

JOINT LOWER YUKON FISH & GAME ADVISORY COMMITTEE

(Mid-Lower Yukon and Coastal Lower Yukon)

State of Alaska Department of Fish & Game

Tuesday, March 11th, 2014 6:30PM

(Teleconference number: 1-800-504-8071 Access code: 907-543-2709#)

2013/2014 Statewide Board of Fisheries Meeting Minutes

- I. Call to Order: 6:45 PM Chairman Raymond Oney
- I. Roll Call / Establish Quorum Yes: Coordinator Alissa Nadine Joseph

II.

MID LOWER YUKON AC

AC MEMBERS 7: 6/7 Present

Representatives:

William Alstrom	Andreafski
Vassily Sergie	Marshall
Evan Polty	Pilot Station
John Riley	Pitkas Point
Andrew Stephenoff	Russian Mission
John Agwiak	Mountain Village
Peter Tyson	St. Mary's

COASTAL LOWER YUKON

AC MEMBERS 6: 4/6 Present

Representatives:

Raymond Oney	Alakanuk
John Lamont	Emmonak
Jonathan Smith	Hooper Bay
Dominica Strongheart	Nunam Iqua
Vacant	Kotlik
Clifford Kaganak, Sr.	Scammon Bay

- III. Approval of Agenda: Motion- William Alstrom 2nd- Dominica Strongheart

IV. Fish and Game Staff Present:

Eric Newland, ADFG Commercial Fisheries Division
Alissa Nadine Joseph, ADFG Boards Support Section

V. Guests Present:

Gene Sandone, Kwirpak

VI. New Business:

A. ALASKA STATE BOARD OF FISHERIES

i. **Statewide Board of Fisheries Meeting**

March 17-21, 2014

(Comments Due: MAR 3, 2014)

Sheraton Anchorage, AK

Statewide Proposals 2013/2014 Alaska Board of Fish Proposals:

(Gene Sandone introduces presentation of proposals)

Questions have been called:

John Lamont- Triangle of the dip net with a flat bottom for sandbars and a piece at the end of the net to prevent snagging. Will Kwirpak have dip nets available prior to the fishery?

Gene Sandone- Increasing the size would increase the efficiency. We will have them in March.

Eric Newland- Increase the hoop or triangle, rest of the regulations is the mesh size and the fact that it is a handle and not operated by machine. I don't see why attaching something at the bottom would be illegal, but it would be good to run by enforcements prior to the fishery.

Bill Alstrom- Have these purse seines have been tried on other rivers?

Gene Sandone- It's been tried on the Columbia River and people have experimented on other rivers for scientific use. To my knowledge it has not been used elsewhere commercial fishery.

John Riley- Meeting in middle of December, it looks like it would work and I don't see any other option. You know last year, 3 years ago about dip netting and I didn't think it would work. Although they had a great report and our younger generation were enjoying it. We had council meeting to explain my trip to the AC meeting in Bethel.

Gene Sandone- I heard you at the RAC meeting regarding the dipnets, I think and especially for people going to fish camp, people fished every day 15-16 consecutive days with 12 hours periods. It was good and people made some money on it. If we are looking at no gillnet fishery, we are not going to harvest a lot of fish.

Eric Newland, ADFG- (Going to address staff comments on the proposals.)

Gene Sandone- I need a couple statements of the lower river.

Eric Newland, ADFG- It's tough to say how we are going to handle it the fishery. We are expected poor or poorer than last year. We had restrictions and did everything in the book to save Chinook. If we are looking at the run size to be worse we are looking to cut back on all king harvest with no gillnet fishing. We will have more meetings in April 8 (YDFDA), preseason meetings up and down the river. For type of gear the distance to use that gear all up and down the river, when we are going to open, what type of fish we are targeting. Once the run comes in we will make adjustments to the management of the run and we are bracing for the worst. It is a possibility and option for commercial and subsistence.

Mandatory- Please Summarize Your Proposal Comments in this Form

All motions must be made in the affirmative.

BOG or BOF	Proposal Number	Proposal Description	
Supports or Opposes?	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments/Discussion (list Pros and Cons)/Amendments to Proposal
BOF	371		<p>5AAC 05.362. Yukon River Summer Chum Salmon Management Plan. Remove dip net size restrictions for Yukon Area districts 1-3 commercial summer chum salmon fisheries, as follows PROPOSED BY: Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Association</p>
Support	9	1- Abstain	<p>Motion to Support- William Alstrom 2nd- John Riley Discussion: <u>Eric Newland-</u> Department is opposed and concerned about increasing contact with Chinook Salmon. Anything net size too large that would increase the ability to kill a Chinook salmon wouldn't be accepted. <u>William Alstrom-</u>Up here we have a lot of Rocks and down river have snags. I didn't hear about the runners on the bottom of the triangle dipnets. <u>Eric Newland-</u> Any modification to the dipnet will not be illegal; I would like to talk to a enforcement officer to confirm the adjustments to the dipnets. <u>Gene Sandone-</u> How big of a hoop dipnet can one person handle. It may be one of the questions that the BOF may ask, with a max. <u>John Lamont-</u> There is a technique that you have to use in order to not snag the bottom. Oval shape instead of round would work best. <u>William Alstrom-</u> Triangle dipnets were more popular than the hoop nets. <u>Gene Sandone-</u> District 2 is closer to the bottom and triangle works better in District 2. Question has been called. Roll Call: <u><i>Mid Lower Yukon</i></u> William Alstrom- Yes Evan Polty- Yes John Riley- Yes Andrew Stephenoff- Abstain John Agwiak- Yes Peter Tyson- Yes <u><i>Coastal Lower Yukon</i></u> Ray Oney- Yes John Lamont- Yes Dominica Strongheart- yes Clifford Kaganak- Yes <i>Final Vote: 9-Yes 1-Abstain (Proposal 371 is Supported)</i></p>

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All motions must be made in the affirmative.

BOG or BOF	Proposal Number	Proposal Description	
Supports or Opposes?	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments/Discussion (list Pros and Cons)/Amendments to Proposal
BOF	372		<p>5 AAC 05.333. Fish wheel specification and operations. Modify the specifications and operations of a commercial fish wheel in the Yukon Area to allow the use of lead PROPOSED BY: Virgil Umpenour.</p>
Support	10		<p>Motion to Support- John Lamont 2nd-Peter Tyson Discussion: <u>John Lamont-</u> I don't use fishwheels or seen or have been used by Kwirpak. <u>Raymond Oney-</u> This has been used by upriver fishery. <u>John Riley-</u> They use to use fishwheel long time ago down here and when nets came in the fishwheel disappeared. There aren't many places to put fishwheels anymore in this area. <u>William Alstrom-</u> Fish wheels in operation and have this lead, they are very effective and that is why fishwheels are very effective in a fishery. They do it both for commercial and subsistence, I agree with this proposal and stop operations during commercial and waters are closed. <u>Gene Sandone-</u> This is housekeeping, they have been using lead for years. However with the EIRAC with that the length of the lead, currently it's unrestricted. Personally, I would support it to allow the current practice is supported, but the BOF will bring up the length of the lead. <u>Raymond Oney-</u> Is that something that ADFG is worried about? <u>Eric Newland-</u> In the subsistence regulations, are defined... (Reads from regulation.)</p> <p>Question has been called. <u><i>Mid Lower Yukon</i></u> William Alstrom- Yes Evan Polty- Yes John Riley- Yes Andrew Stephenoff- Yes John Agwiak- Yes Peter Tyson- Yes <u><i>Coastal Lower Yukon</i></u> Ray Oney- Yes John Lamont- Yes Dominica Strongheart- Yes Clifford Kaganak- Yes</p> <p><i>Final Vote: 10-Yes (Proposal 372 is Supported)</i></p>

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BOG or BOF	Proposal Number	Proposal Description	
Supports or Opposes?	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments/Discussion (list Pros and Cons)/Amendments to Proposal
BOF	373		<p>5 AAC 05.362. Yukon River Summer Chum Salmon Management Plan. Remove the exception allowing for a dead king salmon to be taken, but not retained, in the Yukon Area districts 1-3 dip net and beach seine commercial summer chum salmon fisheries PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game.</p>
Support	8	<p>1- Abstain 1- Absent Due to GCI Drop calls</p>	<p>Motion to Support- John Lamont 2nd-John Riley Discussion: <u>Eric Newland</u>- Dip net fisherman was caught with Chinook that were taken, but no tickets were issued. The purpose of this fishery is to allow the capture of Chum salmon and to release Chinook salmon and that Chinook will not be retained by any means. In the Dipnet fishery, we can release Chinook without any mortality in this fishery. Department Supports this proposal. Regulations need to emphasize that all Chinook are released and alive to the river. <u>Peter Tyson</u>- So this goes to say that we are not allowed to have kings (Dead or Alive) in our boats. <u>Eric Newland</u>- Yes, that is correct. You should be able to release all Chinook in the water immediately. There were a lot of people concerned about how this gear would impact salmon and how easily this would be able to release the Chinook. No one should be taken Chinook in their boats, regardless. <u>John Lamont</u>- Based on what you seen last year, effectiveness with the release of Chinook Salmon. We let the Chinook go by and you can see that we are allowing for escapement from the lower river. <u>William Alstrom</u>- We do abide by regulations, but there are few that use the loop whole of these regulations. When the counting started at the sonar and they were surprised to see how much ... something happened between Pilot station and Eagle. I believe that is what is a big question... what happened to all the fish we let go up the river? <u>Eric Newland</u>- I think your right. Really what we are trying to do, we want to operate a good fishery to do our best to have Chinook retained illegally through a loophole in the regulations. Mr. Alstrom, there is a lot to be said. There was about 115 thousand Chinook salmon that passed the sonar and we dropped to below 30 thousand Chinook that passed Eagle. Unfortunately, it's tough to say what is happening at Pilot Station sonar. 2.8 Million Summer chum salmon counts that could have affected the Chinook salmon. I suggest that you talk to Stephanie Schmitt with the run size in Eagle sonar. Using the Canadian origin size we are thinking that the run size was smaller than the total run estimate of pilot station and eagle</p>

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			<p>sonar. The lower end of the run size matches more of the eagle run size for Chinook that passed the Pilot Station sonar. Eagle does have a better ability of a bottom and clear water to count salmon, but weren't dealing with as much salmon passing through Pilot Station sonar. I'm saying that Pilot Stations numbers aren't accurate and are high. We look at Pilot with a grain of salt.</p> <p>Peter Tyson- I suggest no action on this.</p> <p>Question has been called.</p> <p><u>Mid Lower Yukon</u> William Alstrom- Yes Evan Polty- Yes John Riley- Absent, due to GCI connection Andrew Stephenoff- Yes John Agwiak- Yes Peter Tyson- Abstain</p> <p><u>Coastal Lower Yukon</u> Ray Oney- Yes John Lamont- Yes Dominica Strongheart- Yes Clifford Kaganak- Yes</p> <p>Final Vote: 8-Yes 1-Abstain 1-Absent connection of GCI. (Prop 373 is Supported)</p>
BOF	377		<p>5 AAC 05.362. Yukon River Summer Chum Salmon Management Plan. Authorize use of purse seine gear for commercial harvest of Yukon River summer chum salmon in Districts 1-3 during times of king salmon conservation; secondarily, consideration of allowing monofilament purse seine web in this fishery</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Alaska Board of Fisheries from an emergency petition request by Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Association</p>
Support	10	None	<p>Motion to Support- John Lamont 2nd- Dominica Strongheart</p> <p>Discussion: Bill Alstrom- I believe Mr. Sandone gave a good discussion and be beneficial for commercial fisherman to use this method in targeting chums, if the ADFG decides that all other means of fishing for Chum Salmon would be detrimental to our Chinook Salmon.</p> <p>Evan Polty- If they pass this proposal and purchase the equipment. What is the cost and modification for convenience of the people who want to</p>

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			<p>use this equipment?</p> <p>Erick Newland- I think that if the board passes this there would be options and modifications. One of the requests is that this is to be used similar to gillnet. There will be modifications to this proposal; I believe Western Interior RAC gave amendments toward the turn around and getting the gear. This is March and it would be a short amount of time for this gear to be used. The department will always be looking at the incidental harvest of Chinook and the mortality of this gear being used. There is some information of this being used from Oregon and Washington and as far as the gear is being used, it's a gill net like web and freedom to experiment. Department is Neutral, there is so much that is unknown. Just depending what happens at the BOF and there maybe some kind of pure sein study or fishing through the new regulations. I think something will happen, to capitalize on summer chum salmon. We are trying to maintain our goals with Chinook salmon.</p> <p>John Lamont- How deep was the purse sein, when I fish I use a 45 and a 20 feet seemed to catch more chum at 10-20 feet.</p> <p>Gene Sandone- 100 meshes by 30 feet.</p> <p>Question has been called.</p> <p>Roll Call:</p> <p><u>Mid Lower Yukon</u></p> <p>William Alstrom- Yes</p> <p>Evan Polty- Yes</p> <p>John Riley- Yes</p> <p>Andrew Stephenoff- Yes</p> <p>John Agwiak- Yes</p> <p>Peter Tyson- Yes</p> <p><u>Coastal Lower Yukon</u></p> <p>Raymond Oney- Yes</p> <p>John Lamont- Yes</p> <p>Dominica Strongheart- Yes</p> <p>Clifford Kaganak- Yes</p> <p>Final vote: 10-Yes (Proposal 377 is supported)</p>

Adjournment: Motion to Adjourn- Evan Polty 2nd- Dominica Strongheart

Minutes Recorded By: Western Regional Coordinator, Alissa Joseph

Minutes Approved By: Chairman Coastal Lower Yukon & Representative Mid Lower Yukon

Date: 11 March 2014