

122 ↓

Comments on Proposal 123 to the Board of Fish

Purpose: To delete 2/48 hour fishing periods and
Issue: replace with below Subsistence methods.

15 years of closures prevented traditional subsistence salmon fishing on the Nome River. Now, the Nome River has had a subsistence salmon fishery for 2 years, but few locals are subsistence harvesting. Better aligning regulations with traditional practices may make it easier for families to engage in subsistence fishing. Although Proposal 123 attempts to improve the subsistence salmon harvesting regulations on the Nome River, we would like to propose changes that are more in line with traditional fishing. We predict that even with modified regulations subsistence use will be moderate and will not challenge escapement goals, as many traditional users have grown old or no longer have equipment.

Proposed Changes:

1) Timing

Subsistence caught salmon are traditionally dried in fish camps. In order to avoid fish spoiling, families try to harvest and dry fish during periods of dry weather. In this region, early July is often a window of good weather. We propose having the fishery open at all times, without imposing windows, during this short period in early July. (Roy: do you want to put specific dates?)

2) Area

Traditionally, native families harvest in their traditional use areas located near their fish camps. The area currently open for seining, the river mouth, has only been used by one family in the past two years. There are two traditional subsistence seining areas, that are upriver, that are not currently open. (Roy- do we need a map or verbal description?) We propose opening these two traditional fishing spots so that the people who traditionally harvested in these places may continue to do so. Some families prefer these upriver spots because 1) they are used to fishing there 2) they have access to fish camps for drying fish and 3) upriver fish are less oily and easier to preserve.

These upriver areas are specific spots, about 200 feet in length that families traditionally seine. These are deep holes where fish tend to gather but do not spawn. Thus, opening these areas would not threaten spawning ground.

pls extend the boundary on the Nome River to Osborne creek - which was the previous boundary for subsistence fishing before the Nome River was closed to subsistence fishing