

GASH AC Teleconference
January 7, 2012
DRAFT Minutes
Meeting called to order at 10:10

Roll Call: Gabe Nicholi Sr, Harry Maillelle, Stan Walker (Grayling); Ken Chase and Cliff Hickson (Anvik); Kathy Chase (Holy Cross) and Bruce Werba (Undesignated)

Guests

ADFG- Jeff Estensen, Deena Jallen, Bonnie Borba, Caroline Brown, Britney Rutherford, Alida Trainor, Nissa Pilcher
TCC Orville Huntington

Rita St Louis (ADFG) came on teleconference briefly to give the GASH AC an FWS going to have a press conference to release preliminary 10J rule and she would let them know what was going on as soon as she was able.

Discussion of proposals before the BOF during its AYK meeting January 15-20, 2013

Proposal 95

Prohibit putting fish parts in water where use of bait is prohibited

If this was just for sports fishing and not for subsistence as well we would most likely be in support of it, but this proposal needs to be more specific. This passing of this proposal would force us to change our traditional winter fishing practices and we are not in favor of that.

Do Not Adopt

Proposal 97

Reduce northern pike bag and possession limits in the Yukon River from Holy Cross to Paimiut Slough &

Proposal 98

Reduce northern pike bag and possession limits in the Yukon River from Holy Cross to Paimiut Slough

Concern that there is a good chance to wipe out the large pike population, and we would like to be proactive with this instead of waiting till there is a problem like with what is currently happening with the Yukon Chinook. We need to take a stand on this problem now, and let people understand that there is an issue with this fishery as it currently occurs.

Support

Proposal 130

Review ANS for subsistence salmon in the Yukon-Northern Area

If the summer chum ANS is raised and the Chinook is lowered, would that signify that we are getting less fish off of the river, and would reflect that it looks like there is less of an impact? The AC noted that there is a shift in use of species going on currently, and our experience is that chum salmon use is going up and not down as reflected by the department. Difficult to tease this issue out over the teleconference as we are doing now. We would like to see the ANS stay the same.

Do not adopt



Proposal 131

Require pulse protection in the king salmon management plan

AC is concerned that by taking this out of the realm of Emergency order then when the stocks come back that no one would be able to fish on them. Also concerned that this would impact nets being put out to target other species, such as the chums.

Do not adopt

Proposal 132

Prohibit sale of king salmon from the Yukon River drainage unless there is a directed king salmon commercial fishery

This could prevent the sale of king salmon in a non-directed king fishery in years where the kings were coming back in abundance, and the department already has this EO ability.

Take no action since the department is already taking care of this via EOs

133 and 134

Take no action since these issues do not involve our area

135

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 kin salmon

The AC had a lengthy discussion on this proposal, there was discussion that the passing of this proposal would benefit the folks who depend on commercial fishing, but could negatively impact the Chinook regardless. The passing of this proposal would make something that

Do Not Adopt

140

Revert back to a windows-only fishing schedule in the Yukon River

With the current problems we are having with the king salmon on the Yukon, we think that these fisheries should be operated by quotas and not by windows, even though that would require in season reporting. The current management flexibility can be very confusing, one member stopped fishing because they got so turned around, but it is working and management needs the flexibility to open and close the fishery as needed and not be mandated by the plan.

Do Not Adopt

Proposal 139

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

This helps give the Department more flexibility to manage and maximize subsistence fishing opportunity when the fish are present.

Support

Proposal 141

Allow for concurrent subsistence and commercial fishing periods in Districts 1-3 of the Yukon River Area

The AC does not like the mandatory requirement of the concurrent subsistence fishing and commercial opening and wishes the Department kept the flexibility currently given to them in proposal 130



Do Not Adopt

Proposal 144

Restrict gillnets to 35 meshes in depth in the Yukon River drainage

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Proposal 145

Restrict depth of subsistence and commercial nets in Districts Y1-5 to 35 meshes

Soon we are going to be having to fish with dip nets or trained otters at this rate. The AC questioned the science of the larger fish traveling deeper,

Do Not Adopt

146

Allow only 6-inch stretched mesh gillnet gear in the Yukon River drainage

There is no studies that show what the effects of each mesh size on salmon. Until we get some actual data, we shouldn't be adjusting the different mesh sizes.

Do Not Adopt

Proposal 147

Allow drift gillnets as legal gear in the subsistence fishery in District 4-A of the Yukon River, upriver to the community of Ruby

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Proposal 148

Extend Sub districts 4-B and 4-C drift gillnet area downstream from the mouth of the Yuki River for king salmon

Want to support them so they won't have to spend all their gas money getting to the drift sight. There are fish wheel sites that these communities can use, but there aren't enough of them. We will leave it up to the people of that area to decide what is right.

No Action

Proposal 149

Create a harvest reporting system subsistence-taken salmon in the Yukon River.

Catch-Calendar proposal; We already keep record of the fish we catch on the yellow calenders we get. It was noted that the Sport Fish Charter Log requirements is time consuming and enxtensive, and the fines behind not having them are huge. Getting into this area is dangerous and we do not want to see this done.

Do not adopt

Proposal 150

Create a harvest reporting system for subsistence-taken salmon in the Yukon River

YRDFA placeholder: We believe the reporting system that we have in place right now is adequate, although we would be open to hearing specific ideas for doing another form of in season reporting, such as a phone number to call in, or something else.

Do Not Adoptat this time

Proposal 151

Require Primary use of subsistence caught salmon within the Yukon Area be for direct personal or family consumption as food



We don't feed kings to dogs, and this proposals seriously impedes the normal behavior of our communities sharing practices.

Do Not Adopt

Federal Subsistence Board Proposals

Grayling Anvik Shageluk Holy Cross Advisory Committee

Statements made for submission to the Federal Subsistence Board at its January 7, 2013 teleconference:

FP13-03

The Proposal that the GASH AC put before the Federal Subsistence Board (FP13-03) had a section that the GASH AC has realized that the way it was worded might sound like we are favoring one user group before another. This is not the case.

6. How will this change affect other users, such as sport/recreational and commercial.

The intend of our statement after this question was to demonstrate that passing this proposal and the subsequent preservation of this stock at a time when it is its most vulnerable would benefit all user groups for generations to come. The AC strongly supports this proposal and urges to Board to pass it.

Customary Trade

The GASH AC does not believe that there should be any room for Customary Trade when many on the river are unable to gather enough fish to feed their own families.

Thank you for your time

