

2A96-34

**1996 BRISTOL BAY STAFF MEETING MINUTES**

**March 27-29, 1996  
Anchorage Regional Office**



Prepared by:  
Jim Menard

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<sup>1</sup> Contribution 96-34 from the Bristol Bay area. The Regional Information Report Series was established in 1987 to provide an information access system for all unpublished divisional reports. These reports frequently serve diverse ad hoc informational purposes or archive basic uninterpreted data. To accommodate the need for up-to-date information, reports in this series may contain preliminary data.

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## 1996 Bristol Bay Staff Meeting Minutes

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### Assignments

#### Tim Baker

1. Will contact management biologists for salmon statistical areas and he will insert locations into GIS map he is working on.
2. To work on Bristol Bay inseason database for catch and escapement. Target date for completion is June 1.

#### Linda Brannian

1. Find out how Windows 95 works with ADF&G network. Also, how some FORTRAN programs work with Windows 95.
2. Look at costs savings from modified tower counts.
3. Meet with Bev Cross and determine what C&E tables can be eliminated and notify management biologists, what Linda and Bev plan to eliminate, to allow for managers comments.
4. Continues to take lead on costs and sharing of charges for LAN/WAN systems for Bristol Bay.

#### Tom Brookover

1. Notify public via KDLG, notices, etc. that fishers will have to drop their registration cards at the office from 8-5 PM (King Salmon Season), and that there will be no drop box available.
2. Write an explanation on the budget cut to Igushik Test Fish. Dennis will edit and combine with Bev's explanation why we are dropping scale pattern studies.
3. Look at FY 97 yellow book and make comments in red about funding for projects and give back to Dennis.

4. See Bev's #11.
5. Lay out in time for April 18 Spring Fish Conference any changes to escapement goal ranges for Wood/Nushagak.

#### Jim Browning

1. Look at FY 97 yellow book and make comments in red about funding for projects and give back to Dennis.
2. AMR editor for 1996.

#### Drew Crawford

1. Prepare purchase requisition for four-wheeler, trailer, and 70 hp outboard for Kvichak Test from Fish & Game Fund.
2. Meet with Steve Fried and Bev Cross to discuss possibility of attending Lake and Peninsula Borough and Pilot Point City Council meeting on April 9, 1996 in King Salmon.

#### Bev Cross

1. Draft letter to Glen Vernon at Bristol Bay Borough to inform him that there is no additional funding available for Naknek Smolt. Have John Hilsinger sign letter.
2. Meet with Linda Brannian and determine what C&E tables can be eliminated and notify management biologists, what Linda and Bev plan to eliminate, to allow for managers comments.
3. Meet with Dennis Haanpaa to determine savings by eliminating scale pattern analysis studies.
4. Look at FY 97 yellow book and make comments in red about funding for projects and give back to Dennis.
5. Meet with Steve Fried and Drew Crawford to discuss possibility of attending Lake and Peninsula Borough and Pilot Point City Council meeting on April 9, 1996 in King Salmon (check with Hazel Nelson first).
6. One page report on why we are dropping scale pattern studies. Dennis will edit and combine with Tom's report on Igushik Test budget cut.

7. Work on processor bid form for salmon test fishing.
8. Combine the 1995 Scale Pattern Analysis Report with a final report on the completion of scale pattern studies.
9. Check with Cathy Tilly and Debbie Crouch to see if they are interested in aging herring scales during the Togiak fishery.
10. Scale back escapement sampling at towers and let managers know sampling goals.
11. Help with Tom's request for a graphic presentation of funding sources for programs (like Nushagak Sonar) to be presented at the April 18 Spring Fish Conference in Dillingham.

#### Steve Fried

1. Make copies of FY 97 yellow book and distribute to project managers.
2. Check if Moffitt or other biologist is willing to age Togiak herring scales.
3. Meet with Bev Cross and Drew Crawford to discuss possibility of attending Lake and Peninsula Borough and Pilot Point City Council meeting on April 9, 1996 in King Salmon.

#### Dennis Haanpaa

1. Meet with John Wayman to discuss problems with new administration regulations on plane charters that are over \$1,000 requiring a bidding process.
2. Meet with Bev Cross to determine savings by eliminating scale pattern analysis studies.
3. Edit papers by Tom Brookover on Igushik Test budget cut and Bev Cross on scale pattern analysis cut.
4. Review project biologists comments in FY 97 yellow book.
5. Get back to Jeff next week regarding amount we'll have to test fish for in herring

6. To look at the region's whole program in the areas of (1) Public process, (2) Management, (3) Research, and (4) Habitat to see if and where cuts can be made.

Jim Menard

1. Prepare RIR of 1996 Bristol Bay Staff Meeting.

Jeff Regnart

1. Editor of Outlook Paper. Discuss with project biologists the office hours for the 1996 season and put those hours in the Outlook Paper and a reminder of how district registrations will be handled. Also, need to put in contract for District test fish which tentatively is \$150 per tide and a tentative (\$1.00 to \$1.50) price per fish.
2. Look at FY 97 yellow book and make comments in red about funding for projects and give back to Dennis.
3. Check with Elmer Sorensen or Earnie Greek about the availability of funds for a furnace and hot water heater for King Salmon bunkhouse.
4. Bid out Agent Transfer forms and order blue and green cards (Keith or Bev to help distribute to area offices).
5. 1996 Spawning Grounds Report author.

Keith Weiland

1. Look at FY 97 yellow book and make comments in red about funding for projects and give back to Dennis.
2. Call Steve Shapiro of Pacific Fishing to give information on office hours and that fishers need to pick up district registration cards in Dillingham, King Salmon, or Anchorage offices.
3. Talk to Denny Johnson regarding problems with fish ticket system. Establish fish ticket editing protocol
4. 1996 Season Summary author.

# 1996 BRISTOL BAY STAFF MEETING MINUTES

March 27-29, 1996  
Anchorage Regional Office

March 27, 1996

Attendance: Baker, Brannian, Browning, Brookover, Crawford, Cross, Fisher, Fried, Gamble, Haanpaa, Hilsinger, Menard, Miller, Regnart, Rowell, Russell, Weiland.

## I. Administration

- A. Appointment of Chairperson - Dennis Haanpaa
- B. Appointment of Recorder - Jim Menard
- C. Agenda Review / Changes

Attachment 1 provides an outline of the issues and topics discussed during the meeting. Some changes and additions to this outline include:

- II. A. 1. c. "GIS - Maps" was added,
- III. B. 2. e. "Buoys" was added in addition to Weiland's discussion about Ugashik.

## II. Regional Issues

- A. Administration Issues
  - 1. Computer Services
    - a. Software direction

Linda Brannian handed out a memo regarding costs for the Dillingham LAN-WAN (Attachment 2).

Tom Brookover commented that different divisions want different things, as some want WAN and some want LAN. There was a question as to in the future who takes care of the costs if we decide to update at the field offices. Linda said to see Dave Mesiar and commented that if a major upgrade occurs we need to get together with regional people and pass the hat.

Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) was notified earlier that we could not afford the LAN/WAN in King Salmon. CFEC will install the network for free in King Salmon. The CFEC equipment is old, but they figure it will be less than a modem set-up

with long distance charges. There was a brief discussion of having Carol work the network in King Salmon when CFEC leaves in July.

Linda believed it was legal for purchases of Windows 95. She said that Dave Mesiar has been taking classes and the question will be whether it works with the network.

Assignment - Linda will find out how Windows 95 works with our network and how some FORTRAN programs work with it.

b. Bristol Bay database

Tim Baker said that Carmine is trying to hire another person to help with the database.

c. Geographic Information Systems (GIS) - Maps

Tim talked about the uses of GIS Mapping as a graphical way of linking to our database, and for reports. Tim has the coastline for our region on GIS. Tim believes that the GIS maps would be more than adequate for the Annual Management Report (AMR) and the Catch & Escapement (C&E) Report.

Assignment - Tim will contact management biologists for salmon statistical areas and he will insert locations into GIS map he is working on.

Tim will also work on hydrology maps. His goal is to have GIS as a mapping tool for this fall. Richard Russell asks if you can change a statistical area in case the Board of Fisheries (BOF) makes changes. Tim said "yes."

C. Personnel

1. Seasonal hiring practices . . . 2. PDQ Update

The meeting skipped ahead to personnel matters when Roberta Fisher and Jan Gamble arrived. Roberta discussed the e-mail she sent on March 22, regarding purchasing reminders. Everyone has an individual purchasing authority of \$1,000. There is \$5,000 limit for bulk purchasing of food for field camps. One major change was that purchase requisitions (PR) will not be processed after June 1 to avoid the usual end of season rush. It may be possible to get a PR in after June 1 if it is accompanied by a justification from the field office.

Roberta noted that these are only a few of the existing purchasing rules and regulations. The remainder can be found in the blue Department SOP Manual, or the Field Office Manual located at most field offices.

A discussion occurred about aircraft charters exceeding \$1,000. Roberta said that the when the point to point charter exceeds \$1,000 it will have to go through normal procurement. Drew Crawford asked if this includes putting in and taking out field camps

which require several flights. Roberta said “yes” or if normal procurement was not used a form explaining why a particular company was used must be filled out.

Assignment - Dennis Haanpaa will meet with John Wayman to discuss problems with new administration regulations on plane charters, that are over \$1,000, requiring a bidding process.

Roberta said that the PDQ form has been changed and is now a PD form. She reminded the staff to make sure hiring is up to date on the PD. A 10 line maximum e-mail is required for all hires. There is now a new Fish & Wildlife Technician I (FWT I) hiring procedure. Wayne Prigge must still be contacted for the request to hire an FWT I. If there are no layoffs or injured workers the authorization to go straight to Job Service will be given. Applicants interested in FWT I jobs should register with the Employment Service office as Juneau is no longer maintaining an eligible list for the FWT I job class.

A discussion on hazard pay and compensation time (comp time) for overtime developed. Roberta said that seasonal employees comp time for overtime results in more time credited to service with the State. If a seasonal employee elects for comp time this must be written in the comments section of the time sheet. Once the seasonal employee enters Leave Without Pay (LWOP) status, comp time pay will begin. If any holidays occur while the seasonal employee is receiving comp time the holiday pay will also be added to the compensation. Roberta pointed out the benefits of comp time for the seasonal employees is that they are receiving more money to their retirement accounts in addition to any holiday pay. Drew commented that a number of his seasonal employees have taken this option and the benefits end up reducing his Line 100 budget by approximately 25% per employee. A word of caution was mentioned that the comp time option is for hours only, i.e., if an employee transferred to Anchorage to work, and then went on LWOP, the comp time hours from Bristol Bay would be paid out at Anchorage scale. A short review of hazard pay for flying and field camp was given by Roberta.

Roberta said revised project allocations would be ready tomorrow.

#### A. Administration Issues

##### 2. DNR Tide Land and Shore Fishery Lease update

Last years legislation which allows the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to convey tidelands to individuals was discussed. The Commissioner of DNR has the option to release the land. They will not convey critical habitat.

One question was if the leases issued are greater than the distance apart nets are allowed by Fish & Game regulations. This may occur if the DNR gives the ownership of the tideland to the Lake and Peninsula Borough and the Borough uses the leases to raise money. The net distances were thought to be a problem that Protection would have to work out.

## B. Budget

### 1. FY96 Pre-Audit . . . 2. Update - funding sources/concerns

The 1996 pre-audit has the budget at \$48,000 in the red. At this time Egegik Smolt is cut. Drew said that to run Egegik Smolt \$39,000 is needed, but due to comp time only \$30,000 is available. Dennis said that still we still need to come up with \$18,000 and if we did not fill the Homer FB II position until May then \$8,000 would be saved.

Bev said if we did run Egegik Smolt the bare minimum needed to run it would be \$21,000 - \$23,000 which includes using Jim Menard as one of the crewmembers. If Igushik Test was cut then money would be available to run Egegik Smolt. Dennis felt that we would be able to run Egegik Smolt by cutting Igushik Test. Tom would like Igushik Test to be budgeted because he plans on fishing Igushik section hard this season. A decision was made to cut Igushik Test.

A discussion began on long term funding problems. One question was do we need to look at Bristol Bay Borough for funding. Richard did not think it looked good since the Borough is not making money due to low fish prices. Bev suggested stopping scale pattern analysis which would result in a reduced sample size being needed at towers and less overtime paid. Also eliminating scale pattern analysis would enable Menard to help more with report writing. Bev said we have 13 years worth of data from scale patterns, and Richard noted that there hasn't been a district boundary change for years.

The discussion moved to eliminating scale pattern analysis and Bev talked about going directly to the processors for bids for test fishing for cost recovery. Richard thought it would be front page news if we changed the stock identification test fishing to strictly cost recovery.

Assignments - Dennis will check with Juneau on bids by processor for test fishing for salmon. Bev and Dennis will work on figuring out how much money is saved by eliminating stock identification. Linda will look at costs saved by modified tower counts.

Assignment - Steve Fried will make copies of FY97 yellow book.

Assignment - Jim Miller, Jeff Regnart, Keith Weiland, Bev, and Tom look at yellow book and make comments in red about funding for projects and get back to Dennis.

Tom suggested getting away from district registration by submitting a proposal to the BOF.

### 3. Dillingham office

Completion date for contract is April 20, but Tom said it looks questionable that the date will be met. Tom said April 15 will be the go/no go date as to moving in before herring

season begins. Elmer Sorenson will have to do an inspection. Dennis said to wait until June 1, and not attempt the move before herring.

Tom said there is money to turn the old office into a bunkhouse and Mark Reynolds has several plans for the conversion. Earnie Greek has responded favorably. Tom mentioned that Sport Fish has expressed concern about the floating costs for the bunkhouse.

4. CIP monies
  - a. Ugashik River Smolt CIP

Drew said for FY96 there is 100% funding for Ugashik Smolt from Lake and Peninsula Borough, and Pilot Point (Attachment 3). If Lake and Peninsula Borough and Pilot Point come through again we will have money for FY97. Richard thought funding would be made available from Lake and Peninsula Borough and Pilot Point. He also suggested sending someone from Research to King Salmon for the Lake and Peninsula Borough, and Pilot Point City Council meeting, on April 9, to make requests for funding and put in a pitch in what our projects do.

Assignment - Steve will meet with Bev and Drew to talk about attending the Lake and Peninsula Borough and Pilot Point City Council meeting on April 9 in King Salmon.

Dennis asked about funding sources for Naknek Smolt. Drew noted that the Park Service is not interested. Bristol Bay Borough is interested, but will not do full funding.

Assignment - Bev to draft letter to Glen Vernon at Bristol Bay Borough to inform him that there is no additional funding available for Naknek Smolt. Have John Hilsinger sign the letter.

5. Fish and Game funding requests

For FY96 the House Finance has cut \$400,000 in addition to \$200,000 cut from the Governor's funding level. Dennis needs to check with Clasby on possible cuts. After the break Dennis said that Clasby and Rue will be at tomorrow's meeting.

Jim Miller brought up sonar replacement issue for an FY97 request. He talked about replacing the Bendix sonar and a possibility of looking at new sites.

- C. Personnel

1. Seasonal hiring . . . 3. Permanent staff changes . . . 4. CFEC Role

Dennis said we needed to downgrade the FB I tower support position to FWT III. Richard is retiring the end of May. CFEC will be in Dillingham April 22 - April 26 for herring and June 10 - June 22 for salmon. CFEC will be in King Salmon from June 10 until sometime in July.

There was a discussion of union test case for Jim Browning moving from GGU to SU. Browning said the case will not be heard until other back-logged cases are heard and it may be a few years until his case comes up.

#### **IV. Miscellaneous**

The meeting schedule was advanced to discuss miscellaneous items since there was little time left to begin discussions on the upcoming herring season.

##### **A. District Registration System**

For district registration this year cards will be handed out in King Salmon, Dillingham and Anchorage. This will help the budget by saving on postage and printing costs. Dennis said to put in the Outlook Paper that cards need to be picked up at the Fish & Game offices.

Assignments - Jeff edits the Outlook Paper. Keith to call Steve Shapiro of Pacific Fishermen to notify him that registration cards need to be picked up this year.

Dennis talked about gradually reducing office hours due to budget cuts. A discussion ensued about what the office hours should be during the salmon season. Both Dillingham and King Salmon office staffs agree that the office hours should be the same at each location.

Assignment - Jeff will get together with project biologists to discuss office hours for the 1996 season and put those hours in the Outlook Paper.

Assignment - Tom will make sure public knows via KDLG, notices, etc. that people will have to drop their registration cards at the office from 8 AM to 5 PM. since there will be no drop box.

##### **B. Salmon Fish Ticket status/needs**

Keith brought up his work with fish tickets. Tim said if anyone needs the TIX program for fish tickets it can now be accessed on the network without needing to contact Juneau.

Assignment - Keith will talk to Denny Johnson and go over problems with fish tickets and how to edit them in the future.

##### **C. Habitat issues**

This will be discussed when Wayne Dolezal is available on Friday.

#### D. District test fishing price per fish to fishers

Jeff summarized the district test fish program for indices in regards to payment to fishers. Since retro payments on fish sold often occur, a suggestion was made to pay the fishers a set amount for each tide fished and a percentage of the fish ticket value. However, since some processors only post a tentative price of 5 or 10 cents a pound, paying a percentage of the fish ticket value did not seem feasible for attracting test fishers. Jeff and Keith felt it would be better to give a price for each fish in addition to an amount for each tide.

Assignment - Jeff will put in Outlook Paper that the payment for test fishing for district indices will be tentatively \$150 per tide and a tentative (\$1.00 to \$1.50) price per fish.

March 28, 1996

Attendance: Baker, Brannian, Browning, Brookover, Clasby, Crawford, Cross, Fried, Haanpaa, Menard, Miller, Regnart, Rowell, Rue, Russell, Weiland.

### III. Program Review

#### TOGIAK HERRING

##### A. 1996 Togiak Herring Forecast

Kathy Rowell presented the outlook for the 1996 season. She said that 8 and 9 year olds will comprise 50 to 60 % of the return forecast of 135,585 tons. The harvest forecast is 23,826 tons with seiners taking approximately 17,868 tons and gillnetters taking approximately 5,956 tons.

##### B. Management

###### 1. Outlook, effort, markets, harvest

Kathy said there is no ice in SW Bering Sea and this may be an indication of an early season as occurred in 1987 and 1993.

Tom said the upcoming season could have the fourth largest gillnet harvest and sixth largest seine harvest. Tom thought there may be a record fleet this year due to low salmon prices in Southeast. He expressed concern that some boats may be without a market.

###### 2. 1996 Program plans

Tom said that C&I Helicopters from Ketchikan has been contracted for aerial survey work. Jim Browning said plans are in place to stay at Togiak Fisheries, Inc. again.

Kathy said there is no money for late season data collection.

Dennis is looking for someone to read herring scales since Kathy will be unable to be at Togiak this year.

Assignments - Steve Fried will check with Steve Moffitt if he or another biologist is willing to age Togiak herring scales. Bev Cross will check with Cathy Tilly and Debbie Crouch to see if they are interested in aging herring scales during the Togiak fishery.

## BRISTOL BAY SALMON

### A. Management (Salmon)

#### 1. Bay Wide Issues

Commissioner Frank Rue and Director Bob Clasby arrived from Juneau.

Dennis went over plans for using test fishing as a cost recovery program to fund projects. Clasby expressed reservations if the funds from Togiak end up being used to fund a project in Cook Inlet, but he did not have a problem if the funds stayed in Bristol Bay.

Bev said that we would like to do strictly cost recovery instead of stock identification test fishing and go to a processor bid for purchasing the fish. Bev and Dennis said that the Director's office could expect to receive complaints about cost recovery. Clasby approved the cost recovery plans and said his office would be willing to respond to any complaints.

Commissioner Frank Rue gave a short talk on the department. He spoke of his pride for the Bristol Bay staff from his visit last year when everyone was working late into the night during the Fourth of July. He discussed what he felt were the four functions of Fish & Game which were, 1. Public process; 2. Good management; 3. Good research; and 4. Protecting habitat.

#### 2. Management by Area

##### a. Togiak

Jim Browning said there is a new management plan for Togiak (Attachment 4). Togiak fishers cannot fish in other districts until July 24 if they start fishing in Togiak. Likewise, those fishing in other districts cannot transfer to Togiak until July 24.

Browning said there has been moderate growth in chinook escapements since 1991 and the escapement goal of 10,000 has been reached the last 3 years. As a conservation measure he expects reductions of 48 hours of fishing time for each week, the last two weeks of June. Sockeye forecast is for 605,000 return with 150,000 escapement and 455,000 for potential harvest. The management plan calls for increasing the exploitation beginning in early July.

455,000 for potential harvest. The management plan calls for increasing the exploitation beginning in early July.

b. Nushagak

The chinook forecast harvest is 60,000. Tom has some reservations about the forecast and will shoot for 45,000. He plans to start fishing between June 8 to June 10. The sockeye forecast is 4.1 million of which Tom plans to take 1.2 million in Igushik. Tom believes that Wood River will come in stronger than the two to one ratio with Nushagak River. A discussion ensued on whether it will be possible to selectively target Wood River fish by fishing later in the season. Jim Miller said that both Wood and Nushagak peak together. Tom felt that coho would most likely be closed for the commercial season.

c. Naknek/Kvichak

The Naknek/Kvichak return for 1996 is estimated to be 14.8 million with an inshore return of 13.8 million. The spawning goal is 5.2 million with 4 million the escapement goal for the Kvichak River. Jeff noted that we are on the downward cycle for the next three years.

d. Egegik

Chinook salmon escapement and catch has been improving. Keith plans to have mesh size restrictions of 5.5 inch mesh or less from June 1 to July 1. For chinook there was below average parent year escapement in 1990, well below average in 1991, and average parent year escapement in 1992. Four day per week periods are planned.

Chum salmon escapement was below average escapement in 1991 and 1992. Richard noted that with past years we did the best we could to augment chum escapement, but it is difficult when the sockeye run is strong. Keith will try to take some sockeye early to provide for window escapements later.

The Egegik sockeye salmon inshore run is forecasted at 16.9 million, the third largest return ever, with a projected harvest of 15.9 million.

e. Ugashik

Chinook salmon peak escapement aerial survey counts have been 5,000 fish. Keith noted that the escapement tends to be twice the catch.

Chum salmon had an average catch for the two parent years and below average escapement in 1991 and average escapement in 1992.

Sockeye salmon harvest is forecasted at 5.5 million, the second largest, from an inshore return of 6.2 million. Keith will try to fish early if there is run strength.

A general discussion on eastside fishing developed with Richard noting that Keith may have 400 to 500 boats fishing in Egegik. Jeff thought that the boats would be spread out in different districts.

Keith mentioned that he had received several letters and phone calls since the buoys have been removed. Fishers have requested an anchor and chain if they provide a buoy. The consensus of the staff was against giving an anchor away. Dennis said to tell them that we have a budget cut and cannot give away any gear.

March 29, 1996

Attendance: Baker, Brannian, Browning, Brookover, Crawford, Cross, Dolezal, Fried, Graham, Haanpaa, Menard, Miller, Regnart, Reynolds, Russell, Weiland.

## B. Research

### 1. Kvichak, Egegik, Ugashik Smolt (Attachment 3)

Tentative operating dates for Kvichak River smolt will be May 16 to June 18. There will be one major change with the addition of a fourth crewmember. Drew felt the addition of another crewmember would help in safety and improved sonar data as one person could watch the counter while the fyke net could be checked in pairs. Also the potential cost savings was anticipated to be a 30-35% decrease in overtime expenses for this project.

The 1995 smolt outmigration for Kvichak River was estimated to be 221 million sockeye salmon with 95% age-1 smolt (1993 brood year). Although the crew arrived on May 17, they were unable to use the sonar until 2400 hours on May 21 due to ice problems. When the counter was activated it immediately began registering high counts. The peak passage date was May 22.

There will be no Naknek River smolt as there is no funding for this project. The final report of Naknek River sockeye salmon smolt studies, 1993-1994, has been completed and submitted to the National Park Service. Drew reported that the high spawning escapement in 1991 (3,578,508) resulted in the third highest smolt outmigration (66,505,945), but the lowest smolt-per-spawner value (18.64). Drew said that there were no extraordinary weather events that would explain the low smolt per spawner production. However, sockeye salmon egg survival may have been reduced in 1991 by limited availability of suitable spawning areas.

Tentative operating dates for Egegik River smolt are May 16 to June 12 and no major changes are planned for 1996.

In 1995 problems were encountered with lake ice in Egegik River and the crew was unable to begin counting with the sonar until 1100 hours on May 22. After the counter was activated high counts began registering. The peak passage date was May 23. The

1995 minimum smolt outmigration estimate was 57 million sockeye salmon with 87% age-1 smolt.

Tentative operating dates for Ugashik River smolt are May 16 to June 15 and no major changes are planned for 1996.

Ugashik River smolt was the only 1995 smolt project that did encounter ice problems. However, there was a delay in getting the gear deployed due to high winds. The 1995 minimum smolt outmigration was 22 million sockeye salmon with 69% age-2 smolt. The counter was activated at 2400 hours on May 22 and a low passage of smolt was detected during the first several hours. The peak passage date was May 25.

## 2. Kvichak, Egegik, Ugashik Rivers test fish

Tentative operating dates for Kvichak River test fish are June 18 to July 25. There will be one major change in 1996 with the camp being relocated to Levelock. The sampling sites will be the same. Drew said the reason for the change was that the old site was silting in and a large mud bar between the old camp and the main channel made it difficult for the crew to get back and forth between the camp and the boat. The test fish and supplies will now be flown in and out by wheel plane.

The 1995 total sockeye test fish catch for Kvichak River was 3,241 fish with 9,923 pounds sold at \$0.84 per lb. average for a total of \$8,318. Estimated travel time ranged from 2.5 d to 1.5 d.

Tentative operating dates for Egegik River test fish are June 12 to July 10-15, and no major changes are planned.

The 1995 total sockeye test fish catch for Egegik River was 1,541 fish with 7,286 pounds sold at \$0.69 per lb. average for a total of \$4,997.96. Estimated travel time ranged from 1.5 d to 2.5 d.

Tentative operating dates for Ugashik River test fish are June 21 to July 15-20, and no major changes are planned.

The 1995 total sockeye test fish catch for Ugashik River was 1,868 fish with 7,569 pounds sold at \$0.70 per lb. average for a total of \$5,287.45. Estimated travel time ranged from 3.00 d to 3.75 d.

## 3. East side catch sampling/scale aging

Scale aging will operate similar to the last six years. Two scale agers will be located in King Salmon. All scales will be processed through King Salmon. The managers will set priorities on scale aging. There will likely be less scales to age this year since the sampling goals will be reduced due to the elimination of digitizing.

Catch sampling will also operate similar to the last six years.

#### 4. Stock ID Studies

Scale pattern analysis will be eliminated. Reasons for elimination were that the benefit to the staff was not great and the accuracy of scale patterns has been decreasing. Also money will be saved by eliminating the project.

Assignment - Bev to write Final Stock ID Report, and to write a one page explanation why we are dropping scale pattern studies.

Assignment - Tom will write an explanation about eliminating Igushik Test due to budget cuts.

Assignment - Dennis will put together a final explanation using Bev and Tom's papers on the budget cuts.

#### 5. Nushagak Sonar

Jim Miller plans on the crew heading to camp on June 6 and counting by June 9. An experienced crew will be returning again. Jim commented that the radio phone that was used at the camp last year worked well, and thought the \$200 price was a good deal.

Sampling for apportionment and ASL (age-sex-length) data will continue by both drift nets and beach seines. In 1995 Jim felt there were some problems with sex identification for jack chinook as the majority were aged as females. Another problem was that drifts beyond the offshore stratum showed that 7% of the coho catch was outside the counting range.

Assignment - Jim Miller to work up any biometrics sampling that will be needed and give the information to Bev.

#### 6. Igushik River test fish

The project will be eliminated if other sources of funding for Egegik River smolt cannot be obtained.

#### 7. West side escapement sampling

The number of samples taken at all towers will be reduced to save on overtime costs. A discussion on eliminating otolith collection developed. To live within our allocation the otolith sampling may be eliminated, but no decision was made at this time.

- C. Update on potential research projects, short and long term, by priority
  - 1. Technical review of tower projects

A discussion on tower costs developed in regards to trying to "whittle" costs down. Jeff mentioned that sampling had been reduced and the next step would be to cut down on the number of days that the tower operated. He said it may be possible to have the crews go out to the field later and come in earlier than in previous years. Tom said he wanted to know how much time would we be able to cut from the towers before we had to look at cutting a tower project.

#### D. Fish and Wildlife Protection Plans

Al Cain the Deputy Commander of C Detachment from Fish and Wildlife Protection would be arriving later so this discussion was postponed.

### REPORTS

#### A. Assignments

##### 1. Herring

Kathy Rowell has two reports. She said the 1990-92 C&E is just about complete and the 1993-95 C&E will take a few weeks to complete.

##### 2. Salmon

###### a. AMR editor

Keith Weiland said the 1995 AMR should be ready next week. The 1996 AMR was assigned to Tom Brookover and Jim Browning.

###### b. Spawning Grounds Surveys . . . c. Management Plan

Jeff Regnart was assigned the 1996 Spawning Grounds Report, and the Management Plan.

###### d. Season summary

Keith Weiland was assigned the Season summary.

###### e. Research

The smolt reports for 1993 and 1995 were completed. The 1993 Test Fish Report was completed. There has been no work on the 1994 and 1995 Test Fish Reports. Drafts of

the 1993 and 1994 Catch and Escapement Report (C&E) were completed. No work has been done on the 1995 C&E.

Bev said that the goal for the research staff would be to catch up on the C&E's before working on test fish reports. A discussion occurred determining what data tables in the C&E were valuable and dropping whatever ones were not useful.

Assignment - Linda and Bev will look at tables to eliminate in C&E and send those tables that they want to eliminate to the management biologists for their comments.

Jim Miller has been working on a Nushagak-Nuyakuk sockeye report. He is integrating data from smolt, towers, sonar, limnological, sampling and aerial surveys. Talk began about a possible CIP proposal to have a five year study on Nushagak-Nuyakuk system.

## MAINTENANCE

### A. King Salmon complex status

Mark Reynolds talked on maintenance issues.

The bathroom situation has been resolved at the King Salmon complex.

The dock needs to be reassembled. Mark thought it could be done before the season begins.

The shop roof is leaking. Mark said it was not bad now and he would try screwing down the fasteners. The water runoff into the shop has not occurred. Mark thought the grading several years ago helped.

The bunkhouse and office are in good shape. Mark said the roofs were in good shape with no leaks. He thought the bunkhouse could use a winterization upgrade to cut down on heating fuel use. The bunkhouse furnace and hot water heater are 26 years old. Mark said the coil in the heat exchanger could fail, but it did look O.K. four years ago. Mark suggested to make a push with Elmer Sorenson or Earnie Greek for a new furnace and hot water heater.

Assignment - Jeff will check with Elmer or Earnie about furnace and hot water heater.

Warm storage needs trim paint. The foundations are rotting on the warm storage building, but Mark thinks he can fix them. The trailer foundation is also rotting and the roof needs work.

Mark said he could fix the cook shack into an apartment. The staff expressed reservations about converting the cook shack into an apartment and thought instead to use it as cold storage.

There is a leak in the water system at the complex. Mark estimates the leak is a couple gallons per minute (9/16/96 - Mark said there was no leak in the system. During the summer he drained the tank and refilled it, but left an air cushion and the leak didn't develop again).

Mark thought a freeze-up alarm system is needed at the complex. With Richard leaving, Mark felt we could have a major catastrophe if we have a freeze-up. Mark said the freeze-up alarm would call someone. However, the system we require would need to reach someone not just an answering machine.

#### B. Dillingham complex status

The new office will be ready for use this year. Plans call for renovating the old office to a bunkhouse and getting rid of the bunkhouse now being used. After salvaging what can be used from the old bunkhouse it will be removed from the site. Suggestions from donating the bunkhouse to the fire department for training, to towing it away (in one piece?) were discussed.

Mark said the shop roof leaks along the eaves and runs down the walls on the inside.

Mark recommended freeze-up alarms for the shop, new bunkhouse and office.

#### C. Outboard motors, status

Mark said that we do need a few more outboards here and there. Bev suggested taking the Igushik 70 hp outboard for use at Kvichak Test. Drew said he could use a 70 hp outboard for Kvichak Test. The more powerful outboard would come in handy for pushing the boat, when it is loaded with fish, back to Levelock.

Assignment - Drew to prepare a purchase requisition for four-wheeler, trailer, and 70 hp outboard for Kvichak Test from Fish & Game fund.

#### D. Boats, status

The new roughneck boats that have been purchased have helped in our goal to modernize our flotilla. Mark said we are approaching where we want to be in regards to boats, but Fred Tilly has told Mark he would prefer the square front (all-welded) boats. Mark said that if anyone runs across 17 foot boats with square fronts at an approximate cost of \$3,000 to let him know (9/16/96 - Mark has heard that the prison system does good welding and makes good boats. He said they put together a boat for Juneau. Mark

thought we could purchase the materials and give them the specifications on what we required, and they would make the boat for us).

#### E. Field Camps

Mark said that the foundation is crumbling at Igiugig. Water has been getting under the pilings and freezing and frost jacking has occurred. Mark said that we would need to get under there and shore up the foundation and do ditch work to improve the drainage. The side door on the garage also needs replacing as a bear went through it.

At Naknek the siding needs to be cleaned and refinished.

At Egegik the foundation needs work. Mark said it might be a lot of work as a lot of digging could be required.

At Ugashik we have been having a problem with porcupines chewing on the wood, but the camp is fine.

The Wood River camp is in good shape. Mark said that the scow is slowly falling apart so eventually we will need a bulkhead to attach the dock .

The Igushik tower and test cabins are fine.

The Togiak cabin needs roofing and foundation work.

The Nuyakuk cabin needs foundation work. Nuyakuk will need repairs to shed roof, the outhouse, and the main cabin needs some patches to the tarpaper.

#### F. Cell phones

A discussion on how well cell phones worked last year occurred. The staff felt the phones worked good, but there was a problem with the system being overloaded resulting in lots of busy signals. This coming season the phone company has decreased their rates by 30 to 40% and has increased the amount of calls that can be handled to double last year. An advantage of cell phones was that if someone was hurt at night they would be able to get help.

#### IV. Miscellaneous

The meeting now took up miscellaneous topics and various topics that had been passed over earlier.

Dennis said he had talked to Clasby about office hours. Dennis asked the staff if they would prefer office hours from 8 AM until 6 PM during the emergency order period. The staff will get together and decide so that office hours are the same at King Salmon and Dillingham.

### **III. Program Review**

#### **D. Fish and Wildlife Protection plans**

Returned to this issue as Al Cain Deputy Commander of C Detachment arrived.

The P/V Wolstad will leave Kodiak on April 28 and plans to arrive on the herring grounds on May 1. The Troopers need an update once the biologists start flying in case the fishery opens early. The Wolstad will be available for measurements of seines from 8 AM to 6 PM in the days before the opening.

Tom and Jeff mentioned that with high prices there will be possibly 350 boats on the grounds this year. Cain said that the Troopers are willing to share equipment and people to help Fish & Game do their job.

The salmon plan is virtually the same as last year. The P/V Wolstad, P/V Public Safety I, and the P/V Trooper will be in Bristol Bay during the fishery. Cain said he would like to sit down with the managers and go over the priorities in enforcement during the season. Cain wants to change what they enforce each year so fishers don't get used to the Troopers schedule. He said that the priority would not be enforcing spotter pilots.

Jim Browning mentioned that Togiak has no enforcement. Cain said he is willing to go over to Togiak and check things out.

### **IV. Miscellaneous**

#### **C. Habitat Issues**

Wayne Dolezal of Habitat and Restoration Division spoke on issues affecting the area.

Tazimina Hydro is doing road construction. They will have a concrete weir to help divert water flows in late winter through the turbine.

Cominco is on hold for their pebble copper mining operation. Wayne does not know if they will be working on the Nondalton to Iliamna road.

Lake & Peninsula Borough will be able to select 125,000 acres. So far the Borough has selected areas on the Mulchatna and Kvichak Rivers, and on Iliamna Lake. The Borough is expected to select areas that have revenue generation potential.

Wayne said to let him or other Habitat personnel know if the staff see anadromous fish in areas where they haven't been documented. Also report any activities that the staff observes creating dirty water.

## BRISTOL BAY STAFF MEETING

March 27-29, 1996  
Anchorage ADF&G Office  
9:00 a.m. Annex Conference Room

### Agenda

#### I. Administration

- A. Appointment of Haanpaa-Chairperson
- B. Assignment of Recorder(s) (Menard)
- C. Agenda Review/Changes

#### II. Regional Issues

- A. Administration Issues
  - 1. Computer Services
    - a. Software direction, LAN/WAN, Windows 95 (Brannian)
    - b. Bristol Bay database *c. GIS-Maps*
  - 2. DNR Tide Land and Shore Fishery Lease update
- B. Budget
  - 1. FY:96 Pre-Audit
  - 2. Update - funding sources/concerns
  - 3. Update - Dillingham new office
  - 4. CIP monies
    - a. Ugashik River smolt CIP (Crawford)
  - 5. Fish and Game Funding requests
  - 6. Cooperative Agreements (Crawford)
    - a. Pilot Point City Council
    - b. Lake and Peninsula Borough
- C. Personnel
  - 1. Seasonal hiring practices/needs for '96
  - 2. PDQ Update (Fisher)
    - a. other issues
  - 3. Permanent staff changes
    - a. retirements (RIPs)
  - 4. CFEC Role/Plans (Kelly)

#### III. PROGRAM REVIEW

##### TOGIAK HERRING

- A. 1996 Season Forecast, (Rowell)

- B. Management (Brookover, Browning, Rowell)
  - 1. Outlook, effort, markets, harvest
  - 2. 1996 Program plans
    - a. Management operations
    - b. Work force, visiting personnel
    - c. Room and board
    - d. Sampling program
    - e. Test fishing
      - i. Point estimate, needed revenue.
      - ii. Late season data collection
  - 3. Inseason reporting of survey, test fishing and harvest data
  - 4. Fish Ticket program
  - 5. Fish and Wildlife protection plans (Capt. Graham?)

### SALMON 1996 SEASON

#### A. Management

- 1. Bay Wide Issues Update
  - a. Discussion from headquarters (Clasby)
  - b. Market Status and the effect on management
- 2. Management by Area
  - a. Togiak (Browning)
  - b. Nushagak (Brookover)
  - c. Naknek/Kvichak (Regnart)
  - d. Egegik (Weiland)
  - e. Ugashik (Weiland)
- 3. Inseason/post-season catch reporting (Baker)

#### B. Research

- 1. Kvichak, Egegik, Ugashik smolt (Crawford)
- 2. Kvichak, Egegik, Ugashik Rivers test fish (Crawford)
- 3. East side catch sampling/scale aging (Menard)
- 4. Stock I.D. studies (Menard)
- 5. Nushagak sonar (Miller)
- 6. Igushik River test fish (Miller)
- 7. West side escapement sampling (Miller)

#### C. Update on potential research projects, short and long term, by priority

- 1. Technical review of tower projects  
(For other sub topics, see memo from Cross 8-17-94)

D. Fish and Wildlife Protection plans

REPORTS

A. Assignments

- 1. Herring
- 2. Salmon
  - a. AMR - editor
  - b. Spawning Ground Surveys
  - c. Management Plan
  - d. Season summary
  - d. Research
- 3. Other

MAINTENANCE

- A. King Salmon complex status
- B. Dillingham complex status
- C. Outboard motors, status
- D. Boats, status
- E. Field Camps
- F. Cell Phones (how well did they work in 95-outlook for 96)

IV. MISCELLANEOUS

- A. District Registration System
  - 1. Ordering Cards
  - 2. Policy
- B. Salmon Fish Ticket status/needs (Weiland)
  - 1. Fish Tix Demo by Herman
- C. Habitat issues (Dolezal)
- D. District Test fishing price per fish to fishers.

DISTRIBUTION:

Clasby	Regnart	McBride
Larson	Miller	Hepler
Eggers	Menard	Minard
Haanpaa	Shook	Dolezal
Fried	Browning	Westward Region (Donaldson)
Hilsinger	Brookover	Kelly - CFEC
Brannian	Russell	Capt. Graham - FWP
Crawford	Fisher	Savikko
Cross	Baker	Saunders
Rowell	Gamble	Reynolds



## MEMORANDUM

## State of Alaska

TO: Distribution

DATE: December 20, 1995

FAX NO: 344-9328

FILE NAME: DLG-NET2.DOC

TELEPHONE NO: 267-2118

FROM: Linda Brannian  
Regional Biometrician  
Central Region  
CFMD Division  
Anchorage

SUBJECT: Costs for the  
Dillingham LAN-  
WAN

**DRAFT**

CFMDD-Region II is in the process of installing a local area network (LAN) in the Dillingham office. We hope to have it operational in April with a remote dial-up link to the Anchorage office and access to statewide e-mail. Local staff have worked hard to reach agreement on the need for all Division's to participate in this LAN. Unfortunately with the lateness of the fiscal year and our division's budget woes (which I am sure match everyone else's) we will not be connecting directly to the wide area network this year or connecting any non-CFMD staff.

We would like to connect all Dillingham staff in FY97 soon after our field season in August or September. Jim Browning will be the local network administrator and has been working with local staff for an agreeable cost share. The purpose of my memo is to provide background as to what we have spent to date and outline the additional charges needed to connect us via a dedicated line to the wide area network.

Table 1 outlines our purchases to date for the Dillingham LAN, totaling \$10,722. We still need a tape backup unit costing about \$3,500 and training for our administrator costing about \$2,000. Table 2 itemizes the costs for hook up to the wide area network (WAN) administered by the Department of Administrations data processing division. If we begin service October 96 it will cost \$10,085. In Table 3 I have distributed the cost of the WAN connection across all local staff expressing interest in participating for \$776 per user. Some staff will get a network card for this amount as we have purchased 12 ethernet cards. Please note we are not interested in cost sharing the amount in Table 1. In future years it is Divisional policy to charge \$500 per user per year. That money is used to defray the \$366/month line charge, software upgrades, etc. Anyway you look at it this is an excellent value for non-CFMDD staff.

In closing I hope your Dillingham staff have your support for this LAN/WAN. As budget managers I hope you can give this a high priority for FY97.

Distribution: McBride, Hepler, Clark, Fall, Utermole, Hughes, Becher, Neyhart

c.c. Hilsinger, Haanpaa, Fried, Mesiar, Johnson, DiCostanzo, Brady, Baker, Dillingham-all divisions

Table 1. Equipment already purchased for the Dillingham LAN by CFMDD Region II.

**DRAFT**

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Item	Number	Cost	Total Cost	Comments
Compaq Prosignia Server	1	5,132	5,132	
Novelle Network 25-user softwar	1	2,193	2,193	
Ether network cards	12	87	1,038	
Synoptics hubs for Lan	1	1,959	1,959	
Microsoft e-mail software	1	400	400	
<b>Total</b>			10,722	

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## DRAFT

Table 2. FY 97 items and cost per machine for the WAN connection in Dillingham.

Item	Number	Cost	Total Cost	Comments
<b>Wan Connection</b>				
WAN Connect Fee	1	1,979	1,979	One time fee to DOA
IP Address fee	1	100	100	For internet access
Cisco 2502 router	1	1,076	1,076	
Software SF25b-10.32	1	1,584	1,584	For router
Cable V.35 10 ft	1	72	72	
Codex 3500 DSU/CSU	2	506	1,012	Modems
Codex V.35 cable	2	35	70	
Circuit install charge	1	500	500	Installing phone line in Dillingham office
<b>Total</b>			<b>6,393</b>	
<b>Additional LAN Equipment</b>				
Internet e-mail software	1	200	200	
<b>Total</b>			<b>200</b>	
<b>WAN Monthly Charge</b>				
WAN charge to DOA	9	366	3,294	Begin monthly charge in October
Local phone charge	9	22	198	
<b>Total</b>		<b>388</b>	<b>3,492</b>	
<b>Grand Total</b>			<b>10,085</b>	

Table 3. Participants in the LAN in Dillingham, payment LAN/WAN hookup, and budget codes.

Division	Number <sup>a</sup> of Ports	Percent of Total	Share of Bill	Budget Code
Boards	1.33	10%	1,034	
CFEC	1.00	8%	776	
CFMDD	4.00	31%	3,103	
SF	4.00	31%	3,103	
Subsistence	1.33	10%	1,034	
WC	1.33	10%	1,034	
<b>Total</b>	<b>13.00</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>10,085</b>	

<sup>a</sup> Cost for 1 machine out of 13 776



*Drew Crawford's notes for the*

**BRISTOL BAY STAFF MEETING**

**March 27-29, 1996**

**Anchorage Regional ADF&G Office**

**9:00 a.m. Annex Conference Room**

**II. Regional Issues**

**B. Budget**

**4. CIP monies**

**a. Ugashik River Smolt CIP**

1) FY95 Funding (Theoretical) - In the spring of 1995, ADF&G began operating the Ugashik River smolt project based on the following funding scenario. ADF&G would fund 2/3 of the project with the Ugashik River Smolt CIP money and Pilot Point City Council (PPCC) would fund 1/3 of the project with cooperative agreement money which would be sent to ADF&G on or before May 15, 1995. After July 1, 1995, Lake and Peninsula Borough (L&PB) would provide an additional 1/3 funding with cooperative agreement money which would be AJE'd back to ADF&G's Ugashik River Smolt CIP budget to reimburse 1995 project costs. Therefore, each of these agencies would contribute 1/3 of the cost for the 1995 Ugashik River Smolt Project.

2) FY95 Funding (Actual) - In actuality, ADF&G received no cooperative agreement moneys for Ugashik Smolt from PPCC or L&PB until after July 5, 1995. Consequently, 100% of the operating costs for the 1995 Ugashik River Smolt Project were charged to ADF&G's Ugashik River Smolt CIP budget (\$45,000.00 appropriation less 10% ADF&G/Admin/Juneau overhead charge = \$40,759.03 available). Therefore, when the PPCC and L&PB cooperative agreement checks (e.g., \$14,000.00 each) were received by ADF&G/Admin/Juneau they AJE'd these moneys back to the Ugashik River Smolt CIP budget and the following moneys are available for the Ugashik River Smolt project in FY96:

3) FY96 Funding - 100% ADF&G Ugashik River Smolt CIP moneys for inseason expenses, and hopefully be reimbursed for 2/3 of these expenses through renewed cooperative agreements with PPCC and L&PB. The renewal of these cooperative agreements are pending.

<u>FY96 Budget Codes</u>	<u>Line</u>	<u>Allocation</u>
11320093-11320093	100	\$23,000.00
	Subtotal	\$23,000.00 <sup>a</sup>

11329001-11329001	200	\$0.00
	300	\$10,500.00
	400	\$7,100.00
	500	\$0.00
	Subtotal	\$17,600.00
	TOTAL	\$40,600.00

\* Less an estimated \$2,250.00 of Clyde Vicary's FY95 comptime expense which should be AJE'd from FY96 Kvichak Tower (11100021-11020402) to FY96 Ugashik Smolt (11320093-11320093).

## 6. Cooperative Agreements

### a. Ugashik River Smolt Project FY96

1. February 22, 1996 - sent revised copies of ADF&G cooperative agreements with Pilot Point City Council (PPCC; COOP-95-084) and Lake and Peninsula Borough (L&PB; COOP-95-085) to ADF&G/Admin/Juneau for their review and approval.
2. March 22, 1996 - called PPCC and L&PB to find out if they were interested in renewing their cooperative agreements with ADF&G to assist with the funding of the Ugashik River Smolt Project again this year. Found out that both agencies will be holding their next meetings on Tuesday, April 9th. Both requested that revised copies of last years cooperative agreements be sent to them before April 9 so that they can be discussed and considered at their next meeting.

## C. Personnel

### 1. Seasonal hiring practices/needs for '96

#### a. Smolt -

- 1) If Eg Smolt funded - one FTII vacancy at Ug Smolt (Levno-Chythlook), one FTII vacancy at Eg Smolt (McFadden), and one FTII vacancy at Kv Smolt (new 4th crew member).
- 2) If Eg Smolt not funded - no vacancies; one FTII from Eg Smolt will go to Ug Smolt (Levno-Chythlook) and another will go to KV Smolt (new 4th crew member).

#### b. Eastside River Test Fish - no known vacancies at this time

### III. PROGRAM REVIEW

#### *SALMON 1996 SEASON*

#### B. Research

##### 1. Smolt Projects

##### a. Kvichak River Smolt

- 1) Tentative operating dates: May 16 to June 18, ct to 1200 hours June 16
- 2) Major change for 1996 - addition of a 4th crew member.
- 3) Crew: 4 FTII's (Tilly, Salmon, Perrin, and possibly Wightman)

Reason for adding an additional crew member:

- (a) Safety - the addition of a 4th person will allow the crew to set and check the fyke net in pairs, rather than alone. Having two people working the fyke net and an extra person to help set and pull arrays should also decrease the incidence of muscle and back injuries.
  - (b) Improve Sonar Data - since fyke net catches are often best during times of moderate to heavy smolt sonar counts, this is the worst possible time to have a sonar operator abandon the counter and boat off to check the fyke net catch. The larger crew will allow the sonar operator to man his post full-time while the other crew members check the fyke net.
  - (c) Potential Cost Savings - currently paying 45-50 h of OT per pay period for 2 of 3 crew members; by hiring an additional FTII I anticipate a 30-35% decrease in OT expenses for this project.
- 4) Al Menin - serviced Kvichak counter and printer during the fall of 1995, he will field test the same units May 20-24, 1996.
  - 5) Summary of 1995 Results:
    - (a) Problems with lake ice in the Kvichak River in 1995. Although the crew arrived in Igiugig on the evening of May 17, they were unable to count smolt with sonar prior to 2400 hours on May 21 due to ice problems.

- (b) Although no signs of smolt were reported prior to this time, as soon as the smolt counter was activated at 2400 hours on May 21 it immediately began registering high smolt counts. The smolt passage rate during the first 12 h of sonar operations ranged from 1.5 to 4.6 million smolt per hour and equaled 34.9 million smolt. Based on the high rate of passage during the first day of counting, a substantial number of smolt could have passed the Kvichak sonar site before counting began.
- (c) First fyke net catch (n = 150) after 3 h 15 min of fishing on the evening of May 22. Age comp of catch was 94% age -1. smolt and 6% age-2. smolt.
- (d) Equipment problems (e.g., siltation of arrays and sporadic printer problems) contributed to 29 h of disabled time.
- (e) 1995 outmigration estimate = 221 million sockeye salmon smolt (conservative estimate)

Age-1. smolt (1993 brood year) = 95%  
 Age-2. smolt (1992 brood year) = 05%

- (f) Smolt Outmigration Timing

Peak passage dates - May 21-22  
 Peak date - May 22  
 Peak hourly passage - 0100 to 0300 hours

- (g) Parent Yrs: Age 1. - 1993; Esc = 4,025,166 (47% of returning adults were Age 1.)  
 Age 2. - 1992; Esc = 4,725,864 (53% of returning adults were Age 2.)
- (h) Average Smolt Return / Spawner ('81-'90 Brood Yr) = 26.5
- (i) Average Marine Survival
- Age 1.-smolt ('79-'88 Brood Yr) = 13%  
 Age 2.-smolt ('79-'88 Brood Yr) = 17%
- (j) Average Size Data

Age 1. - 6.2 g, 87 mm; 7% heavier and the same length as the 1955-94 average  
 Age 2.- 9.8 g, 103 mm; 6% lighter and 4% shorter than the 1955-94 average

#### **b. Naknek River Smolt**

- 1) No funding for field studies in 1995
- 2) Reporting activities:

April 1995 - Naknek River sockeye salmon smolt studies, 1993-1994. Draft Final Report. Completed and submitted to National Park Service (NPS) for review comments.

November 1995 - ADF&G received NPS review comments on Draft Final Report

December 1995 - Naknek River sockeye salmon smolt studies, 1993-1994. Final Report. Completed and submitted to NPS.

### 3) Major Findings:

- (a) The total production estimate of age-1. and -2. sockeye salmon smolts from the record 1991 Naknek R spawning escapement of 3,578,508 sockeye salmon was 66,505,945 smolt.
- (b) Comparing spawning escapements, smolt production, and smolt-per-spawner values for brood yrs 1980-83 and 1991, we see that the high spawning escapement in 1991 produced the third highest smolt outmigration, but the lowest smolt-per-spawner value. The smolt-per-spawner value for the 1991 brood yr (18.64) was significantly less ( $p=0.0497$ ) than those observed for brood years 1980-83.
- (c) Adult returns from 1991 brood yr
  - 1994 - 12,538 age-1.1 (jack) salmon  
(minor contributor to overall adult return to the Naknek R, however this is the largest return of jacks on record)
  - 1995 - 547,993 age-1.2 (comparable to the 1981-90 avg return of 549,000 fish)  
774 age-2.1 (well below the 1981-90 avg return of 13,000 fish)
- (d) Age -1. and -2. smolt produced by the 1991 esc were slightly smaller than the average size observed for previous brood yrs, however the mean length and weight of age-1. and -2. smolt were not significantly different than those observed historically.
- (e) A graphical comparison of smolt production by age class for brood yrs 1980-83 and 1991 does not support the hypothesis that there is a significantly higher percentage of age-2. sockeye salmon smolt produced by the 1991 esc compared to previous years.
- (f) Other factors effecting freshwater survival:
  - No extraordinary weather events that would explain the low smolt per spawner production.
  - Sockeye salmon egg survival may have been reduced in 1991 by limited availability of suitable spawning areas. Only 6 major spawning areas in the Naknek R drainage (e.g., American Ck, Hardscrabble Ck, Margot Ck, Idavin Ck, Brooks R, and Headwaters Ck). Aerial surveys flow on Aug 20-21, 1991 documented

numerous concentrations of salmon in places where they had not been reported in the past. Traditional spawning areas appeared to be utilized fully with large numbers of schooling salmon observed at the mouths of creeks and in the lower reaches of tributaries suggesting egg superimposition may have been a major problem in 1991 as subsequent waves of fish moved in to spawn on top of existing redds.

### c. Egegik River Smolt

- 1) No major changes planned for 1996.
- 2) Tentative operating dates: May 16 to June 12, ct smolt till 1200 hours June 10
- 3) Crew: 4 FTII's (McNeil, Kerns, Hamm, and Vacant)
- 4) Summary of 1995 Results:
  - (a) Problems with lake ice in the Egegik River in 1995. Although the crew arrived at Egegik cabin on the afternoon of May 17, they were unable to count smolt with sonar prior to May 22 due to ice problems.
  - (b) Although no signs of smolt were reported prior to this time, as soon as the smolt counter was activated at 1100 hours on May 22 it immediately began registering high smolt counts from large dense schools of smolt (e.g., 36,000 to 60,000 cts/h on the center and offshore arrays) passing at depths of 100-180 cm below the surface. No predatory bird feeding activity in 1995.
  - (c) First fyke net catch ( $n = 150$ ) after 33 min of fishing on the evening of May 23. Age comp of catch was 80% age -2. smolt and 20% age-1. smolt.
  - (d) No major equipment or weather problems in 1995.
  - (e) 1995 outmigration estimate = 57 million sockeye salmon smolt (minimum estimate)
    - Age-1. smolt (1993 brood year) = 13%
    - Age-2. smolt (1992 brood year) = 87%
  - (f) Smolt Outmigration Timing
    - Peak passage dates - May 22-25
    - Peak date - May 23
    - Peak hourly passage - 0100 to 0500 hours
  - (g) Parent Yrs: Age 1. - 1993; Esc = 1,516,980 (9% of returning adults were Age 1.)  
Age 2. - 1992; Esc = 1,945,332 (72% of returning adults were Age 2.)

(h) Average Smolt Return / Spawner ('81-'90 Brood Yr) = 49.6

(i) Average Marine Survival

Age 1.-smolt ('79-'88 Brood Yr) = 25%

Age 2.-smolt ('79-'88 Brood Yr) = 25%

(j) Average Size Data

Age 1. - 9.3 g, 103 mm; equal to the 1934-94 average weight and length

Age 2.- 11.6 g, 112 mm; 19% lighter, but equal to the 1934-94 average length

### c. Ugashik River Smolt

1) No major changes planned for 1996.

2) Tentative operating dates: May 16 to June 15, ct to 1200 hours June 13

3) Crew: 3 FTII's (Vicary, Gray, and Vacant)

4) Summary of 1995 Results:

(a) Only 1995 smolt project that did not encounter ice problems.

(b) Although no signs of smolt were reported prior to this time, as soon as the smolt counter was activated at 2400 hours on May 22 a low passage of smolt (e.g., 1,200 to 17,000 cts/h) was detected during the first several hours of operation.

(c) First fyke net catch (n = 130) after 4 min of fishing on the evening of May 24. Age comp of catch was 78% age -2. smolt and 22% age-1. smolt.

(d) No major equipment in 1995 and the weather was generally favorable for counting smolt. 33 h of disabled time due to weather in 1995.

(e) 1996 outmigration estimate = 22 million sockeye salmon smolt (minimum estimate)

Age-1. smolt (1993 brood year) = 31%

Age-2. smolt (1992 brood year) = 69%

(f) Smolt Outmigration Timing

Peak passage dates - May 23-28

Peak date - May 25

Peak hourly passage - 2400 to 0300 hours

(g) Parent Yrs: Age 1. - 1993; Esc = 1,389,534 (24% of returning adults were Age 1.)

Age 2. - 1992; Esc = 2,173,692 (63% of returning adults were Age 2.)

(h) Average Smolt Return / Spawner ('81-'92 Brood Yr) = 83.9

(i) Average Marine Survival

Age 1.-smolt ('81-'88 Brood Yr) = 7%

Age 2.-smolt ('80-'87 Brood Yr) = 12%

(j) Average Size Data

Age 1. - 7.8 g, 93 mm; 15% heavier and 2% larger than the 1958-94 average

Age 2.- 11.1 g, 106 mm; 8% lighter and 5% shorter than average

## 2. River Test Fishing Projects

### a. Kvichak River Test Fish

1) One major change for 1996 - relocating the base camp to Levelock,

(a) reason for change - old site silting in, large mud bar formed between the old camp and the main channel of the river, crew reporting a great deal of difficulty getting back and forth between the camp and their boat.

(b) renting a room in a building owned by James Woods Sr, sampling sites will remain the same, fish and supplies can be flown in and out by wheel plane

2) Expected operating dates: June 18 to July 15-20

3) Crew: 2 FTII's (McFadden and Gray)

4) Preliminary Results of 1995

(a) Total sockeye test fish catch = 3,241 fish

(b) 1995 Fish Sales = 9,923 lbs @\$0.84 per lb avg = \$8,318.00

(c) Spawning Escapement Estimates:

6/23-28 based on Mean EPI Value (111)

6/29 sufficient spawning esc to estimate EPI Value base on travel time

(d) Estimated travel time - range 2.5 d to 1.5 d, mean=1.84 d, mode=2 d  
best travel time on the last day of the project = 1.5 d

### b. Egegik River Test Fish

1) No major changes in 1996.

2) Expected operating dates: June 12 to July 10-15

3) Crew: 2 FTII's (Russell and Townsend)

4) Preliminary Results of 1995

- (a) Total sockeye test fish catch =1,541 fish
- (b) 1995 Fish Sales = 7,286 lbs @\$0.69 per lb avg = \$4,997.96
- (c) Spawning Escapement Estimates:
  - 6/16-27 based on Mean EPI Value (79)
  - 6/28 sufficient spawning esc to estimate EPI Value base on travel time
- (d) Estimated travel time - range 1.5 d to 2.5 d, mean=1.98 d, mode=2 d  
best travel time on the last day of the project = 2.0 d

### **c. Ugashik River Test Fish**

- 1) No major changes in 1996.
- 2) Expected operating dates: June 21 to July 15-20
- 3) Crew: 2 FTII's (Wightman and Middleton)
- 4) Preliminary Results of 1995

- (a) Total sockeye test fish catch =1,868 fish
- (b) 1995 Fish Sales = 7,569 lbs @\$0.70 per lb avg = \$5,287.45
- (c) Spawning Escapement Estimates:
  - 6/24-7/06 based on Mean EPI Value (80)
  - 7/07 sufficient spawning esc to estimate EPI Value base on travel time
- (d) Estimated travel time - range 3.00 d to 3.75 d, mean=3.21 d, mode=3.00 d  
best travel time on the last day of the project = 3.00 d

## ***REPORTING ASSIGNMENTS***

### **B. Salmon**

#### **4. Research**

1) <u>Reports</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Date</u>
94 Smolt RIR Final	Crawford/Cross	Done	4/12/95
Smolt Instruction Manual RIR	Crawford/Tilly	Done	5/04/96
95 Smolt RIR Final	Crawford/Cross	Done	3/01/96
93/94 Naknek Smolt RIR Draft	Crawford/Cross	Done	3/30/95
93/94 Naknek Smolt RIR Final	Crawford/Cross	Done	1/06/96
93 C&E RIR Draft	Crawford/Staff	In Progress	??/96

94 C&E RIR Draft	Crawford/Staff	In Progress	??/96
95 C&E RIR Draft	Crawford/Staff	Impending	??/??
93 River Test Fish RIR Final	Stratton/Crawford	Done	1/31/96
94 River Test Fish RIR Draft	Crawford/Miller	Back Burner	??/??
95 River Test Fish RIR Draft	Crawford/Miller	Back Burner	??/??

## 1996 TOGIAC DISTRICT COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHING OUTLOOK

The Alaska Board of Fisheries adopted the Togiak District Salmon Management Plan (TDSMP) in January, 1996. The plan gave management guidelines on 5 key issues primarily directed towards the Togiak River Section sockeye salmon fishery. These were: (1) placing current Biological Escapement Goals for sockeye, chinook, and coho salmon in a regulatory document; (2) adding 36 hours of fishing time to the weekly fishing schedule between July 1 and July 16 (from 4 days/week to 5 and 1/2 days/week); (3) limiting the length of extensions to the weekly fishing schedule to 48 hours (not allowing continuous fishing); (4) 5 and 1/2 inch mesh size or less must be used from June 15 through July 15 for chinook conservation; and (5) Restricted district registration prohibiting boats that fish in any other district to fish in the Togiak District until July 24.

Chinook salmon from the Togiak River have been a conservation concern for the last life cycle. Total inshore runs went from over 46,000 in 1985 to a low of just over 15,000 in 1991. Since then, chinook runs have shown moderate growth each year; the escapement goal of 10,000 fish in the Togiak River has been met the last three years, with recent inshore returns of 25,000 fish or more. Mesh size restrictions and closures of up to two weeks in length in late June have been implemented in order to achieve the escapement goal.

Chinook salmon are not forecasted for the Togiak River due to the short time series covered by the database. However, parent-year escapements for the major age classes are some of the lowest on record, and well below the escapement goal. Conservation measures are still needed to keep exploitation rate in the commercial fishery below 50%. The new TDSMP will automatically initiate a 5 and 1/2 inch mesh restriction from June 15 to July 15. Reduction in the weekly fishing schedule during the last two weeks of June is again anticipated; probably 48 hour reductions each week (from 4 days to 2 days/week). Effort levels during the chinook fishery may be higher than recent years, due to the "Restricted District Registration" component of the TDSMP.

The 1995 sockeye salmon inshore run to the Togiak River is forecasted to be 605,000 fish, or 15% over the recent 10-year average forecast. The return is forecast to be 24% 2-ocean fish, and 76% 3-ocean fish. Considering the escapement goal of 150,000 sockeye past the counting towers at Togiak Lake, this leaves approximately 455,000 sockeye potentially available for harvest. The TDSMP specifies 5 and 1/2 days of fishing per week during the July 1 through July 16 time period. This is a slightly more aggressive fishing schedule than has been implemented in the past, specifically during the first week of July. Again, effort levels will be held constant throughout most of the sockeye fishery due to "Restricted District Registration" contained in TDSMP. Depending on the number of permit holders that elect to stay in Togiak District; it is likely that weekly fishing periods will be the maximum of 6 days per week during the month of July.

Coho salmon are not formally forecast in the Togiak District. Parent-year escapement is the only preseason indicator of run strength; which in 1992 was estimated to be 80,100 fish. This was the highest spawning escapement for coho since 1980. Coho production has been variable, and even with the strong parent-year escapement for this particular return, coho runs have been marginal in most of the last 10 years. A conservative management approach is still envisioned. Depending on the effort levels resulting from the TDSMP, a restricted weekly schedule in August is possible.

Parent-year escapement for pink salmon returning to the Togiak River in 1996 was only 88,000 fish (1994). Pink salmon "management" should be conservative; additional fishing time over the regular weekly fishing schedule is not likely in the Togiak District.

The outlook for chum salmon in the Togiak District in 1996 is marginal. The parent-year (1992), had a total inshore run of 296,000 , which was 36% below the recent 10-year average.