - 2005. Biological escapement goals were developed for chum salmon in the Nome Subdistrict in 2001 and have been met in nine out of the 11 years they have been in effect. Subsistence fishing returned to normal regulation in 2006 and

rod and reel became a legal subsistence method in the area including the Nome Subdistrict in 2001. Currently it is not legal for a sport angler to even cast toward a chum salmon with the intent of hooking it.

With healthy chum salmon runs, escapement goals being met and the return to normal subsistence fishing regulation, there is no reason why sport anglers should not be allowed to fish for and to harvest chum salmon in the Nome Subdistrict.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Sport anglers will continue to be denied the opportunity to fish for chum salmon in the Nome Subdistrict.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Since fishing opportunity could be viewed as a "product", providing the opportunity to sport fish for chum salmon would result in improved "quality of the product" by increasing the diversity of fishing experience available to anglers in the Nome area.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Sport anglers wishing to fish for chum salmon in Nome Subdistrict waters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one would suffer. Both participation and harvest are likely to be low and the fishery could easily be constrained by Emergency Order if returns were projected not to meet escapement goals or harvests appeared to be unsustainable.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Fred DeCicco (HQ-F12-054)
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<u>PROPOSAL 130</u> – 5 AAC 01.236. Customary and traditional subsistence uses of fish stocks and amounts necessary for subsistence uses. Review amounts reasonably necessary (ANS) for subsistence salmon in the Yukon-Northern Area as follows:

(a) The Alaska Board of Fisheries (board) finds that the following fish stocks are customarily and traditionally taken or used for subsistence:

(1) king, summer chum, fall chum, coho, and pink salmon in the Yukon-Northern Area;

(b) The board finds that in the Yukon-Northern Area the following amounts of fish are reasonably necessary for subsistence uses:

(1) king salmon: 45,500–66,704;
(2) summer chum salmon: 83,500–142,192;
(3) fall chum salmon: 89,500–167,900;
(4) coho salmon: 20,500–51,890.

ISSUE: This proposal provides an opportunity for the Alaska Board of Fisheries (board) and public to revisit the ANS for subsistence findings) for salmon stocks in the Yukon River. The ANS for

subsistence findings in codified regulations were set by the board in 2001 based upon the harvest history on the Yukon River during the years 1990–1999. The ANS ranges were based upon the low harvest and the high harvest over the 10 years, although years when there were subsistence fishing restrictions were not included in this analysis (Table 1).

Estimated harvest of Yukon River salmon, 1990–1999.

	Minimum	Average	High	ANS
King salmon	45,669	52,519	66,704	45,500-66,704
Summer chum salmon	83,784	117,151	142,192	83,500-142,192
Fall chum salmon	89,938	123,749	167,900	89,500-167,900
Coho salmon	20,885	34,777	51,980	20,500-51,980

Yukon River subsistence salmon harvests have been estimated by ADF&G Division of Commercial Fisheries annually, and are comparable through the present day and among years utilized to establish current ANS. Subsistence salmon harvests of summer chum salmon and fall chum salmon tend to fall below the lower limit of the ANS despite adequate abundance to achieve historical subsistence salmon harvest levels. The data suggest that customary and traditional (C&T) patterns of harvest and use of Yukon River summer chum salmon and fall chum salmon stocks have changed. As a result, the board may determine that ANS should be revised due to these apparent changes in the C&T subsistence use patterns.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Board assessments of subsistence salmon harvests relative to the codified ANS findings will be more challenging given the observed pattern that subsistence harvests of summer chum and fall chum salmon tend to fall below the lower limit of the ANS.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All users of salmon resources of the Yukon River will benefit from decisions based upon the best available information, which provides the board with an unambiguous metric for assessing reasonable opportunities for subsistence uses of Yukon River salmon populations and stocks.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? The department considered no action, or waiting for next board cycle. However, the recent trend in subsistence harvests is not reflected in the current ANS, making assessments problematic. This proposal provides the board with the opportunity to update the ANS with the best available harvest and use information, as well as provides the public with an opportunity to review and comment upon the proposal regarding the ANS for subsistence uses of Yukon River summer chum salmon and fall chum salmon populations and stocks.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F12-219)

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PROPOSAL 131 - 5 AAC 05.360. Yukon River King Salmon Management Plan. Require pulse protection in the king salmon management plan as follows:

This proposal would put pulse protection into the king salmon management plan.

This proposal has been developed as part of a process initiated by the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association (YRDFA) to review existing management strategies and achieve consensus among stakeholders on potential measures to improve king salmon management in the Yukon River. The stakeholder group includes representatives from the lower, middle, and upper Yukon including the three Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils, the Yukon River Panel, the Association of Village Council Presidents, the Tanana Chiefs Conference, the Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments, YRDFA, the Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Association (CDQ group) and an upper river processor. Stakeholders identified pulse protection as a top priority and developed draft language for achieving this. The group is in the process of receiving input from other Yukon River stakeholders and will reconvene and submit specific regulatory language prior to the next Board of Fisheries Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim meeting.

ISSUE: Obligations for passage of Yukon River king salmon into Canada, as specified under the Yukon River Salmon Agreement of the Pacific Salmon Treaty, were not met in 2007, 2008, and 2010. Additionally, king salmon run sizes below projections in some years delayed management actions by ADF&G, resulting in severe and inequitable restrictions to upriver subsistence users. Pulse protection has been used by ADF&G in recent years as a management tool to bolster king salmon passage into Canada and onto Alaskan tributary spawning grounds. This tool has also provided a more equitable sharing of the conservation responsibility among all users. We believe that pulse protection should be formally added to the king salmon management plan as a tool used by ADF&G to meet treaty obligations and ensure escapement needs are met.

The Yukon River king salmon stock historically provided for adequate escapement and subsistence, commercial, personal use, and recreational harvests. However, in recent years, the number of king salmon returning to the Yukon River has declined, such that even subsistence harvests have been restricted to provide for basic escapement needs. This stock remains depressed well below historic levels with returns approaching one recruit per spawner for recent brood years. Additionally, the oldest salmon are lacking from recent runs. The cause of low returns-per-spawner is unknown, but it is prudent to ensure that adequate numbers of male, female, and large fish reach the spawning grounds to contribute to stock rebuilding when conditions improve.

The first pulse of king salmon entering the Yukon River usually contains the largest number of fish and the most Canadian-origin fish. Under the Yukon River Salmon Agreement, the U.S. must allow passage of enough Canadian-origin king salmon to meet an agreed-upon escapement goal plus additional fish for harvest sharing. The treaty obligation is a primary factor for Alaskan management. Because Canadian-origin fish usually comprise about half of the annual king salmon run to the Yukon River, ensuring the health of this stock is vitally important, not only for treaty terms, but to ensure continued returns of Canadian-origin fish for Alaskan harvest.

In years when harvests need to be restricted to provide for treaty obligations and Alaskan tributary escapements, pulse protection provides an equitable way to do so. Pulse protection also allows managers to target specific stocks which need protection and may be more or less prevalent in a particular pulse.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Currently, ADF&G manages the first pulse of fish based on the pre-season projection of run size. Subsequent pulses are managed based on in-season assessments. A lack of specific measures to protect the first pulse of fish, which includes a large component of Canadian-origin fish, could result in: (1) failing to meet treaty obligations; (2) increased difficulty in meeting Alaskan escapement goals; and (3) an inequitable distribution of the conservation responsibility. In years of poor runs, it may be necessary to curtail Alaskan harvests of the second and third pulses even more intensively to ensure adequate passage into Canada and/or onto the Alaskan tributary spawning grounds. In 2011 when pulse protection was utilized more large fish and female fish were able to escape harvest. Whether this was due to pulse protection, the first season of mesh being restricted to no larger than 7 ½ mesh, some combination of the two, or neither, is unknown. Finally, without prescriptive pulse protection in regulation there is uncertainty for salmon users about early-season management strategies for the Yukon River Chinook salmon run.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? To the extent to which pulse protections will enhance the quality of escapement and contribute to rebuilding the run this proposal will benefit all current and future users who rely on Yukon River Chinook salmon by helping to ensure adequate escapement onto Canadian and Alaskan tributary spawning grounds and, thereby, contributing to rebuilding the run when production improves, Protecting the first pulse will improve the likelihood of meeting treaty obligations with Canada. Protecting the first pulse also benefits Alaskan harvesters by reducing the need to decrease overall harvests of later run fish in order to achieve treaty-mandated passage of fish into Canada. Additionally, this management tool will provide a means for equitably distributing the conservation responsibility among all subsistence users. Finally, pulse protection will allow managers to better assess run strength prior to harvest and will reduce uncertainty for users about both early- and late-season management actions.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Under this proposal individuals that prefer to fish intensively on the first pulse may suffer. For example, some subsistence harvesters prefer the weather in June for drying fish, others prefer the flavor and quality of earlier run fish. The board will need to evaluate the effect of pulse protection on fish available to meet subsistence needs.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? The group considered cutting fishing time in half, but rejected this solution because impacts would not be equitably distributed between users in different parts of the river. The group also considered additional gear restrictions, but rejected this solution because a gear change was implemented in 2011 and a multi-year analysis of the effects of that change is warranted before implementing additional gear changes.

PROPOSED BY: Yukon River Stakeholder Group, c/o Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association (HQ-F12-108)
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PROPOSAL 132 - 5 AAC 05.360. Yukon River King Salmon Management Plan. Prohibit sale of king salmon from the Yukon River drainage unless there is a directed king salmon commercial fishery as follows:

No commercial sales of Chinook salmon caught in non Chinook directed commercial fisheries in entire Yukon River drainage. Chinook salmon caught as bycatch shall go into the subsistence fishery only.

ISSUE: Chinook bycatch commercial sales. Currently there is economic incentive to take Chinook salmon bycatch in chum salmon only directed commercial openings. There is no incentive to avoid them, as all Chinook bycatch is allowed to be sold. This has the effect of increasing Chinook take at the very time when severe conservation measures may be in effect for Chinook. In 2008 during the chum salmon directed openings this was the case. Presently managers are working with processors and fishers to voluntarily not sell or buy Chinook but this needs to be put in regulation.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? During chum only directed commercial openings some fishers will continue to view Chinook as a valuable money fish and deliberately target them as their value exceeds the chum salmon. This can go contrary to the same season efforts of fishermen and managers to conserve declining Chinook stocks. It is known that chum and Chinook have different travel habits and frequent different areas. Pulse peaks of the different species are often in different areas of the river and fishers can often avoid or target a species with this knowledge. Depending on the gear used for harvest (driftnets), some fishers can take advantage of this situation all too easily.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? This proposal is attempting to improve the quality of the resource harvested by conserving the resource. In 2008 Chinook harvests were limited to subsistence only with severe restrictions on even that and Canadian border passage was still not met for second year in a row. All returning Chinook salmon and the especially important large female salmon will be provided additional opportunity to reach their spawning grounds which would help improve the quality of escapement of Chinook salmon throughout the Yukon River drainage. Passage of this proposal would address the genetic shift to smaller fish caused by over fishing and targeting the larger fish that has gone on for many years. Local subsistence users and fishery projects in the upper Yukon River area, including Canada, are reporting harvesting smaller fish. Immediate conservation actions are necessary now to protect the genetic variability, the integrity of the Yukon River Chinook salmon stocks, and the future sustainability of the resource to provide for future generations of fishermen, both subsistence and commercial.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The proposers feel all fishermen in the drainage will benefit except those whose priority is the immediate harvest and commercial sale of fish at hand. Subsistence and commercial users will benefit by helping to rebuild the genetic variability and

integrity of the Yukon River Chinook salmon stocks for future generations of fishermen across the drainage. Stabilizing the Yukon River Chinook salmon stocks and preventing a decrease in their size is the right step for the fisheries and is good for the Alaskan subsistence lifestyle and the Canadian aboriginal lifestyle in the future.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those fishermen whose priority is the immediate harvest of fish at hand for commercial sale. The proposers are keenly aware passage of the proposal would place restrictions on users but the conservation concern of the genetic impacts of continued over fishing and targeting the larger female fish needs to be addressed now in order to protect the Yukon River Chinook salmon runs for needs in the future. As of 2008 the Yukon fishermen have lost off their allowed Chinook commercial fishing time and have had severe restrictions put on basic Chinook subsistence harvests. Fish camps and the healthy lifestyle that goes along with them have continued disappearing as the Chinook fishery economics evaporate due to high fuel costs and low harvest numbers. This has all taken place simply because there are not enough fish anymore. Any seasonal suffering caused by the Board of Fish passing this proposal would be small compared to what has taken place already from inaction.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None others considered in this area.

PROPOSED BY: Fairbanks Advisory Committee (HQ-F12-093)
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PROPOSAL 133 - 5 AAC 05.331. Gillnet specifications and operations; 5 AAC 05.362 Yukon River Summer Chum Salmon Management Plan. Allow for a directed chum salmon commercial fishery in Districts 1, 2, and 3 in the Yukon Area during times of king salmon conservation efforts using five and one-half inch or smaller mesh size.

Under 5 AAC 05.331. Gillnet specifications and operations, add new section between after (c) and (d) that states:

During times of king salmon conservation efforts, in Districts 1, 2, and 3, salmon may be taken only with gillnets of five and one-half-inch or smaller mesh during periods established by emergency order.

Add a new condition under (g) In Districts 1 - 3, gillnets with (**3) five and one-half-inch or smaller mesh may not be more than 30 meshes in depth.**

ISSUE: 5 AAC 05.331. Gillnet specifications and operations. In recent years, a concern for Chinook salmon has drastically curtailed, and in some years, all but eliminated the directed gillnet summer chum salmon fishery in the Lower Yukon Area. Although the fishing power of the fleet, which consists of approximately 700 commercial permit holders in the Lower Yukon Area, and the capacity of the processors are adequate to harvest and process all the commercially-available Yukon River summer chum salmon surplus, this harvestable surplus is not being taken because Chinook salmon are incidentally harvested in this fishery. The purpose of this proposed regulation is to allow a directed-summer chum salmon fishery while reducing the number and size of incidentally-caught king salmon.

A conservative estimate of the foregone harvest of commercially available summer chum salmon totals over 2.4M fish since 2008, with approximately 700,000 available summer chum salmon foregone in 2011. This translates in to over $14.0M lost revenue to commercial fishers since 2008, with over $4.0M lost in 2011. With the increasing numbers of summer chum salmon entering the river in recent years and the expectation that the increase will continue foregone commercial harvest and lost revenue is anticipated to increase dramatically in the future. The pre-season projection for the 2012 season indicates that 500,000 to 1,000,000 summer chum salmon maybe available for commercial harvest. This translates as up to $6.0M direct revenue to the fishes. Large unexploited runs of summer and fall chum salmon during the mid 2000s resulted in one of the few documented cases of where over escapement caused a dramatic decline in production from those broods.

Because of the overall concern for Chinook salmon, more severe restrictions have been imposed on the Yukon Area commercial fisheries each year to bolster the number of Chinook salmon crossing the border into Canada and also arriving on the spawning grounds in Alaskan spawning tributary streams. The long-standing directed Chinook salmon fishery has not occurred since 2007. Additionally, the directed summer chum salmon gillnet fishery, which is restricted to gillnets with a maximum mesh size of 6 inches, has been severely curtailed to avoid incidental harvest of Chinook salmon. Further, the sale of incidentally-harvested Chinook salmon was prohibited in 2009 and 2011to deter commercial fishers from targeting the more valuable Chinook salmon during fishing periods.

Approximately 4,090 incidentally-harvested, but not sold, Chinook salmon were taken in the 2011 summer chum salmon directed fishery. Most of these Chinook salmon were taken home for subsistence purposes but some were donated and transported to upriver communities for subsistence purposes. The 2011 incidentally harvested Chinook salmon consisted mainly of primarily small, young male salmon. Of the total number sampled by ADF&G, 82% were male; 79% were age-5 or younger; and 82% were less than 800mm (31.5 inches). Approximately 74% of the salmon less than 800 mm were male.

I believe that using a gillnet with a reduced mesh size, 5.5 inches, and a shallower depth, 30 meshes deep, will minimize the incidentally harvested Chinook salmon and may also result in a higher percentage of younger, smaller male salmon. The 30 meshes deep portion of the regulation will force fishers to fish closer to shore and possibly avoid the larger Chinook salmon that may travel in deeper, offshore waters.

Therefore, in order to prosecute a directed commercially for summer chum salmon while minimizing the incidental Chinook salmon, I request that the Alaska Board of Fisheries adopt a regulation designed to take salmon in Districts 1, and 2 with gillnets of five and one-half inches or smaller and with a mesh depth of no greater than 30 meshes, during periods established by emergency order. This regulation would be designed to harvest the more abundant summer chum salmon while minimizing the catch of Chinook salmon.

I also believe that the relatively small incidental harvest of primarily small, young, male Chinook salmon has little impact on the reproductive capacity of the stocks. Additionally, incidentally-

caught Chinook salmon, which are not anticipated to be sold, will, therefore, either be used for subsistence purposes by the commercial fisher or will be transferred to the fish buyer, Kwik'pak Fisheries, for processing and transport to upriver communities for subsistence use. Although many upriver subsistence users will fish for their own fish, I believe that at least some upriver subsistence users will take advantage of these donated Chinook salmon and may reduce their fishing effort accordingly. Upriver subsistence fishers on the mainstem Yukon River in some villages harvest predominantly or exclusively Canadian-origin Chinook salmon. Substituting a portion of these fish with incidentally-caught salmon from the Lower Yukon Area fisheries, which have a higher proportion of Alaskan-origin salmon, would tend to decrease the number of Canadian-origin Chinook salmon in the Alaskan harvest. Therefore, this action may also have the additional benefit of reducing the actually number of Canadian-origin fish harvested in Alaskan subsistence fisheries.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Commercially-available summer chum salmon surpluses in the Yukon Area will continue to be foregone, resulting in lost revenue to fishers and processing jobs within the Yukon Area. Additionally, large numbers of salmon on the spawning grounds in excess of spawning requirements may cause production failures associated with over-escapement.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? This proposal benefits all the commercial fishermen of the Yukon Area, particularly those that harvest and have markets for summer chum salmon. This proposal also benefits all commercial and subsistence users of the summer chum salmon stock because it harvests some fish that would have otherwise passed onto the spawning grounds that may have a detrimental effect on future production from over-escapement. Additionally, the commitment of the buyer in the Emmonak, Kwik'pak Fisheries, to process and transport donated incidentally-harvested Chinook salmon to upriver villages may benefit those who take advantage of these donated fish because it will save them the cost of fishing for themselves. Gasoline is expected to be over $8.00/gal in some villages this summer and the direct cost of fishing is influenced by this price. Further, salmon harvested low in the river have more nutritional value than fish harvested in upriver districts. This may also benefit subsistence users who accept donated fish.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one. Harvest of an available surplus is wise management. Additionally the incidental harvest of the predominantly small, young male Chinook salmon does not affect the productive capacity of the stock. In years when the sale of incidentally-caught Chinook salmon is prohibited, these harvested fish will be used for subsistence purposes either by the commercial fisher or by upriver village recipients.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Employ the use of non-lethal gear, such as dipnets, beach seines, and fish wheels to harvest summer chum salmon and release captured Chinook salmon. I rejected these other possible solutions at this time because they are basically untried. I plan on using dipnets and possibly beach seines in 2012 to attempt to capture summer chum salmon in an efficient and cost effect manner and releasing captured Chinook salmon. However,

I believe that handling and releasing Chinook salmon unharmed may be problematic when using a beach seine. Fish wheels have not been traditionally used in the delta area of the Yukon River and I believe that they would not have a high probability of success. Additionally, there are over 700 commercial permits held for the Lower Yukon Area but there are only a very few good fish wheel sites. Therefore, only a very limited number of commercial fishers would be able to use a fish wheel successfully. Most would be disenfranchised by the inclusion of fish wheels as legal commercial gear.

PROPOSED BY: Gene J. Sandone (HQ-F12-084)
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PROPOSAL 134 - 5 AAC 05.362. Yukon River Summer Chum Salmon Management Plan. Require 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnets with a maximum depth of 30 meshes, during June to July in District 1 if king salmon are a stock of concern and revert back if king salmon are no longer a stock of concern as follows:

In the summer chum fishery, if Chinook salmon is a stock of concern, fishermen must register (same fall fishery rules apply), Y-1 setnet area, stat. #334-12. Summer chum may be taken with gillnets of 6 inch or smaller mesh size and a maximum depth of 30 meshes from June to July. When Chinook stock or run timing is no longer of concern, current max. chum mesh depth may resume and registration requirements be lifted.

ISSUE: When Chinook salmon is a stock of concern.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued incidental catch of Chinook salmon with deeper nets.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, summer chum harvested early in the season will be of better quality, especially for an in river fishery.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Fishers in the setnet area and processors will benefit as they can sell better quality fish at their markets.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Fishers in areas of the Yukon that do not adhere to lower mesh restrictions when Chinook salmon is a stock of concern.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? -none-

PROPOSED BY: Frank Alstrom (HQ-F12-112)
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PROPOSAL 135 - 5 AAC 05.362. Yukon River Summer Chum Salmon Management Plan. Allow for a commercial summer chum salmon fishery with 6-inch or smaller mesh size in District 1 in the Yukon River, beginning July 1, and allow for additional fisheries upriver chronologically during times of conservation of king salmon as follows:

During times when Canadian-Chinook salmon conservation efforts limit the directed summer chum salmon fishery in the Yukon Area, adopt a regulation that provides for a directed summer chum salmon gillnet fishery no later than July 1 in District 1, and no later than chronologically corresponding dates in upriver districts. This fishery would be allowed after the vast majority of Canadian-origin Chinook salmon have passed through the fishing districts.

Specifically, under 5 AAC 05.362. Yukon River Summer Chum Salmon Management Plan, add a new paragraph (h') between paragraph (h) and (i) that states:

When a commercial fishery restricted to six-inch or smaller gillnets is curtailed because of the concerns for the potential number of incidentally-harvested Chinook salmon, a directed summer chum salmon fishery, restricted to gillnets 6-inches or smaller will be allowed no later than July 1 in District 1 and no later than the chronologically corresponding dates in upriver districts

ISSUE: The foregone harvest of summer chum salmon because of the concern over the incidental harvest of Canadian-origin Chinook salmon in the directed summer chum salmon fishery throughout the entire summer season.

Because of the overall concern for Chinook salmon, and in particular, Canadian-origin Chinook salmon, more severe restrictions have been imposed on the Yukon Area commercial fisheries each year to bolster the number of Chinook salmon crossing the border into Canada and also arriving on the spawning grounds in Alaskan spawning tributary streams. The long-standing directed Yukon Area Chinook salmon fishery has not occurred since 2007. Additionally, the directed summer chum salmon gillnet fishery, which is restricted to gillnets with a maximum mesh size of 6 inches, has been severely curtailed to avoid incidental harvest of Chinook salmon. Further, the sale of incidentally-harvested Chinook salmon was prohibited in 2009 and 2011 to deter fishers from targeting the more valuable Chinook salmon.

A conservative estimate of the foregone harvest of commercially available summer chum salmon totals over 2.4M fish since 2008, with approximately 700,000 available summer chum salmon foregone in 2011. This translates in to over $14.0M lost revenue to commercial fishers since 2008, with over $4.0M lost in 2011. With the increasing numbers of summer chum salmon entering the river in recent years and the expectation that the increase will continue foregone commercial harvest and lost revenue is anticipated to increase dramatically in the future. The pre-season projection for the 2012 season indicates that 500,000 to 1,000,000 summer chum salmon may be available for commercial harvest. This translates as up to $6.0M direct revenue to the fishes. Large unexploited runs of summer and fall chum salmon during the mid 2000s resulted in one of the few documented cases of where over escapement caused a dramatic decline in production from those broods.

The Yukon River Salmon Agreement (Agreement) between the U.S. and Canada is included as Annex IV, Chapter 8 in the Pacific Salmon Treaty. With regard to Canadian-origin Chinook salmon, the Agreement obligates the U.S. to deliver to the U.S./Canada border on the mainstem Yukon River the agreed spawning objective, from 42,500 to 55,000 Chinook salmon, plus the midpoint of the Canadian harvest share of the total allowable catch of this fish stock. This obligation to Canada was not met in 2007, 2008 and 2010.

In recent years, meeting the Agreement obligation has been the primary concern and focus of ADF&G Chinook salmon management on the Yukon River because of reduced run sizes caused by poor production. This production failure was not caused by poor escapements. However, this concern has drastically curtailed, and in some years, all but eliminated the directed summer chum salmon gillnet fishery in the lower and middle Yukon areas. Although the fishing power of the fleet, which consists of over 700 commercial permit holders, and the capacity of the processors are adequate to harvest and process all the commercially-available summer chum salmon surplus, this harvestable surplus is not being harvested because of the concern that too many Canadian-origin Chinook salmon would be incidentally harvested in this fishery.

Relative timing patterns of the three broadly-defined Yukon River Chinook salmon stocks have been relatively constant over the years with Canadian-origin fish dominating the first period and then substantially declining through the remaining two periods. Conversely, the Alaskan Lower River stock grouping contributes little to the first period, but dominates the final sampling period. The Middle River stock is more variable, contributing more to the first sampling period than the Lower River stock grouping but less than the Canadian. The second sampling period is usually a variable mixture of the three stock groupings. The below figure illustrates the general contribution pattern of the three major Chinook salmon stocks throughout the summer fishing season.

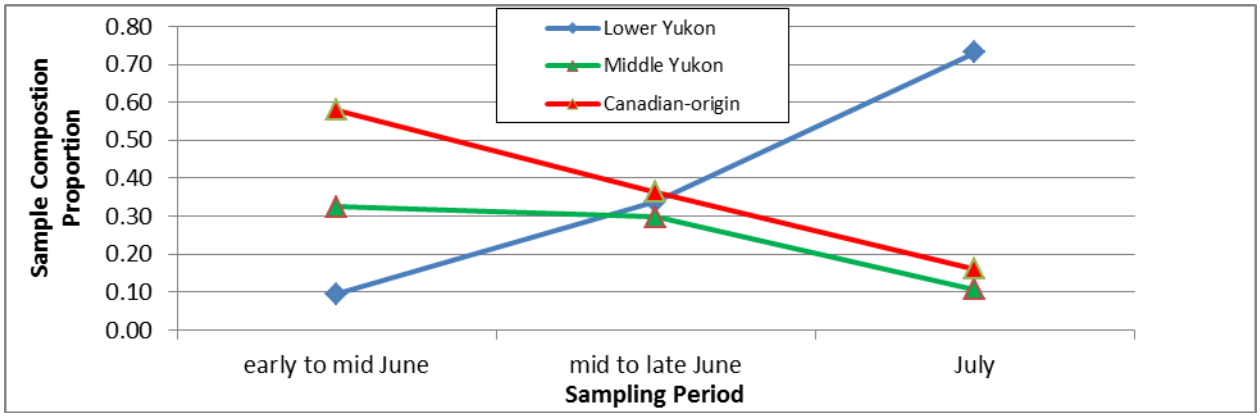

Figure 1. Generalized schematic of the contribution proportion of the three broad Yukon River Chinook salmon stock grouping relative to time of sampling.

During the 2005-2011 samples collected in association with the Pilot Station sonar operations indicate that Canadian-origin Chinook salmon comprised an average of 59% of the salmon entering the Yukon River from early to mid June; 42% during the latter half of June; and 24% during July. Conversely, Alaskan Chinook salmon stocks originating from the Middle River and

Lower River stock groupings contributed 41% to the early to mid June period, 58%in the mid to late June period and 76% of the fish sampled during the July sampling period.

During the period, 2005-2011, approximately 86% (median value) of all Chinook salmon runs had already passed through District 1 by July1. Therefore, the relative small median percentage, 14%, of Chinook salmon entering the Yukon River in July is almost totally dominated (>76%) by Alaskan-origin fish, with the Lower River-origin fish accounting for nearly all (>87%) of the Alaskan-origin salmon.

Therefore, in order to prosecute a directed commercially for summer chum salmon while minimizing the incidental Canadian-origin Chinook salmon, I request that a regulation be adopted to initiate a directed summer chum salmon fishery in District 1, no later than July 1, and no later than chronologically corresponding dates in upriver districts. This would occur after the vast majority of Canadian-origin Chinook salmon have passed through the areas.

Approximately 4,090 incidentally-harvested, but not sold, Chinook salmon were taken in the 2011 summer chum salmon directed fishery. Most of these Chinook salmon were taken home for subsistence purposes but some were transported to either upriver Alaskan communities or across the U.S/Canada border to aboriginal fishers. The 2011 incidentally harvested Chinook salmon from the directed summer chum salmon fishery consisted of primarily small, young male Chinook salmon. Of the total number sampled by ADF&G, 82% were male; 79% were age-5 or younger; and 82% were less than 800mm (31.5 inches). Approximately 74% of the salmon less than 800 mm were male.

We believe that the relatively small incidental harvest of primarily small, young, male Chinook salmon has little impact on the reproductive capacity of the stocks. Additionally, incidentally-caught Chinook salmon, which are not anticipated to be sold, will, therefore, either be used for subsistence purposes by the lower river commercial fisher or will be transferred to the fish buyer, Kwik'pak Fisheries, for processing and transport to upriver communities for subsistence use. Although many upriver subsistence users will fish for their own fish, I also believe that at least some upriver subsistence users will take advantage of these donated Chinook salmon and may reduce their fishing effort accordingly. Because the vast majority of Chinook salmon taken in the July fishery in the Lower River consists mainly of fish from Alaskan stocks and primarily from the Lower River stock grouping, the transfer and substitution of these fish to upriver subsistence users may actually reduce the overall number of Canadian-origin salmon in the total subsistence harvest. Further, the harvest of fish late in the season, July, has little effect on upriver subsistence users because the vast majority of these fish originate in the lower Yukon River tributaries and are, therefore, not available to subsistence fishers farther upriver.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Commercially-available summer chum salmon surpluses in the Yukon Area will continue to be foregone, resulting in lost revenue to fishers and processing jobs within the Yukon Area. Additionally, large numbers of salmon on the spawning grounds in excess of spawning requirements may cause production failures associated with over-escapement.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? This proposal benefits all the commercial fishermen of the Yukon Area, particularly those that harvest and have markets for summer chum salmon. This proposal also benefits all commercial and subsistence users of the summer chum salmon resource because it allows the harvests some fish that would have otherwise passed onto the spawning grounds. Salmon, excess to spawning requirements, may have a detrimental effect on future production because of over-escapement. Additionally, the commitment of the buyer in the Emmonak, Kwik'pak Fisheries, to process and transport donated incidentally-harvested Chinook salmon to upriver villages may benefit those who receive these fish and benefit management of the stock. Those receiving donated salmon may reduce their fishing efforts and thereby reduce fishing pressure on Alaskan harvest of Canadian-origin Chinook salmon. This has the potential of reducing the overall harvest of Canadian-origin salmon. Additionally, individual upriver fishers who take advantage of these donated fish will save scarce cash resources because they would reduce their fishing efforts accordingly. Further, salmon harvested low in the river have more nutritional value than fish harvested in upriver districts. This may also benefit subsistence users who accept donated fish.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one. Harvest of an available surplus of summer chum salmon is wise management. Additionally the incidental harvest of the predominantly small, young male Chinook salmon does not appreciably affect the productive capacity of the stocks. In years when the sale of incidentally-caught Chinook salmon is prohibited, these harvested fish will be used for subsistence purposes either by the commercial fisher or by upriver village recipients. Upriver subsistence users would not be affected because the vast majority of the fish present in the lower river in July originate from lower river tributaries and are, therefore, not available to harvest in most upriver areas.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Employ the use of non-lethal gear, such as dipnets, beach seines, and fish wheels to harvest summer chum salmon and release captured Chinook salmon. I rejected these other possible solutions at this time because they are basically untried. I plan on using dipnets and possibly beach seines in 2012 to attempt to capture summer chum salmon in an efficient and cost effective manner and releasing captured Chinook salmon. However, I believe that handling and releasing Chinook salmon unharmed may be problematic when using a beach seine. Fish wheels have not been traditionally used in the delta area of the Yukon River and I believe that they would not have a high probability of success. Additionally, there are over 700 commercial permits held for the Lower Yukon Area but there are only a very few good fish wheel sites. Therefore, only a very limited number of commercial fishers would be able to use a fish wheel successfully. Most would be disenfranchised by the inclusion of fish wheels as legal commercial gear.

PROPOSED BY: Gene J. Sandone (HQ-F12-083)

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PROPOSAL 136 - 5 AAC 05.362. Yukon River Summer Chum Salmon Management Plan. Cap bycatch of king salmon in the summer chum fishery in Districts 1 and 2 at 2,000 fish as follows:

When the bycatch of Chinook in the chum directed commercial fishery in Y-1 & Y-2 reaches 2000 fish, the fishery will close until managers determine a higher cumulative proportion of Chinook passed has been met.

ISSUE: Continued low returns of Yukon river Chinook, specifically the fact that trans-boundary escapement goals have not been met three of the last five years (2007-2011). We feel the actual bycatch of Chinook is much higher than listed for 2011 (4,090) due to unreporting, drop out, and the fact that live Chinook are routinely released from gillnets.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued low returns of Chinook, continued hardship on all Chinook harvesters.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, more conservation should eventually result in Chinook stocks returning to historical levels.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? In river Chinook harvesters in the USA and Canada.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? In the short term, Y-1 & Y-2 commercial fishermen, but in the long term these same fishermen will benefit the most.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? A total moratorium on the harvest of Chinook for six years. We have not totally rejected this solution.

PROPOSED BY: Ruby Advisory Committee (HQ-F12-059)

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PROPOSAL 137 - 5 AAC 05.362. Yukon River Summer Chum Salmon Management Plan. Develop an optimum escapement or inriver goal for the Yukon River summer chum salmon stock that originates above Pilot Station as follows:

Summer chum salmon subsistence and commercial harvest data are available for the entire Yukon River drainage, by district. Additionally, sonar counts of summer chum salmon passing the sonar site are available since 1995 and can possibly be estimated prior to that date. Therefore, the data are available to develop a Biological Escapement Goal (BEG). However, since ADF&G has not recommended either a drainage-wide BEG or a BEG that corresponds to the drainage above Pilot Station, I suggest that the Board work in conjunction with ADF&G to develop an optimal escapement goal (OEG) or an in-river goal for the Yukon River summer chum salmon stock that originates above Pilot Station.

ISSUE: 5 AAC 05.362. Yukon River Summer Chum Salmon Management Plan. Unlike the Yukon River Fall Chum management plan, there is no escapement goal for summer chum

salmon. The omission of a scientifically-defensible escapement goal from the Summer Chum Salmon Management Plan may result in the optimal harvest not being taken or the possibility that not enough fish are reaching the spawning grounds during poor runs.

Implied in the Yukon River Summer Chum Salmon Management plan is a lower end of the escapement for the entire drainage of 600,000 salmon. Below this run size, the plan stipulates that all fisheries shall be closed, unless a individual escapement goal will be met, then certain allowances can be made in that district or subdistrict for a subsistence fishery. Recent summer chum salmon subsistence harvests have been well below 100,000 and have averaged approximately 77,000 salmon for the period 2005-2009.

The trigger for allowing a commercial fishery is 950,000 salmon but with a precaution that the exploitation rate up to 1,000,000 would be no more than 50%. This implies that approximately 850,000 salmon are needed on the spawning grounds before a commercial fishery could be prosecuted. Since there is an escapement goal for the Andreafsky and also because the vast majority of the summer chum salmon spawn above the Pilot Station sonar site, it makes sensed to establish a scientifically-defensible escapement goal for the Yukon River drainage above Pilot Station.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Management of the summer chum salmon subsistence and commercial fisheries without a scientifically-defensible escapement goal may not allow optimal escapement and harvest.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? This proposal, if adopted, would benefit all the users of the summer chum salmon resource by allowing the appropriate harvest to occur without jeopardizing the productivity of the stock.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? No other solutions were considered.

PROPOSED BY: Gene J. Sandone (HQ-F12-199)

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<u>PROPOSAL 138</u> - 5 AAC 01.249. Yukon River Drainage Fall Chum Salmon Management Plan. Modify the fall chum salmon management plan trigger point from 500,000 to 400,000 as follows:

Change the trigger point in 5 AAC 01.249. Yukon River drainage Fall Chum Salmon Management Plan from 500,000 to 400,000 under section 3 as indicated below:

(3) when the projected run size is more than 300,000, but not more than [500,000] **<u>400,000</u>** chum salmon, the (A) targeted drainage wide minimum escapement goal is 300,000 chum

salmon; (B) commissioner shall, by emergency order, close the commercial, sport, and personal use directed chum salmon fisheries, except that if indicators suggest that an individual escapement goal and identified subsistence needs in a subdistrict, district, or portion of a subdistrict or district will be achieved, the commissioner may, by emergency order, open a sport or personal use fishery in that subdistrict, district, or portion of that subdistrict or district; and (C) department shall manage the subsistence chum salmon directed fisheries to achieve the targeted drainagewide escapement goal.

ISSUE: In recent years, a substantial portion of the harvestable surplus has been passed onto the spawning grounds because inseason sonar-based assessment of the total fall chum salmon run has consistently underestimated the actual run size. The deviation between the total run estimate based on sonar counts versus the post season estimate of the run has ranged from -20% to -53% during the most recent five-year period, 2007-2011. In 2011 the sonar-based run estimate was 25% below the post-season run estimate. The median for the 2007-2011 period is -30% (Figure 1).

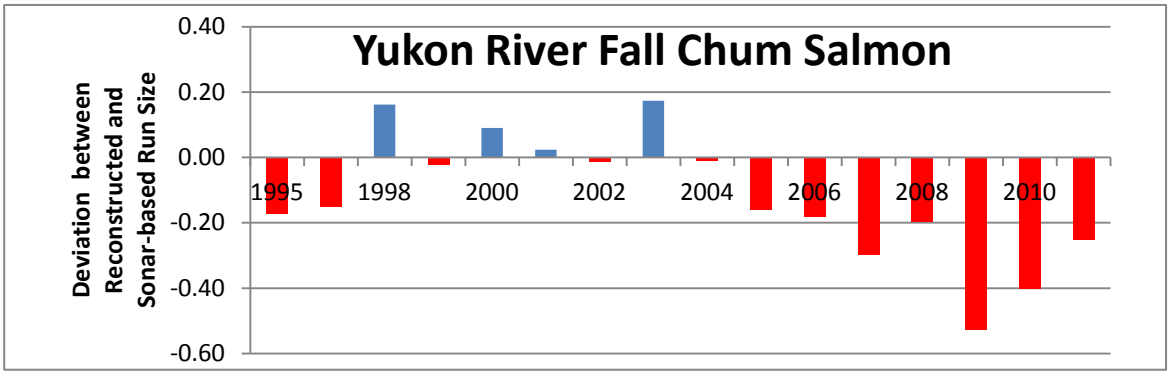

Figure 1. Deviation between the post season and the sonar-based inseason run assessment, Yukon River fall chum salmon, 1995, 1997-2011.

This inseason run size assessment error has resulted in a foregone harvest of between approximately 100,000 and 265,000 fall chum salmon during the time period 2007-2011. During 2011, the foregone harvest was approximately 265,000 fall chum salmon. The 2011 commercial harvest totaled 240,000 fall chum salmon. Associated lost revenue because of foregone harvest in 2011 was approximately $1.7M to the fishers. Additionally, there were lost processing jobs in the communities because these fish were not available to be processed.

I believe that a change to the trigger point that allows the initiation of the commercial fishery in the Yukon Fall Chum Salmon Management Plan is warranted. Currently, commercial fishing may commence on a run size greater than 500,000. I understand that the minimum drainage-wide escapement is 300,000 fall chum salmon and that approximately 100,000 fall chum salmon are reserved for the subsistence fishery. However, there also appears to be a buffer of 100,000 fish or more, considering that the subsistence harvest has been consistently under 100,000 fish since 1996 (through 2008). I suggest that because inseason run assessment has been substantially and consistently below the post-season assessment, the buffer of 100,000 fall chum salmon in the Yukon Area Fall Chum Salmon Management Plan be eliminated. Although this

would not solve the entire problem associated with the inseason run size assessment, I believe that it is precautionary in nature and is the correct way to address the problem. Additionally, if the errors surrounding the sonar-based assessment are discovered and corrected, the management plan can remain without changes.

This provides only a partial solution to the problem. Unless ADF&G determines the reason for the underestimate of the inseason, sonar-based run estimate, there will be continued foregone harvest, especially when run sizes are large.

Additionally, large unexploited runs in 2005 and 2006 resulted in a severe production failure because of overescapement. The production rate from the 2005 brood was a record low 0.25 return per spawner. The currently returning fall chum salmon runs have just recovering from that production failure. The drainage-wide escapement goal of 300,000 to 600,000 fish is appropriate and has proved to provide good production. Additional escapement reduces productivity and results in foregone harvest, lost revenue to the fishers, and lost jobs in the community.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? ADF&G will continually underestimate the fall chum salmon run resulting in a portion of the commercially available portion of the run to pass onto the spawning grounds. Consequently, this will result in lost direct revenue to the commercial fishers and good paying jobs associated with the processing of these fish. Passing fish excess to spawning requirements is unwise and may result in production failures from overescapement.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Harvesting an available surplus is wise management. This proposal benefits all the commercial fishermen of the Yukon Area, particularly those that harvest and have markets for fall chum salmon. This proposal also benefits all commercial and subsistence users of the fall chum salmon resource because it harvests some fish that would have otherwise passed onto the spawning grounds. Fish in excess of the spawning escapement not only results in foregone harvests, resulting in lost direct revenue and jobs from the community, but may also have a detrimental effect on future production from overescapement.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Direct ADF&G to increase the sonar counts by a minimum of 20% to compensate for the continued deviation between the inseason run assessment based on sonar counts and the post season assessment based on escapement and harvests. This was rejected because I have no authority over ADF&G.

PROPOSED BY: Gene J. Sandone (HQ-F12-086)

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PROPOSAL 139 – 5 AAC 01.210. Fishing seasons and periods. Align Yukon subsistence regulations in Districts 1-3 with current management practices, adjusting closures around commercial fishing periods, and allowing concurrent subsistence and commercial fishing by emergency order (EO) as follows:

(e)(1)

(A) after the opening of the commercial salmon fishing season through July 15, salmon may not be taken for subsistence for 18 hour immediately before, during, and 12 hours after each commercial salmon fishing period **except by emergency order;**

(B) after July 15, salmon may not be taken for subsistence for 12 hours immediately before, during, and for 12 hours after each commercial salmon fishing period **except by emergency order;**

(C) Notwithstanding (A) and (B) of this section, the commissioner may allow salmon to be taken for subsistence during commercial fishing periods by emergency order.

ISSUE: In 1993, regulations were adopted to close subsistence fishing before, during, and after commercial fishing periods in Districts 1–3 of the Yukon Area. The primary purpose of this regulation was to reduce the opportunity for subsistence-caught fish to illegally enter the commercial market. The primary species of concern was king salmon because of the high price paid to fishermen.

King and summer chum salmon run timings overlap. In recent years, king salmon runs have been below average to poor, while summer chum salmon runs have been strong, providing surpluses for commercial harvest. During the summer season (king and summer chum salmon fisheries), the department has taken conservation measures, such as subsistence closures on pulses and gear mesh size restrictions, in the last several years to protect king salmon runs in the Yukon River to equitably distribute the available subsistence harvest and to meet escapement goals in Alaska and escapement and harvest-sharing goals in Canada. Measures taken in the commercial fisheries include no king salmon directed commercial openings, delaying the opening of the summer chum salmon commercial fishery, and prohibiting sale of incidentally-caught king salmon during the summer chum salmon directed commercial openings. When commercial sale is prohibited, incidentally-caught king salmon may be retained by fishermen for personal use.

Under current regulations, salmon may not be taken for subsistence 18 hours before, during, and 12 hours after, commercial salmon fishing periods in Districts 1–3 through July 15. In 2009 and 2011, the department established some concurrent subsistence and commercial fishing periods during the summer season to further protect king salmon by reducing overall fishing time. When sale of king salmon is prohibited by emergency order (EO), any incidentally-caught king salmon may be retained for subsistence uses, reducing the need for fishing again during subsistence fishing periods. In effect, this reduces the amount of overall fishing time and may reduce king salmon harvest during weak runs.

In addition, establishing concurrent openings will provide subsistence opportunity during times of increased commercial fishing periods for summer chum, fall chum, and coho salmon. The department has decreased the time closed to subsistence fishing before and after commercial periods when there has been an increase in the frequency of commercial fishing periods.

Subsistence-caught summer chum, fall chum, and coho salmon illegally entering the commercial market is not thought to be a significant issue.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? When providing opportunity to harvest summer chum salmon commercially and the sale of king salmon is prohibited, the harvest of king salmon may be higher overall than expected. Additionally, when several commercial fishing periods are allowed close together, there will be a reduction in subsistence fishing opportunity.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The king salmon resource, and subsistence and commercial fishermen. If this proposal were adopted, it would provide more flexibility in managing the subsistence and commercial fisheries.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Overall, no group suffers, although there may be a perceived advantage or disadvantage between commercial and subsistence fishermen if they view the proposal as allocative between user groups.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F12-221)

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PROPOSAL 140 - 5 AAC 05.360(e). Yukon River King Salmon Management Plan. Revert back to a windows-only fishing schedule in the Yukon River as follows:

Repeal 5 AAC 05.360(e) (Managers must stick to the window schedule).

ISSUE: When the BOF established 5 AAC 05.360(d) it did not intend for it to be circumvented. The Department had this put in regulation in January 2004. As soon as there is a commercial opening the Department throws the windows out the window.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? We will continue to have seven days a week fishing in the Lower Yukon.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The salmon will have closures so they can travel up the river unmolested. The Board determined in January 2001 what reasonable opportunity was.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Fairbanks Advisory Committee (HQ-F12-092)
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PROPOSAL 141 - 5 AAC 01.210. Fishing seasons and periods. Allow for concurrent subsistence and commercial fishing periods in Districts 1-3 of the Yukon River Area as follows:

The entire river would be managed in the same manner; concurrent subsistence and commercial periods already exist in Districts 4, 5, & 6.

ISSUE: Delete 5 AAC 01.210(d)(1)(A), which requires the waiting period between subsistence and commercial fishing periods in Districts 1, 2, & 3.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Unmolested fish will be able to reach the spawning ground and quality escapement can occur.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All users will benefit if quality escapement can occur and populations increase.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? This proposal will have no effect on other users.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Eastern Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council(HQ-F12-158)
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PROPOSAL 142 - 5 AAC 01.210. Fishing seasons and periods. Open Yukon River District 5-D from July 4-18 for subsistence fishing as follows:

In District 5D, from below Stevens Village to Circle, there will be no closures on subsistence fishing from July 4 to 18.

ISSUE: Yukon Flats area would like to fish on the first pulse of Chinook salmon from July 4 until July 18 (2 weeks) with no closures. With the current closure schedule, the people of the Yukon Flats have a hard time getting the fish that we require. With high fuel prices added into this, this makes it even harder to cost effectively harvest the fish that we need.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? There is a good chance that our subsistence needs will not be met.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The people of the Yukon Flats.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Yukon Flats Advisory Committee (HQ-F12-135)

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<u>PROPOSAL 143</u> - 5 AAC 01.210. Fishing seasons and periods. Remove restrictions during the subsistence fall chum season in Districts 1, 2, and 3 of the Yukon Area as follows:

Insert the following underlined language within 5 AAC 01.210. Fishing seasons ad periods

Under (b) (2) Districts 1 - 3: two 36-hour fishing periods per week **<u>during the summer season only;</u>**

ISSUE: Unnecessary restriction to the fall season subsistence fishery in Districts 1, 2 and 3.

The total most recent, 2005-2009 published fall chum salmon subsistence average harvest for the Yukon Area is 85,789 salmon. Although the Coastal District harvests some fall chum salmon, the harvest in that district is extremely low. The Lower Yukon Area, Districts 1, 2, and 3, fall chum salmon subsistence harvests have remained stable and relatively low during all years of record (Figure 1). During the period, 2005-2009, Lower Yukon Area subsistence fishers have harvested an average of 7,443 fall chum salmon. This accounts for approximately 8.7% of the average (2005-2009) Yukon Area harvest. The average (2005-2009) number of and percent fall chum salmon harvested by Lower Yukon Area Districts is: District 1: 3,184 salmon, 3.7%; District 2: 3,166 salmon, 3.7%; and District 3: 1,093, 1.3%.

The Upper Yukon Area harvests the vast majority of fall chum for subsistence purposes. Subsistence harvests of fall chum salmon by Upper Yukon Area fishers average (2005-2009) 78,138 fall chum salmon, or 91.1% of the total Yukon River subsistence harvest. Average (2005-2009) harvest by district is: District 4: 7,822 salmon or 9.1%; District 5: 50,121 salmon or 58.4%; and District 6: 20,196 salmon or 23.5%.

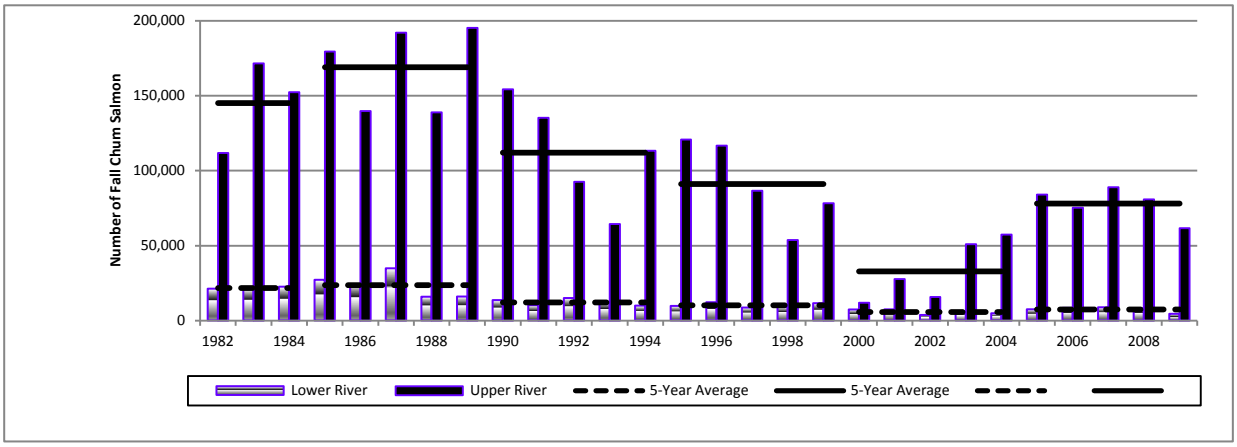
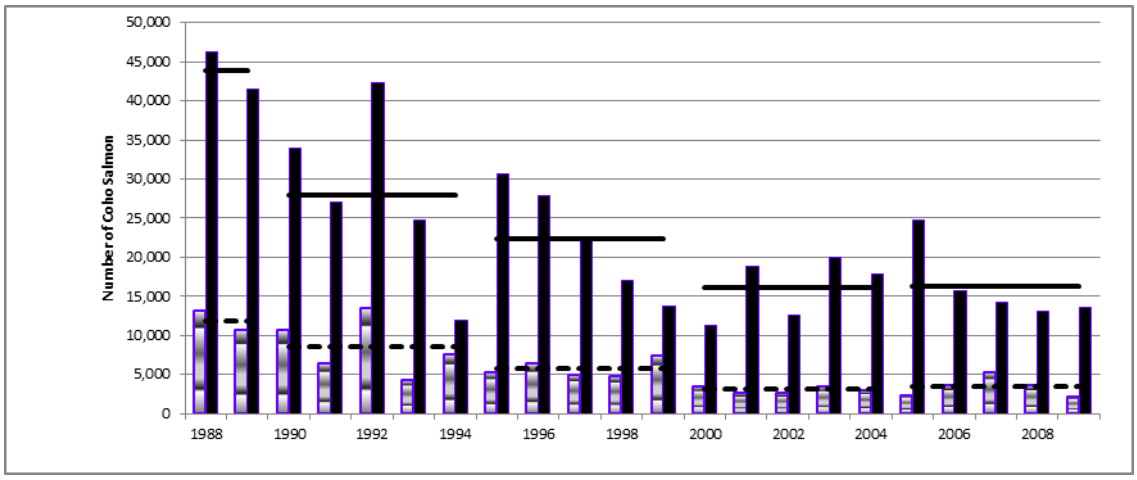


Figure 1. Number (bars) and 5-year average (lines) of fall chum salmon subsistence harvests in the Lower and Upper Yukon Areas, 1982-2009.

Although much fewer coho salmon were taken for subsistence purposes, Coho subsistence harvest patterns were similar with the Upper Yukon Area harvesting the vast majority of the coho salmon for subsistence (Figure 2). During the period, 2005-2009, the Lower Yukon Area harvested an average of 17.3% of the total Yukon Area coho salmon subsistence harvest, while the Upper Yukon Area harvested an average of 81.6%. The 2005-2009 average coho salmon subsistence harvest for the Yukon Area is 19,888. Average harvest distribution among districts was similar in the Lower Yukon Area, with District 1, 2, and 3, harvesting an average of 6.7%, 9.4%, and 1.9%. However, average harvest distribution in the Upper Yukon Area were dissimilar to the fall chum salmon harvest pattern with District 5 taking an average of only 15.8% of the total Yukon Area coho salmon harvest, with District 6 harvesting an average of 51.9%.



When subsistence windows are necessary to reduce harvests for escapement and/or to spread the harvest out over the entire run, I believe that restrictions are not necessary in the Lower Yukon Area and do not effectively reduce or distribute harvests throughout the run because the harvests are so small. This is also true of coho salmon. Consequently, there is no need for subsistence fishing windows in the Lower Yukon Area.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? During times of conservation for fall chum salmon, restrictions in the Lower Yukon Area are not needed because of the small numbers harvested by District 1, 2, and 3 subsistence fishers. Also, because of the very small harvest, window fishing schedules are ineffective at reducing the already very small harvest. Distribution of the Lower Yukon Area's small subsistence salmon harvest is not necessary.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? This proposal benefits the subsistence fishers of District 1, 2, and 3 because it lifts unnecessary subsistence restrictions of subsistence fishing for fall chum salmon. The current restrictions are unnecessary because of the very small harvest of fall season

salmon and also because window are ineffective at reducing and already very small harvest which does not need to be distributed over the entire duration of the run.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one. Fall season salmon harvested in the Lower River are inconsequential to Agreement obligations to Canada, escapement requirements with the Alaskan portion of the drainage, and upriver subsistence harvests.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? No other alternative were considered.

PROPOSED BY: Gene J. Sandone (HQ-F12-087)
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PROPOSAL 144 - 5 AAC 01.220. Lawful gear and gear specifications; 5 AAC 05.331. Gillnet specifications and operations. Restrict gillnets to 35 meshes in depth in the Yukon River drainage as follows:

Gillnet depth limit. No commercial or subsistence gillnets with a hung depth of more than 15' or 35 meshes shall be allowed in entire Yukon River drainage.

ISSUE: Deeper nets are having a detrimental effect on the stock composition and quality of escapement for Yukon River Chinook salmon and tend to target the larger and female Chinook salmon which most fishermen claim swim deeper. This knowledge is commonly accepted along the river. Limiting the depth of nets would clearly allow more fish to pass through a fishery unmolested. There have been continued poor returns of Yukon River Salmon in the majority of the years since 1998. This has led to conservation concerns on the quality of escapement on the spawning grounds. These poorer returns are also not allowing subsistence users to have a reasonable opportunity to meet their subsistence salmon needs. The use of the larger gillnets has changed, and will continue to change the composition of the Chinook stocks harvested. Subsistence fishermen in the middle and upper Yukon Rivers have repeatedly noted that the returning Chinook salmon are getting smaller and conservation measures are needed to protect the larger fish that in turn protects the genetic variability and loss of the older age classes of the Yukon River Chinook salmon stocks.

Chinook salmon harvested in Y5 and Y6 with fish wheels is over 70% precocious males less than 10 pounds. In the Taku River in Southeast Alaska the directed commercial fishery was closed for 30 years when this happened. The Tozitna River fishery monitoring project (BLM) is one example showing that the composition of Chinook salmon escapement is heavily skewed toward smaller, male fish or jacks. The Rapids Student Data Collection Project at Yukon River mile 730 has randomly sampled over 5000 Chinook (in fish wheels) from 2004 to 2008 with an average weight of a little more than 11 ½ lbs. In 2008 out of 1137 Chinook only 2.1% (24 fish) were over 25 lbs, and .5% (6 fish) were over 30 lbs. Even smaller average weights of under 10 lbs were seen at Eagle by the Canadian border in a 2006 sampling effort.

In 2008 the Canadian government Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) test fishing showed female Chinook salmon having represented only 23% of the seasons fish wheel catch with females representing only 13% in the early part of the run. The early period is recognized

as the hardest hit and most fished in the U.S. portion of the river. The number of female Chinook salmon caught in the DFO net test fishery (used nets with an 8 inch mesh size) represented only 28% of the total catch.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? If management actions are not taken now the genetic shift to smaller fish, the reduction in genetic variability and the loss of the older age classes of the Yukon River Chinook salmon stocks will continue and a complete closure of even basic household subsistence use could be necessary.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? This proposal is attempting to improve the quality of the resource harvested by conserving the resource. In 2008 Chinook harvests were limited to subsistence only with severe restrictions on even that and Canadian border passage was still not met for second year in a row. All returning Chinook salmon and the especially important large female salmon will be provided additional opportunity to reach their spawning grounds which would help improve the quality of escapement of Chinook salmon throughout the Yukon River drainage. Passage of this proposal would address the genetic shift to smaller fish caused by over fishing and targeting the larger fish that has gone on for many years. Local subsistence users and fishery projects in the upper Yukon River area, including Canada, are presorting harvesting smaller fish. Conservation actions are necessary now to protect the genetic variability, the integrity of the Yukon River Chinook salmon stocks.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The proposers felt all fishers in the drainage will benefit except those whose priority is the immediate harvest of all fish at hand. Subsistence and commercial users will benefit by helping to rebuild the genetic variability and integrity of the Yukon River Chinook salmon stocks for future generations of fishers across the drainage. Stabilizing the Yukon River Chinook salmon stocks and preventing a decrease in their size is the right step for the fisheries and is good for the subsistence lifestyle in the future.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those fishermen whose priority is the immediate harvest of fish at hand. The proposers are keenly aware passage of this proposal would place restrictions of users but the conservation concern of the genetic impacts of continued overfishing and targeting the larger female fish needs to be addressed now in order to protect the Yukon River Chinook salmon runs for needs in the future. Had some smaller steps been taken many board cycles ago when similar proposals and concerns started appearing we may not be in the severe situation we find ourselves faced with today where fishermen are being asked to give up so much of their fishing livelihood.

As of 2008 Yukon Fishermen have lost all their allowed Chinook commercial fishing time and have severe restrictions being put on basic Chinook subsistence harvests. Fish camps and the healthy lifestyle that goes along with them have continued disappearing as the Chinook fishery economics evaporate due to high fuel costs and low harvest numbers. This has all taken place, not by virtue of proposals proposed and passed by the Board of Fish, but simply because there are not enough fish anymore. Any seasonal suffering caused by the Board of Fish passing of this proposal would be small compared to what has taken place already from inaction.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None others considered in this area.

PROPOSED BY: Fairbanks Advisory Committee (HQ-F12-097)
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PROPOSAL 145 - 5 AAC 01.220. Lawful gear and gear specifications; 5 AAC 05.331. Gillnet specifications and operations. Restrict depth of subsistence and commercial nets in Districts Y1-5 to 35 meshes as follows:

Districts Y-1 through Y-5-all gillnets drift and setnets shall be restricted to 35 meshes deep.

ISSUE: Limit Chinook salmon nets river-wide to 35 meshes deep. Drift and setnets in all districts.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The quality of escapement i.e. large fecund Female will continue to be removed from the run, resulting in fewer eggs to the spawning grounds. This has reduce productivity, and produced smaller offspring which are more susceptible to the effects of climate change on the spawning ground (shallow redds)

Resent fecundity studies confirm that the relationship of egg to length is proportional to size. We do not see large 40 lbs + females in the run any more (They were common pre 2000). We average 20 lbs or less now at the border. The escapement numbers have not been increased to account for the decline in eggs across the border and to escapement ground. We feel this has been a significant factor in the reduced productivity of the Chinook run in the past 10 years.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes by making the nets shallower the ability of larger fecund females and large male which tend to swim in deeper water will have a great chance of avoiding net and make it to the spawning ground to produce more salmon and genetics for larger fish, this will increase the productivity of the rebuilding effort once the current low productivity regime shifts to higher productivity.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All fisher using nets will be treated equal. Fish wheel fisher will not be affected.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Fishers with nets greater than 35 meshes deep will have to rehang gear.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Smaller mesh size, we need a few years of using 7.5 mesh to get a good analysis of the effect, also further reduction in fishing time, but this will have a greater negative effect on fishers already being restricted by time.

PROPOSED BY: Eagle Advisory Committee (HQ-F12-211)
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PROPOSAL 146 - 5 AAC 01.220. Lawful gear and gear specifications; 5 AAC 05.331. Gillnet specifications and operations. Allow only 6-inch stretched mesh gillnet gear in the Yukon River drainage as follows:

No commercial or subsistence gillnets with a stretched mesh larger than 6" shall be allowed in entire Yukon River drainage.

ISSUE: Larger mesh size nets have had a detrimental effect on the stock composition and quality of escapements for Yukon River Chinook salmon and target the larger female Chinook salmon. There have been continued poor returns of Yukon River Chinook salmon in the majority of years since 1998. This has lead to concerns on the spawning grounds on the quality of the escapement. These poorer returns are also not allowing subsistence users to have a reasonable opportunity to meet their subsistence salmon needs. The use of the larger gillnets has changed, and will continue to change, the composition of the Chinook stocks harvested. Subsistence fishermen in the middle and upper Yukon Rivers have repeatedly noted that the returning Chinook salmon are getting smaller and conservation measures are needed to protect the larger fish that in turn protects the genetic variability and loss of the older age classes of the Yukon River Chinook salmon stocks. Chinook salmon harvested in Y5 and Y6 with fish wheels is over 70% precocious males less than 10 pounds. In the Taku River in Southeast Alaska the directed commercial fishery was closed for 30 years when this happened. The Tozitna River fishery monitoring project (BLM) is one example showing that the composition of Chinook salmon escapement is heavily skewed toward smaller, male fish or jacks. The Rapids Student Data Collection Project at Yukon River mile 730 has randomly sampled over 5000 Chinook (in fish wheels) from 2004 to 2008 with an average weight of a little more than 11 ½ lbs. In 2008 out of 1137 Chinook only 2.1% (24 fish) were over 25 lbs, and .5% (6 fish) were over 30 lbs. Even smaller average weights of under 10 lbs were seen at Eagle by the Canadian border in a 2006 sampling effort. In 2008 the Canadian government Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) test fishing showed female Chinook salmon having represented only 23% of the seasons fish wheel catch with females representing only 13% in the early part of the run. The early period is recognized as the hardest hit and most fished in the U.S. portion of the river. The number of female Chinook salmon caught in the DFO net test fishery (used nets with an 8 inch mesh size) represented only 28% of the total catch.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? If management actions are not taken now the genetic shift to smaller fish, the reduction in genetic variability and the loss of the older age classes of the Yukon River Chinook salmon stocks will continue and a complete closure of even basic household subsistence use could be necessary.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? This proposal is attempting to improve the quality of the resource harvested by conserving the resource. In 2008 Chinook harvests were limited to subsistence only with severe restrictions on even that and Canadian border passage was still not met for second year in a row. All returning Chinook salmon and the especially important large female salmon will be provided additional opportunity to reach their spawning grounds which would help improve the quality of escapement of Chinook salmon throughout the Yukon River drainage. Passage of this proposal would address the genetic shift to smaller fish caused by over

fishing and targeting the larger fish that has gone on for many years. Local subsistence users and fishery projects in the upper Yukon River area, including Canada, are presorting harvesting smaller fish. Conservation actions are necessary now to protect the genetic variability, the integrity of the Yukon River Chinook salmon stocks.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All fishermen, subsistence an commercial, will benefit by helping to rebuild the genetic variability and integrity of the Yukon River Chinook salmon stocks for future generations of fishermen across the drainage. Stabilizing the Yukon River Chinook salmon stocks and preventing a decrease in their size is the right step for the fisheries and is good for the Alaskan subsistence lifestyle and the Canadian aboriginal lifestyle in the future.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those fishermen whose priority is the immediate harvest of the largest fish at hand. The proposers are keenly aware passage of the proposal would place restrictions on users but the conservation concern of the genetic impacts of continued over fishing and targeting the larger female fish needs to be addressed now in order to protect the Yukon River Chinook salmon runs for needs in the future. As of 2008 the Yukon fishermen have lost off their allowed Chinook commercial fishing time and have had severe restrictions put on basic Chinook subsistence harvests. Fish camps and the healthy lifestyle that goes along with them have continued disappearing as the Chinook fishery economics evaporate due to high fuel costs and low harvest numbers. This has all taken place simply because there are not enough fish anymore. Any seasonal suffering caused by the Boar of Fish passing this proposal would be small compared to what has taken place already from inaction.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Nets in the 7" range were considered in past Board cycles however a number of reasons were discovered why they were not suitable. 1) A ASFWS study (An Investigation of the Potential Effects of Selective Exploitation on the Demography and Productivity of Yukon River Chinook Salmon, Bromaghin, Nielson, and Hard) showed 7.5" mesh to be ineffective at reversing declining size trends and can actually contribute to the problem. 2) Current ongoing mesh size studies by ADF&G and anecdotal info from fishermen river wide show nets of the 7" range actually catching more fish and more lbs of Chinook then the more normally used 8-9" nets and the smaller 6: range nets. Fishermen in the upper river commonly are reporting most Chinook going through the larger nets. This is clearly because of the lack of the larger fish at present. Targeting the next available largest Chinook age class with 7" range nets will only further damage the run.

PROPOSED BY: Fairbanks Advisory Committee (HQ-F12-094)

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<u>PROPOSAL 147</u> - 5 AAC 01.220. Lawful gear and gear specifications. Allow drift gillnets as legal gear in the subsistence fishery in District 4-A of the Yukon River, upriver to the community of Ruby as follows:

Driftnets will be allowed in Y-4 upriver to Ruby, AK.

ISSUE: There is congestion of drift fishers at the upriver boundary of Y4-a. Drifting is illegal in 4b & c except in federal waters. Fishers from Galena travel 30 miles to Y-4a where fishers from Koyukuk also fish, resulting in an unnecessary concentration of fishers.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued conflict at upper boundary of Y-4a. Continued high consumption of gasoline by Galena fishers traveling to Y-4a.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. Galena fishers will spend less time & money to fish. Fish will be harvested closer to home, resulting in better quality.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Fishers in both Galena and Koyukuk as fishing pressure will be spread out over a larger area.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one, time and again the consensus of fishers on the entire river has been that harvest should be controlled by openings and not gear type.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Other solutions would be to open drifting only to Yuki River mouth. Rejected because there is no biological or social reason to exclude fishers living upriver from Yuki river or in Ruby.

PROPOSED BY: Ruby Advisory Committee (HQ-F12-058)
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PROPOSAL 148 - 5 AAC 01.220. Lawful gear and gear specifications. Extend Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C drift gillnet area downstream from the mouth of the Yuki River for king salmon as follows:

To reduce fishing pressure, Middle Yukon AC recommends extending the drift gillnetting area upriver into state waters of Subdistrict 4-B and 4-C to the mouth of Yuki River. This would require amending 5 AAC 01.220(e)(2) to include drifting for Chinook salmon in portions of Yukon Area Subdistrict 4-B and 4-C to as follows:

> (e)(2) In Subdistrict 4-A downstream from the mouth of Stink Creek **and in Subdistrict 4-B and 4-C downstream from the mouth of Yuki River**, king salmon may be taken by drift gillnets from June 10 through July 14.

ISSUE: To reduce fishing pressure off of Chinook salmon subsistence harvest in one popular Yukon River drift gillnet fishing location near Koyukuk village. Currently, this area is highly desirable drifting location by fishers that travel from considerable distance to get there, primarily from Koyukuk and Galena communities; however, fishers from Huslia, Nulato, Ruby and other communities also travel there to harvest fish in this location. Additionally, the drifting area near Koyukuk village is a desirable fishing location that creates congestion among fishers which can render the area as hazardous when fishers compete with one another especially during reduced fishing schedules. Often time fishers wait to be able to drift once then wait again for their turn.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? If nothing is changed, there will be continued concentrated drift gillnetting fishing pressure targeting same stocks of fish during each subsistence opening. Fishing congestion in this one popular fish location will continue which will increase chances of conflict between subsistence users. During years of subsistence reduced fishing time, conflicts will increase.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, by extending the drift gillnet fishing into Subdistrict 4-B and 4-C it will reduce fishing pressure on Chinook salmon harvested in one constricted and highly desirable fishing area (Koyukuk area) and distribute harvest over a broader area. Yes, by allowing drift gillnetting in Subdistrict 4-B and 4-C, this will spread the Chinook salmon harvest over a larger area and reduce harvest on any one concentrated stock of Chinook salmon. Additionally, quality of harvest by fishers from Galena to Ruby will increase because of the shorter distances needed to travel from fishing grounds to their home communities of fish camps to process fish. With less travel time, fuel costs will also be less.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The resource will benefit because drift gillnet fishing pressure will be spread out over a larger area. All subsistence user that currently drift for Chinook salmon in the Koyukuk area will benefit because there will be less competition for the desirable fishing locations resulting in more time available to subsistence fish while costing less for fuel and oil because of shorter travel distances.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one. Fishers that fail to find or lose drift gillnet gear in attempting to locate a comparable drift gillnetting site in Subdistrict 4-B and 4-C? Possibly the escapement and fishers drainage-wide if this regulation change alters the salmon stocks composition that are harvested in Subdistrict 4-B and 4-C drift fisheries.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None

PROPOSED BY: Middle Yukon Advisory Committee (HQ-F12-075)
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PROPOSAL 149 - 5 AAC 01.240. Marking and use of subsistence-taken salmon. Create a harvest reporting system subsistence-taken salmon in the Yukon River drainage as follows:

All subsistence users must have a catch calendar and shall record all harvested fish on the catch calendar in ink, before concealing the fish from plain view, transported from the fishing site or off loaded from a vessel. Fishing site means the location where the fish is removed from the water. If fish are shared outside the household of the catch calendar holder, the number of fish shared and the name of the person(s) shared with must also be recorded in the catch calendar. The catch calendar must be available for inspection by the Department or any law enforcement officer at any fish camp, fishing location, or primary residence of the catch calendar holder.

ISSUE: Commercial use of subsistence caught fish in the Yukon.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued commercialization of subsistence caught fish.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. A harvest and transfer record kept in a catch calendar will provide accountability and allow fish to be tracked and accounted for.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All subsistence users who wish to preserve their access to this resource.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those who commercialize their subsistence catch. It is known that certain individuals on the Yukon catch many more kings then their subsistence needs require. They sell or barter these excess fish and end up for sale in Fairbanks or Anchorage, often as smoked strips.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Other forms of recording and reporting were considered, because the catch calendar is delivered to all known fishers every season, this method was determined to be the most efficient and easiest to implement and enforce, with little burden on the department or subsistence users.

PROPOSED BY: Fairbanks Advisory Committee (HQ-F12-100)
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PROPOSAL 150 - 5 AAC 01.240. Marking and use of subsistence-taken salmon. Create a harvest reporting system for subsistence-taken salmon in the Yukon River as follows:

Establish subsistence salmon harvest reporting methodology that provides accurate and timely information for the ADF&G, while minimizing the burden to harvesters.

This proposal was developed as part of a process initiated by the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association (YRDFA) to review existing management strategies and achieve consensus among stakeholders on potential measures to improve Chinook salmon management in the Yukon River. Stakeholders identified harvest reporting as a priority and developed draft language for achieving this. The group is in the process of receiving input from other Yukon River stakeholders and will reconvene and submit specific regulatory language prior to the Board of Fisheries AYK meeting.

ISSUE: Accurate determination of harvest removals is critical to management of Yukon River Chinook salmon. However, most subsistence users within the Alaskan portion of the Yukon River drainage are not required to record or report their harvests. Currently, the primary method of estimating harvest from these subsistence users is voluntary post-season subsistence harvest surveys conducted annually in the fall by ADF&G. Because the current reporting system is voluntary, there is public concern over accuracy and timeliness of data reporting. In-season monitoring might provide additional management tools for monitoring and managing harvest throughout the season while also minimizing the need for post-season surveys.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Mandatory harvest reporting may result in data in which we have greater confidence. Without in-season harvest data we will not have harvest information during the season with which to make management decisions.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Better harvest reporting improves management to the benefit of all stakeholders.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Improved harvest reporting may increase the amount of time individuals have to spend on tracking and reporting their harvest.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? We considered requiring a harvest permit for all Yukon River subsistence harvesters as a means of collecting reporting information. However, some stakeholders felt that this would impede on subsistence rights and pose a barrier for people who have historically relied on subsistence caught salmon to do so.

PROPOSED BY: Yukon River Stakeholder Group, c/o Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association (HQ-F12-145)

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PROPOSAL 151 - 5 AAC 01.240. Marking and use of subsistence-taken salmon. Require primary use of subsistence-caught salmon within the Yukon Area be for direct personal or family consumption as food as follows:

Under 5 AAC 01.240. Marking and use of subsistence-taken salmon:

(d) In the Yukon River drainage, **the primary subsistence use of king salmon is for the direct personal or family consumption as food; all other subsistence uses are secondary with no prioritization.**

(e) In the Yukon River drainage, king salmon [MUST BE USED PRIMARILY FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION AND] may not be targeted for dog food. Dried king salmon may not be used for dog food throughout the Yukon River drainage, except that whole fish that are unfit for human consumption, scraps, and fish under 16 inches in length may be fed to dogs…

ISSUE: Subsistence uses of salmon are not prioritized. In years when salmon runs are low, other subsistence uses are tending to preclude the taking of king salmon for direct personal or family consumption as food.

Alaska State Statue 16.05.940 (33), below, defines subsistence uses as a list of accepted uses for wild renewable resources taken for subsistence purposes. However, no priority is provided for these uses. It is not clear if all uses are equal or if they are listed in order of priority in the state statute. For salmon, I believe that the highest priority for salmon caught under subsistence regulations is direct personal or family consumption as food. Therefore, I request that the Alaska

Board of Fisheries make it abundantly clear that the primary subsistence use of salmon harvested for subsistence purposes within the Yukon Area is specifically for direct personal or family consumption as food. This proposed regulation can be used as a management tool to restrict subsistence uses in years when salmon runs are insufficient to satisfy U.S./Canada Yukon River Salmon Agreement obligations or escapement or for a full subsistence fishery. Accordingly, ADF&G can limit the harvest of salmon for other uses thereby allowing people who depend on the resource for sustenance to have priority over fishers that use the resource for other uses or a combination of uses.

16.05.940 (33) "subsistence uses" means the noncommercial, customary and traditional uses of wild, renewable resources by a resident domiciled in a rural area of the state for direct personal or family consumption as food, shelter, fuel, clothing, tools, or transportation, for the making and selling of handicraft articles out of nonedible by-products of fish and wildlife resources taken for personal or family consumption, and for the customary trade, barter, or sharing for personal or family consumption; in this paragraph, "family" means persons related by blood, marriage, or adoption, and a person living in the household on a permanent basis;

Under 5 AAC 01.240. Marking and use of subsistence-taken salmon, the Alaska Board of fisheries (BOF) has previously prioritized the subsistence use of king salmon by prohibiting feeding king salmon to dogs, with certain exceptions. Additionally, the BOF stated that subsistence-caught king salmon must be used primarily for human consumption. The latter statement is somewhat ambiguous because it does not stipulate personal or family human consumption as food.

(d) In the Yukon River drainage, king salmon must be used primarily for human consumption and may not be targeted for dog food. Dried king salmon may not be used for dog food throughout the Yukon River drainage, except that whole fish that are unfit for human consumption, scraps, and fish under 16 inches in length may be fed to dogs…

A similar proposal will be before the Federal Subsistence Board in 2012 that was designed specifically to suspend the federal subsistence user of customary trade in years when king salmon runs are insufficient to meet Agreement obligations to Canada and allow a full subsistence fishery. In the past, some residents have complained that they were not meeting their personal king salmon needs for food met while they observed boxes of fish leaving their village to be sold at large events. In order to have this regulation enforceable throughout the Alaskan portion of the Yukon River drainage, the entire drainage, that is, both state managed and state and federally managed waters must have the same priority subsistence use for king salmon.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Fishing families might not get the food they need for sustenance in years of low king salmon runs because a portion of the harvestable surplus above spawning escapement and treaty requirements is sold off the river. Management actions may fall short because they are geared toward reducing the subsistence harvest but the impacts of non-personal consumptive uses in terms of number of fish is difficult to manage for, thus Agreement obligations to Canada and spawning requirements may not be met.

This proposed regulation addresses only part of the problem associated with subsistence uses. If solutions to the problems associated with the federal customary trade regulations are not addressed at the Federal Subsistence Board, continued abuse of customary trade and large-scale sales of subsistence-caught fish from state waters when the king salmon runs are not poor will continue. However, this proposed regulation, if passed by the state and federal fish boards, could be used as a tool by managers to suspend all subsistence uses of king salmon except for the use of king salmon as direct personal and family consumption as food during very low king runs. A coordinated set of regulations between the federal and state agencies would facilitates enforcement actions.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Subsistence users who primarily use Yukon king salmon for direct personal or family consumption as food during very low king salmon runs.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Fishers that harvest king salmon primarily for uses other than for personal or family consumption as food.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? No other alternatives were considered.

PROPOSED BY: Gene J. Sandone (HQ-F12-085)
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PROPOSAL 152 - 5 AAC 05.200. Fishing districts and subdistricts; 5 AAC 05.350. Closed waters. Open Acharon Channel in the Yukon River drainage to salmon fishing as follows:

1. Repeal 5 AAC 05.350. Closed waters (1) and in **5 AAC 05.200. Fishing districts and subdistricts** make the following changes to (a) District 1 consists of that portion of the Yukon River drainage from its terminus upstream to the northern edge of the mouth of the Anuk River and all waters **south from Chris Point to Black River and** [OF THE] Black River, including waters within one nautical mile of its terminus. Also designate Acharon Channel, the area from Chris Point, south to the Black River, as a separate statistical area so that the specific harvest from this area could be accounted and evaluated.

ISSUE: 5 AAC 05.350. Closed waters AND 5 AAC 05.200. Fishing districts and subdistricts.

- Unnecessary closure of an area that could provide harvest of Yukon River summer chum salmon and minimize Chinook salmon harvest in the summer chum salmon directed fishery.
- Congestion of commercial fishers in the South Mouth of the Yukon River if the area open to commercial fishing for summer chum salmon is similar to 2011.

In 2011, the concern that the Yukon Chinook salmon run size was not sufficient to provide for Agreement obligations to Canada and a full subsistence fishery severely restricted the summer chum salmon directed fishery in time and area. Because the bulk of the Chinook salmon run

entered the Yukon River primarily by the North Mouth and Middle Mouths of the Yukon River, the directed summer chum salmon was restricted, for most openings, only to the South Mouth. Although this surgical management action provided a limited fishery for summer chum, crowding was a potential problem since only a fraction of District 1 was open to commercial fishing. Additionally, I believe that since this area is tidally influenced and relatively shallow, it would be an area where summer chum salmon are abundant with few Chinook salmon present, especially if the bulk of the Chinook salmon enters the North and Middle Mouths, as occurred in 2011.

According to local knowledge Acharon Channel, or that area between Black River and Chris Point in the South Mouth area, was closed to commercial fishing in the early 1900s to protect local fishers from highly efficient drift fishers that were brought in from Oregon to fish for the fish buying and processing company. That protection is no longer needed or warranted.

Therefore, I request that the Board repeal 5 AAC 05.350. Closed waters (1) and alter 5 AAC 05.200. Fishing districts and subdistricts (a) to include the area from Chris Point south to Black River as a portion of District 1 that is open to commercial salmon fishing. Also, I request that Board designate Acharon Channel as a separate statistical area so that this area may be open to commercial fishing and that the specific harvest evaluated.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued poor Yukon River Chinook salmon runs along with the North and Middle Mouth entry pattern for Chinook salmon may require ADF&G to allow commercial fishing for summer chum salmon only in the South Mouth area. Because the area open to fishing would be only a relatively small portion of the District 1 area, many fishers will be forced into the open area. This congestion may be somewhat alleviated by the opening of the Acharon Channel, or the coastline between Chris Point and Black River. Additionally, there is no reason for this area to be closed. Because of the proximity to the mouth of the Yukon along with the 1 nautical mile seaward boundary, there is little chance that mixed stocks returning to other drainages would be harvested. Therefore, because it would benefit the commercial fishers of District 1 and provide additional fishing area to the congested South Mouth area, there are few valid arguments for maintaining the closure of this area.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? This proposal, if adopted, would benefit the commercial fishers in District 1 by alleviating congestion when the summer chum salmon fishery is restricted to the South Mouth area as it was done in 2011. I would also generally more area to fish and possibly result in the harvest of more summer chum salmon with less of an impact on the Chinook salmon.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? No other solutions were considered.

PROPOSED BY: Gene J. Sandone (HQ-F12-159)
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PROPOSAL 153 – 5 AAC 74.010. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Tanana River Area. Repeal the regulation that closes Fielding Lake to salmon fishing as follows:

(c)(9) in Fielding Lake
(A) **repealed.** [SPORT FISHING FOR SALMON IS CLOSED;]

ISSUE: Salmon are not present in Fielding Lake. Fielding Lake is linked, via an outlet to Phelan Creek, to the Delta River. The first two miles of the Delta River are cataloged as important for the spawning of chum salmon and the spawning and rearing of coho salmon in the *Atlas to the Catalog of Waters Important for Spawning, Rearing, or Migration of Anadromous Fishes*. However, salmon have not been cataloged in the Delta River upstream of the lower two river miles (approximately 70 river miles) or in Fielding Lake. Only twice since 1996 (2003, 2005) have salmon (chum) been reported caught in the Delta River, according to the Statewide Harvest Survey, but exact location of catch and species verification are not available. The current regulation imposes unnecessary language for a species that is not present in Fielding Lake.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Unnecessary regulations will remain in place, implying that salmon are present in Fielding Lake when they are not.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The public, enforcement staff, and ADF&G personnel all benefit from clear regulations.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F12-225)
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PROPOSAL 154 - 5 AAC 73.010. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Yukon River Area. Close the Black River and its tributaries to sport fishing for king salmon as follows:

The drainage of Black River and all its tributaries are closed to sport fishing for Chinook salmon.

ISSUE: The stock of Yukon Chinook salmon which spawns in Salmon Fork Black River is subjected to sport fishing on the spawning grounds. This population is of high concern since it is already reduced due to previous overfishing. Numbers are so low that the local subsistence fishery has been voluntarily suspended.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? If sport fishing for this stock on the spawning grounds continues, the recovery of this population will be slowed or halted all together.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? This proposal has no effect on the quality of the resource harvested.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? If a spawning closure helps this population recover, then in the future a subsistence fishery downriver in the vicinity of Chalkyitsik and Fort Yukon may become possible. This stock contributes to the overall Yukon Chinook population, so users river-wide would
benefit.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Recreational users who float Salmon Fork Black River in July would not be allowed to sport fish for spawning Chinook salmon.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? No other solutions have been considered.

PROPOSED BY: Black River Working Group & Yukon Flats Advisory Committee (HQ-F12-136)
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Proposal 237 was submitted prior to the proposal deadline for the 2012-2013 Board of Fisheries' cycle, but was inadvertently omitted from the proposal book. This proposal will be considered by the board at its ARCTIC-YUKON-KUSKOKWIM FINFISH meeting scheduled for January 15-20, 2013.

PROPOSAL 237 – 5 AAC 74.010(c)(18). Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Tanana River Area; 5 AAC 74.065. Tanana River Area Stocked Waters Management Plan. Allow lakes of a specific size to be managed as trophy stocked waters, as follows:

That medium sized lakes like Rainbow Lake would not be considered a trophy fish lake and would have a normal fishing limit.

ISSUE: Trophy lakes are a poor use of state monies and of the resource. #1 small remote lakes like Rainbow Lake behind Whitestone Farms in Big Delta is too small to grow real trophy fish and is too far for the public to travel for a limit of ONE fish as stipulated now by Fish and Game. Result = A lot of state dollars spent on stocking lakes that cannot reproduce and won't be adequately fished.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Because there is no fresh H2O inlet and thus the fish cannot reproduce the fish die. No one travels 12 miles for one fish. Previously Rainbow Lake was used a lot. In March 2012, Rainbow Lake showed no use = no holes.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, because with the current Fish and Game regulations the fish just die and are not caught. Your very purpose in stocking the lakes is defeated by your regulations.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? It would not ever hurt a rich man with lots of time and a big ego but even he won't catch a trophy there with no competition. Everyone. The lake is moderately accessible in the winter and the public would use it if there were a reasonable limit.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one. As the regulations stand even the leisurely rich would have no competition no trophy as lake is small.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? It is simple, the lake should serve the public. With a limit of one fish, it does not.

PROPOSED BY: E.R. Ferguson. (HQ-F12-250)

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Proposal 240 is a board-generated proposal created by the board at its October 2012 meeting. This proposal will be considered by the board at its ARCTIC-YUKON-KUSKOKWIM FINFISH meeting scheduled for January 15-20, 2013.

PROPOSAL 240 – 5 AAC 05.330. Gear and 5 AAC 05.362. Yukon River Summer Chum Salmon Management Plan. Establish times when a commercial gillnet permit holder in the Lower Yukon Area districts 1–3 may use dip net and beach seine gear to commercially harvest chum salmon during the summer season, including specifications and operations provisions for dip net and beach seine gear, as follows:

5 AAC 05.330. Gear. (a) **Except as provided in 5 AAC 05.362(k), in** [IN] Districts 1 – 3, set gillnets and drift gillnets only may be operated, except that in District 1 after July 15 set gillnets only may be operated in the following locations:

5 AAC 05.362. Yukon River Summer Chum Salmon Management Plan.

(k) In Districts 1–3, during times when the commissioner determines that it is necessary for the conservation of king salmon, the commissioner may, by emergency order, close the commercial gillnet fishing season and immediately reopen a fishing season during which

(1) dip net and beach seine gear may be used; and

(2) all king salmon caught in dip net and beach seine gear must be returned immediately to the water alive.

ISSUE: King salmon run size is currently at a level where Alaskan subsistence and Canadian aboriginal needs have not been fully satisfied in the past few years. Despite low king salmon runs, there have been annual surpluses of summer chum salmon, in excess of escapement requirements and subsistence needs, available for commercial harvest. Additionally, there has been renewed market interest in summer chum salmon, with relatively high prices paid to commercial fishermen. However, because of the concern for king salmon escapement and the agreed-upon commitment to Canada, much of the summer chum salmon harvestable surplus goes

unharvested due to overlapping run timing with king salmon. This foregone harvest has been substantial in recent years, more than 1,000,000 fish in both 2011 and 2012.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Commercial fishermen will not be able to harvest the abundant summer chum salmon surplus. Fishermen and processors will suffer because of the lack of summer chum salmon harvests. Jobs in the community, as well in processing facilities in Anchorage, will be lost. Fishermen will lose income and processors will lose markets and market share.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Commercial fishermen in districts 1–3.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Board of Fisheries. *(formerly ACR 3)*

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Proposal 241 is a board-generated proposal created by the board at its October 2012 meeting. This proposal will be considered by the board at its ARCTIC-YUKON-KUSKOKWIM FINFISH meeting schedule for January 15-20, 2013.

PROPOSAL 241 – 5 AAC 05.362. Yukon River Summer Chum Salmon Management Plan. Provide department emergency order authority to restrict gear to fish wheels only, require fish wheels to be closely attended, and live-release of king salmon in District 6 during times necessary to conserve king salmon, as follows:

(j) In Subdistrict 4-A **and District 6**, during times when the commissioner determines that it is necessary for the conservation of king salmon, the commissioner may, by emergency order, close the commercial set gillnet fishing season and immediately reopen the fishing season during which

(1) a fish wheel may be used;

(2) the permit holder shall be present at and attend the fish wheel at all times while the fish wheel is in operation; and

(3) all king salmon caught in the fish wheel must be returned to the water alive immediately.

ISSUE: Yukon River summer chum salmon runs have been large in recent years, with a surplus available for commercial harvest. However, the overlapping king salmon runs have been weak, necessitating subsistence fishing restrictions in order to meet escapement goals. Although a directed District 6 commercial fishery on summer chum salmon may be warranted based on inseason summer chum abundance, king salmon will be caught incidentally in this fishery. If commercial fishing is delayed in District 6 until a majority of the king salmon run passes, a

majority of the summer chum salmon run will also pass and be unavailable for harvest. This proposal would allow the District 6 commercial fishery to be opened earlier in the summer chum salmon run by emergency order, while still conserving king salmon.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? There will be a foregone harvestable surplus of summer chum salmon and a loss of economic benefit to fishermen in District 6. Fishing will not be allowed earlier in the run when fish quality is better.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Commercial fishermen in District 6.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Board of Fisheries. *(formerly Yukon River fish wheel ER)*

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