

My name is Ragnar Alstrom. I am the executive director of the Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Association, the CDQ group representing 6 villages on the lower Yukon. I have lived in Alakanuk on the Yukon Delta all of my life. I was born there. I have been a commercial salmon fishermen since 1969.

Through our subsidiary, Kwikpak Fisheries, we are the only salmon buyer in districts 1 and 2. We are also the largest buyer of salmon on the Yukon River. Last summer we purchased 475,000 chum salmon from 485 fishermen in districts 1 and 2. Of that amount approximately 200,000 were summer chum and 275,000 were fall chum. We paid 75 cents a pound for chum which may have been the highest price paid for chum salmon in the state.

Of those 485 fishermen, 235 of them did not gross 5 thousand dollars in deliveries for the total 2 month long season. If you increase the threshold to 10 thousand dollars, there were 406 fishermen below that amount. The average total gross sales of salmon was approximately \$5,900. per fisherman. Of those 485 fishermen, 472 currently owe money to the company.

Last summer because of the concern for the incidental take of Chinook salmon in a directed summer chum fishery the commercial fishery was delayed. It is estimated that another 500 thousand to 1.2 million summer chum could have been harvested out of the surplus available for harvest after escapement and subsistence needs were met. This foregone harvest last summer was worth between 2 ½ to 6 million dollars to the fishermen.

As a company we strongly support those proposals that allow for an earlier startup of a directed commercial summer chum fishery that has no or a minimal impact on Chinook.

These proposals are; Proposal 133, proposal 134, and proposal 240.

It is important to note that these proposals only give ADF&G options that would allow for an earlier startup of a directed commercial chum fishery and do not change any subsistence regulation.

We also strongly support proposal 138 which allows for some commercial opportunity at a slightly lower trigger level in the fall chum fishery and strongly support proposal 152 which opens up a closed area on the coast that is located between 2 open areas as the reasons for that closed area no longer exist.

We strongly oppose proposals 132 and 136.

We also oppose proposals 131, 140, 141, 144, 145, 146, 149 and 150

I would like to serve on committee B reviewing the Yukon proposals.