

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

REVIEWER LETTER

Dear Reviewer:

August 2012

The Alaska Board of Fisheries will consider the attached book of regulatory proposals at its **October 2012 through March 2013** meetings. These proposals concern changes to the State's fishing regulations. Members of the public, organizations, advisory committees, and ADF&G staff timely submitted these proposals. The proposals are published essentially as they were received.

The proposals in this book are presented as brief statements summarizing the intended regulatory changes. In cases where confusion might arise or where the regulation is complex, proposed changes are also indicated in legal format. In this format, bolded and underlined words are **additions** to the regulation text, and capitalized words or letters in square brackets [XXXX] are deletions from the regulation text.

You are encouraged to read all proposals presented in this book. Some regulations have statewide application and some regulations may affect other regions or fisheries of the state. Also, some proposals recommend changes to multiple fisheries within an area or region.

In this book the proposals are first grouped by the meeting to which they pertain (see *Proposal Index* for each meeting). Within each meeting the proposals are then organized by region, fishery or species. These proposal lists are not in roadmap order for the meeting. The board will generate a roadmap for deliberations prior to each meeting when committee assignments are made. The roadmap may be changed up to and during the meeting. Agendas for each Board of Fisheries meeting will also be available prior to the meeting.

Before taking action on these proposed changes to the regulations, **the board would like your written comments and/or oral testimony on any effects the proposed changes would have on your activities.**

After reviewing the proposals, please send written comments to:

ATTN: BOF COMMENTS
Boards Support Section
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526
Fax: 907-465-6094

Public comment, in combination with advisory committee comments and ADF&G staff presentations, provide the Board of Fisheries with useful biological and socioeconomic information. Written comments become public documents. The following are recommendations for providing written comments:

Timely Submission. Submit written comments by mail or fax so that they are received no later than two weeks prior to the meeting during which the topic will be considered (see *Tentative Meeting Schedule* on Page v). Written comments received after the two-week deadline will still be accepted but will not be inserted in board member workbooks until the beginning of the meeting or cross-referenced with individual proposals.

Length. Prior to the two week deadline, the board will accept written comment of up to 100 single sided pages in length from any one individual or group relating to proposals at any one meeting. After the two week deadline, written comment will be limited to 10 single sided pages in length. During the meeting, written comments up to 10 pages in length may be submitted by hand delivery if 25 copies are provided.

List the Proposal Number. Written comments should indicate the proposal number to which the comments apply and should clearly indicate whether you ~~–support~~” or ~~–oppose~~” the proposal. This will help ensure written comments are correctly noted for the board members. If the comments support a modification in the proposal, please indicate ~~–support~~ as amended” and provide your preferred amendment in writing. You do not need to list the Alaska Administrative Code (AAC) number.

PLEASE EXPLAIN WHY YOU SUPPORT OR OPPOSE THE PROPOSAL. This helps the board understand the rationale for your recommendation and identify factors that should be taken into account when acting on the proposal. A brief description consisting of a couple of sentences on why you support or oppose the proposal is sufficient.

Write Clearly. Comments will be scanned and photocopied so please use 8.5" x 11" paper and leave reasonable margins on all sides allowing for hole punches. Whether typed or handwritten, use dark ink and write legibly. If making comments on more than one proposal, please do not use separate pages for each proposal - simply begin the next set of written comments by listing the next proposal number.

Advisory Committees. In addition to the above, please make sure the advisory committee meeting minutes reflect the minority opinion along with the majority opinion. The board benefits greatly from understanding the pros and cons of each issue. Also, minutes should note the number of committee members in attendance as well as other stakeholders or others in attendance during meetings.

SPECIAL NOTES: The board applies various statutes and policies when considering fisheries allocations and when addressing salmon proposals: When addressing proposals affecting subsistence uses, the board provides for a reasonable opportunity for subsistence consistent with AS 16.05.258 and 5 AAC 99.010(b). When addressing allocations among commercial, sport, guided sport, and/or personal use fisheries, the board applies its *Allocation Criteria* (AS 16.05.251(e)). When addressing salmon fisheries it applies its *Mixed Stock Salmon Policy* (5 AAC 39.220) and its *Sustainable Salmon Fisheries Policy* (5 AAC 39.222). You may wish to review these statutes and policies as you prepare comments for the board. These are accessible on the board's website (<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fisheriesboard.main>).

Persons with a disability needing special accommodations in order to comment on the proposed regulations should contact the Boards Support Section at (907) 465-4110 no later than two weeks prior to the scheduled meeting to make any necessary arrangements.

Monica Wellard, Executive Director
Alaska Board of Fisheries
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
(907) 465-4110

**ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES
2012/2013 PROPOSAL BOOK**

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**ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES
2012/2013 Cycle
Tentative Meeting Dates and Locations**

**Bristol Bay, Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim, and
Alaska Peninsula/Aleutian Islands Finfish;
Statewide General Finfish Provisions;
and Supplemental Issues**

PROPOSAL DEADLINE: 5:00 p.m. Tuesday, April 10, 2012

Meeting Dates	Topics	Location	Comment Deadline
October 9-11, 2012 [3 days]	Work Session ACRs, cycle organization, Stocks of Concern	Anchorage Denaina Civic & Convention Center	Sept. 25, 2012
December 4-12, 2012 [9 days]	Bristol Bay Finfish	Naknek Bristol Bay Borough School	Nov. 19, 2012
January 15-20, 2013 [6 days]	Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Finfish	Anchorage Sheraton Hotel	Jan. 2, 2013
Feb. 26-Mar. 3, 2013 [6 days]	Alaska Peninsula/ Aleutian Islands Finfish	Anchorage Sheraton Hotel	Feb. 12, 2013
March 19-24, 2013 [6 days]	Statewide Finfish and Supplemental Issues	Anchorage Hilton Hotel	Mar. 5, 2013

Total Meeting Days: 30

Agenda Change Request Deadline: **August 27, 2012** [45 days prior to fall Work Session]

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES
LONG-TERM MEETING CYCLE
 (Three-year cycle)

The board meeting cycle generally occurs from October through March. The board considers changes to regulations on a region-based schedule. All fisheries are considered when the regional area, shellfish species, or statewide regulations are before the board. The fisheries include subsistence, sport, guided sport, personal use, and commercial. Special petition and agenda change request procedures are available for the board to consider out-of-cycle requests.

NOTES:

1) Statewide shellfish regulations will not be considered every meeting cycle. When setting the future meeting schedule annually, the board will determine whether to consider statewide finfish or shellfish regulations for that meeting cycle.

2) The proposal deadline is April 10 every year. *If April 10 falls on a weekend, the proposal deadline is the Friday preceding that weekend.*

Meeting Cycle:	2012/2013	2015/2016	2018/2019	2021/2022
<u>Area:</u> Alaska Peninsula/Aleutian Island Areas (All Finfish) Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Areas (All Finfish) Bristol Bay Area (All Finfish) Statewide Provisions for Finfish				

Meeting Cycle:	2013/2014	2016/2017	2019/2020	2022/2023
<u>Area:</u> Cook Inlet Area (All Finfish) Kodiak and Chignik Areas (All Finfish) King and Tanner Crab (Statewide, except Southeast/Yakutat)				

Meeting Cycle:	2014/2015	2017/2018	2020/2021	2023/2024
<u>Area:</u> Prince William Sound Area (All Finfish) Southeast/Yakutat Areas (All Finfish) Southeast/Yakutat Areas (King Crab, Tanner Crab, Dungeness Crab, Shrimp; and Miscellaneous Shellfish) Statewide Miscellaneous Shellfish and Provisions				

THE MEETING CYCLE REPEATS ITSELF EVERY THREE YEARS. This schedule was adopted November 9, 1990, updated October 13, 2010.

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES
Member List
(as of July 1, 2012)

<u>NAME AND ADDRESS</u>	<u>TERM EXPIRES</u>
Karl Johnstone (Chair) 18618 Snowy Plover Circle Anchorage, AK 99516	6/30/2015
Bill Brown (Vice Chair) 9150 Skywood Drive Juneau, AK 99801	6/30/2014
John Jensen P.O. Box 681 Petersburg, AK 99833	6/30/2014
Vince Webster P.O. Box 121 King Salmon, AK 99613	6/30/2013
Tom Kluberton P.O. Box 200 Talkeetna, AK 99676	6/30/2013
Sue Jeffrey P.O. Box 3363 Kodiak, AK 99615	6/30/2014
Orville Huntington P.O. Box 107 Huslia, AK 99746	6/30/2015

Alaska Board of Fisheries members may be reached at:

Boards Support Section
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526
Phone: (907) 465-4110
Fax: (907) 465-6094

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=process.main>

BOARDS SUPPORT SECTION STAFF LIST

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Mailing address: P.O. Box 115526, Juneau, AK 99811-5526
Physical location: 1255 West 8th Street
Phone: (907) 465-4110; Fax: (907) 465-6094

HEADQUARTERS

Board of Fisheries

Monica Wellard, Exec. Director II, 465-6095
Shannon Stone, Pub. Specialist II, 465-6097

Board of Game

Kristy Tibbles, Exec. Director I, 465-6098
Vacant, Pub. Specialist II, 465-4046

Vacant, Administrative Officer I, 465-6096
Fathom Whiteley, Administrative Assistant I, 465-4110
Dani Cherian, College Intern III, 465-6424

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Western Region

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DRAFT

NOTICE OF PROPOSED CHANGES IN THE
REGULATIONS OF THE ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES

The Alaska Board of Fisheries proposes to adopt, amend, or repeal regulations contained in Title 5 of the Alaska Administrative Code, dealing with fishery and aquatic plant resources in the areas designated below, including the following:

IN THE BRISTOL BAY AREA; IN THE ARCTIC-KOTZEBUE, NORTON SOUND-PORT CLARENCE, YUKON, AND KUSKOWIM AREAS (collectively referred to as Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim or A-Y-K Areas), INCLUDING THE CHUKCHI-BEAUFORT COMMERCIAL GROUND FISH AREA, THE BERING SEA-KOTZEBUE COMMERCIAL HERRING AREA, AND THE NORTH SLOPE, NORTHWESTERN, YUKON RIVER, TANANA RIVER, AND KUSKOKWIM-GOODNEWS SPORT FISH AREAS; IN THE ALASKA PENINSULA, ALEUTIAN ISLANDS, AND ATKA-AMLIA AREAS, INCLUDING THE SOUTH ALASKA PENINSULA AND BERING SEA-ALEUTIAN ISLANDS COMMERCIAL GROUND FISH AREAS; AND STATEWIDE (GENERAL PROVISIONS) FINFISH REGULATION.

- A. In the **commercial, sport, guided sport, and guided sport ecotourism fisheries**: fishing seasons, periods, opening and closing times; bag, possession, size, sex, and harvest limits, harvest levels, thresholds or quotas; bycatch provisions; districts, subdistricts, sections, subsections, areas, and other management boundaries; locations open and closed to fishing; methods and means; gear and vessel restrictions, marking, definitions, operational requirements and limitations, registration and permit requirements; registration areas (including exclusive and super exclusive registration areas), permits, harvest record, harvest marking requirements; management plans for conservation, development and allocation among beneficial uses; guiding principles; require, restrict or prohibit the retention, tendering, sale, release, or purchase of fish; methods of release; registration and reporting requirements for fish guides, guided anglers, catchers, processors, buyers and transporters; onboard observer requirements; fish storage and inspection requirements.
- B. In the **subsistence, and personal use fisheries (finfish)**: identify subsistence uses and users; fishing seasons, periods, opening and closing times, harvest levels; methods and means; size, age, and sex limitations; districts, subdistricts, sections, subsections, areas, and other management boundaries; locations open and closed to fishing; gear and vessel restrictions and operational requirements; harvest limits, registration and permit requirements, requirements for marking and possession of fish; management plans for conservation, development and allocation among beneficial uses, and users; identify customary and traditional uses of fish stocks, determine amounts reasonably necessary for subsistence uses, and establish, change or adjust subsistence and personal use fisheries.

For a copy of the proposed regulation changes contact the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Boards Support Section, P.O. Box 115526, Juneau, AK 99811-5526, tel. (907) 465-4110 or go to the internet at: <http://www.boards.adfg.state.ak.us/>

You may comment on the regulation changes, including the potential costs to the private persons of complying with the proposed changes, by submitting written comments limited to no more than 100 single sided or 50 double sided pages to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Boards Support Section, P.O. Box 115526, Juneau, AK 99811-5526, or by fax to (907) 465-6094, so that the comments will be received no later than two weeks prior to the meeting during which the topic will be considered. Unless otherwise specifically specified for a particular meeting in a published notice, written comment over 100 single sided or 50 double sided pages in length from any one individual or group relating to proposals at any one meeting will not be accepted. Written comments limited to 10 single sided or 5 double sided pages in length from any one individual or group will also be accepted after the two-week deadline, but will not be inserted in board member workbooks until the beginning of the meeting. During the meeting written comments limited to 10 single sided or 5 double sided pages in length from any one individual or group may be submitted by hand delivery at any time if 25 copies are provided; but, as a practical matter comments submitted after the board begins deliberations on relevant proposals are likely to receive less consideration than comments submitted earlier. Oral comments may also be presented as explained below.

There will be one nonregulatory work session and four separate regulatory meetings. Each meeting will start at 8:30 a.m. on the first day of the meeting dates noted below. The public hearing portions for each regulatory meeting will begin immediately after staff reports and continue until everyone who has signed up and is present has been given the opportunity to be heard. Additional public hearings with Board Committees may be held throughout the meeting before consideration and adoption of proposed changes in the regulations for the various areas. An agenda will be posted daily during the meeting. The board will take oral testimony only from those who register before the cut-off time announced by the board chair at each regulatory meeting. The length of oral statements may be limited to five minutes or less. Anyone interested in, or affected by, the subject matter contained in this legal notice should make written or oral comments if they wish to have their views considered by the board.

TENTATIVE MEETING SCHEDULE

Work Session: agenda change requests, cycle organization, and stocks of concern

October 9-11, 2012

Denaina Civic & Convention Center, 555 West 5th Avenue, Anchorage, AK

Bristol Bay Finfish

December 4-12, 2012

Bristol Bay Borough School, 2 School Road, Naknek, AK

Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Finfish

January 15-20, 2013

Sheraton Hotel, 401 East 6th Avenue, Anchorage, AK

Alaska Peninsula/Aleutians Islands Finfish

February 26-March 3, 2013

Sheraton Hotel, 401 East 6th Avenue, Anchorage, AK

Statewide Finfish and Supplementary Items

March 19-24, 2013

Hilton Hotel, 500 West 3rd Avenue, Anchorage, AK

Any changes to meeting locations, dates or times, or rescheduling of topics or subject matter will be announced by news release. Please watch for these announcements in the news media or call (907) 465-4110. Please carefully review the **PROPOSAL INDEX** available for the meeting for specific proposal issues to be addressed by the board. Copies of the proposal indices are in the proposal book or at the relevant meeting.

Anyone interested in or affected by subsistence, personal use, commercial fishing, sport, guided sport, or guided sport ecotourism regulations is hereby informed that, by publishing this legal notice, the Board of Fisheries may consider any or all of the subject areas covered by this notice. Under AS 44.62.200(b), the board may review the full range of activities appropriate to any of the subjects listed in this notice. The board may make changes to the personal use, sport, guided sport or commercial fishing regulations as may be required to ensure the subsistence priority in AS 16.05.258. On its own motion, after public hearing, the board may adopt, amend, reject, supplement, or take no action on these subjects without further notice. In addition, the board may adopt other regulations necessary to implement, administer, or enforce the regulations adopted. **THE BOARD IS NOT LIMITED BY THE SPECIFIC LANGUAGE OR CONFINES OF THE ACTUAL PROPOSALS THAT HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED BY THE PUBLIC OR STAFF.** The language of the final regulations may be different from that of the proposed regulations. YOU SHOULD COMMENT DURING THE TIME ALLOWED IF YOUR INTERESTS COULD BE AFFECTED.

If you are a person with a disability who may need a special accommodation in order to participate in the process on the proposed regulations, please contact Monica Wellard at (907) 465-4110 no later than two weeks prior to the beginning of each meeting to ensure that any necessary accommodations can be provided.

Statutory Authority: AS 16.05 - AS 16.20, AS 16.40

Statutes being implemented, interpreted, or made specific: AS 16.05 - AS 16.020, AS 16.40

Fiscal Information: The proposed regulatory actions are not expected to require an increased appropriation.

Date: _____

Monica Wellard, Executive Director
Alaska Board of Fisheries

**ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES
DECEMBER 4–12, 2012
BRISTOL BAY FINFISH**

PROPOSAL INDEX

Following is a list of proposals that will be considered at the above meeting sorted by general topic. A board committee roadmap will be developed and distributed prior to the meeting.

PROPOSAL NUMBER (87) SUBJECT

Bristol Bay Subsistence (1 proposal)

- 1 Allow for a weekend subsistence schedule in the Nushagak District.

Bristol Bay Sportfish (8 proposals)

- 2 Increase nonretention, no bait waters of the Nushagak River.
3 Require barbless hooks in unbaited, single-hook, artificial fly waters.
4 Prohibit putting fish parts in water where use of bait is prohibited.
5 Decrease coho salmon bag limit to one in the Ugashik, Dog Salmon, and King Salmon rivers. *(This proposal will be addressed in both the Bristol Bay and AK Pen/Aleutian Island meetings.)*
6 Clarify king salmon bag limit between Constantine and Newenham.
7 Reduce king salmon bag limit between Constantine and Newenham.
8 Reduce king salmon bag limit in the Togiak and Kulukak rivers.
9 Limit guided access to rivers.

Bristol Bay Herring (5 proposals)

- 10 Allow unharvested herring stocks in the Togiak District to be reallocated to the Dutch Harbor food and bait fishery.
11 Remove the necessity for maintaining catch percentages between gear groups inseason by emergency order (EO).
12 Split the Togiak District herring sac roe quota allocated to seine and gillnet gear 50/50.
13 Close the Togiak herring sac roe fishery through 2016.
14 Extend the closed waters area in Togiak Bay.

Bristol Bay Salmon (73 proposals)

Fishing Gear Specifications and Operations (11 proposals)

- 15 Allow set gillnet anchors and running lines at registered sites to remain in the water during closed periods.
16 Allow set gillnet gear to remain in place between fishing periods on consecutive tides.
17 In the Nushagak District, prohibit a permit holder from operating a set gillnet seaward of another set gillnet.
18 Shorten the distance that a set gillnet can be set from the high-tide mark from 1,000 feet to 600 feet.
19 Restrict drift gillnet gear from fishing within 1,000 feet from the mean high-tide line.
20 Allow only historical set gillnet sites on the outside beaches of Ugashik District.

- 21 Require name of permit holder on stationary gear.
- 22 Change marking requirement from six inches to twelve inches in height.
- 23 Remove the drift gillnet marking requirement that a cork must be marked every 10 fathoms and mark only at each end of the drift gillnet with vessel ADF&G number.
- 24 Allow seine nets in Bristol Bay for permit holders who hold two Bristol Bay drift gillnet permits.
- 25 Create a new troll fishery for coho salmon outside commercial fishing districts of Bristol Bay.

Closed Waters (4 proposals)

- 26 Amend closed waters in Togiak District from June 1 to June 30 for king salmon conservation.
- 27 Change regulatory boundary descriptions for closed waters at the mouth of Igushik River.
- 28 Change regulatory boundary descriptions for closed waters at the mouth of the Togiak River.
- 29 Create a buffer zone closed to commercial drift gillnet fishing at the mouth of the Togiak River.

Landing Requirements (1 proposal)

- 30 Allow set gillnet vessels to transport salmon through the Snake River Section provided they have no gear on board the vessel.

Vessels (5 proposals)

- 31 Allow vessels with permanent markings to be exempt from dual marking requirements when vessel is used in more than one salmon fishery.
- 32 Increase vessel length up to 42 feet in length based on vessel processing capabilities.
- 33 Increase vessel length to 36 feet if vessel chills catch and 39 feet if the vessel processes and freezes catch.
- 34 Increase vessel length up to 36 feet.
- 35 Increase vessel length over 32 feet.

Permit Stacking (20 proposals)

- 36 Allow one permit holder who owns two drift gillnet permits 200 fathoms of drift gillnet.
- 37 Allow one permit holder who owns two drift gillnet permits 200 fathoms of drift gillnet.
- 38 Allow an individual to have two drift gillnet permits registered in one name.
- 39 Allow dual drift gillnet permit holders 200 fathoms in other districts when Naknek River Special Harvest Area (NRSHA) is open.
- 40 Allow dual drift gillnet permit holders 200 fathoms in other districts when Naknek River Special Harvest Area (NRSHA) is open.
- 41 Disallow permit stacking in Bristol Bay.
- 42 Disallow additional gear for vessels with two drift gillnet permits.
- 43 Disallow additional drift gillnet gear for dual permit vessels in the Togiak District.
- 44 Repeal sunset clause for dual set gillnet permits for single permit holder.

- 45 Repeal sunset clause for dual set gillnet permits for single permit holder.
- 46 Repeal sunset clause for dual set gillnet permits for single permit holder.
- 47 Repeal sunset clause for dual set gillnet permits for single permit holder.
- 48 Repeal sunset clause for dual set gillnet permits for single permit holder.
- 49 Repeal sunset clause for dual set gillnet permits for single permit holder.
- 50 Repeal sunset clause for dual set gillnet permits for single permit holder.
- 51 Repeal sunset clause for dual set gillnet permits for single permit holder.
- 52 Repeal sunset clause for dual set gillnet permits for single permit holder.
- 53 Repeal sunset clause for dual set gillnet permits for single permit holder.
- 54 Repeal sunset clause for dual set gillnet permits for single permit holder.
- 55 Allow two set gillnet permit holders to fish 100 fathoms on a single site.

Registration and Reregistration (1 proposal)

- 56 Prior to June 25, if a drift gillnet permit holder intends to fish in either the Ugashik or Egegik district they must be registered for that district.

Bristol Bay Management Plans (31 proposals)

Genetics (1 proposal)

- 57 Placeholder for possible regulatory changes based on results from Western Alaska Salmon Stock Identification Project (WASSIP).

General District (4 proposals)

- 58 Open General District and allow a harvest of up to 25% of projected sockeye salmon run.
- 59 Create two new general districts when all eastside river systems have met their escapement goals or on July 17, whichever comes first.
- 60 Create a general district when all eastside river systems have met their escapement goals or on July 17, whichever comes first.
- 61 After all eastside Bristol Bay rivers have reached escapement goals, remove existing boundaries and allow open access on or after August 1.

Bristol Bay Restructuring Plan and Process (1 proposal)

- 62 Develop a process for addressing future proposals deemed as Bristol Bay salmon industry restructuring proposals.

Bristol Bay Allocation Plan (3 proposals)

- 63 Increase set gillnet allocation to 20% in Nushagak, Naknek-Kvichak, Egegik and Ugashik districts.
- 64 Increase set gillnet allocation to 20% in Nushagak, Naknek-Kvichak, Egegik and Ugashik districts.
- 65 Increase set gillnet allocation to 20% in Nushagak, Egegik, and Ugashik districts, and to 22% in the Naknek-Kvichak District.

Naknek-Kvichak Management and Allocation Plan (3 proposals)

- 66 Remove set and drift gillnet allocations.
- 67 Stagger fishing periods throughout run.

68 Open a new set gillnet fishery at Levelock when Kvichak River reaches minimum escapement.

Alagnak River Special Harvest Area Management Plan (2 proposals)

69 Open Alagnak River Special Harvest Area (ARSHA) to set gillnets when the Kvichak Section is open.

70 Change the allocation plan in the Alagnak River Special Harvest Area (ARSHA) to 84% drift and 16% set.

Naknek River Special Harvest Area Management Plan (3 proposals)

71 Open the Naknek River Special Harvest Area (NRSHA) to set gillnet gear when the Naknek River escapement goal is met.

72 Open the Naknek River Special Harvest Area (NRSHA) to set gillnet gear when the Naknek Section is open.

73 Limit the amount of gillnet on board a drift vessel to 75 fathoms in the Naknek River Special Harvest Area (NRSHA).

Nushagak-Mulchatna King Salmon Management Plan (4 proposals)

74 Revise king salmon reference points.

75 Increase king salmon escapement in the Nushagak River by restricting the drift gillnet fleet.

76 Restrict commercial fishing to no more than 3 tides in a 48-hour period and fishing time may not exceed 24 hours in length.

77 Restrict commercial fishing to no more than 12 hours of commercial fishing in any 24-hour period and no commercial fishing on consecutive high tides if there has been any sport fishing restrictions placed on the Nushagak.

Wood River Special Harvest Area Management Plan (7 proposals)

78 Revise sockeye salmon escapement reference points.

79 Allow separate drift and set gillnet fishing periods in the Wood River Special Harvest Area (WRSHA) and require all running lines, anchors and buoys shall be removed from the water during drift periods.

80 Allow separate drift and set gillnet fishing periods in the Wood River Special Harvest Area (WRSHA).

81 Allow up to 150 fathoms on board a drift gillnet vessel when fishing in the Wood River Special Harvest Area (WRSHA).

82 Allow dual drift gillnet vessels to have up to 200 fathoms on board in the Wood River Special Harvest Area (WRSHA).

83 When the Nushagak District is closed and the Wood River Special Harvest Area (WRSHA) is open, allow set gillnet permit holders to remain in the Nushagak District with 25 fathoms of gear.

84 Allow dual set gillnet permit holders to have up to 50 fathoms of gear on board and fish two sites with up to 25 fathoms at each site.

Togiak River Salmon Management Plan (3 proposals)

85 Create a Togiak River king salmon management plan similar to Nushagak River plan.

- 86 Create a Togiak River coho salmon management plan similar to Nushagak River plan.
- 87 Change the waiving period to July 24 if escapement goal is projected to exceed 175,000 before July 27.

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES
JANUARY 15–20, 2013
ARCTIC-YUKON-KUSKOKWIM FINFISH

PROPOSAL INDEX

Following is a list of proposals that will be considered at the above meeting sorted by general topic. A board committee roadmap will be developed and distributed prior to the meeting.

PROPOSAL NUMBER (67) SUBJECT

AYK Resident Species (15 proposals)

Sport (10)

- 88 Close Rainbow Lake to fishing for rainbow trout from October 1–May 14.
- 89 Close Little Harding Lake to fishing for northern pike and remove Little Harding Lake from the Tanana River Area stocked waters management plan.
- 90 Remove Little Harding Lake, Harding Lake, Summit Lake, Monte Lake, and Donnelly Lake from special management and leave Rainbow Lake in special management.
- 91 Update the Tanana River Management Area stocked waters regulations and management plan.
- 92 Allow large hooks in all waters for taking fish other than salmon.
- 93 Clarify that a single-hook artificial lure is an artificial lure with one single-hook or one fly.
- 94 Modify method and means regulation for the Chena River to be consistent with the area regulations.
- 95 Prohibit putting fish parts in water where use of bait is prohibited.
- 96 Increase the season for northern pike to year-round.
- 97 Reduce northern pike bag and possession limits in the Yukon River from Holy Cross to Paimiut Slough.

Subsistence (5 proposals)

- 98 Reduce northern pike bag and possession limits for subsistence fishers in the Yukon River from Holy Cross to Paimiut Slough.
- 99 Repeal the regulation prohibiting subsistence retention of northern pike in portions of the Tanana River Drainage.
- 100 Allow retention of northern pike in Yukon and Tanana subsistence salmon fisheries.
- 101 Ban the use of gillnets in the subsistence fishery for northern pike in both Ten Mile Lake and Mark Lake.
- 102 Allow for the subsistence take of grayling in the Nome River by use of jigging with hook-and-line gear.

Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Salmon (52 proposals)

Genetics (1 proposal)

- 103 Placeholder for possible regulatory changes based on results from Western Alaska Salmon Stock Identification Project (WASSIP).

Kuskokwim Area Salmon (11 proposals)

Management Plan and Amounts Necessary for Subsistence (3 proposals)

- 104 Review amounts reasonably necessary (ANS) for subsistence salmon in Kuskokwim River Drainage Area.
- 105 Update and clarify *Kuskokwim River Salmon Rebuilding Management Plan* and strategies.
- 106 Adopt a drainagewide optimum escapement goal (OEG) for king salmon in the Kuskokwim River, adjust tributary goals accordingly, and add preseason and inseason management tools.

Subsistence (3 proposals)

- 107 Allow subsistence taking of 10 or more king salmon only for drying and cold-smoke use in the Kuskokwim River Area.
- 108 Require a permit and reporting requirements for all subsistence-caught salmon transported out of the Kuskokwim Management Area.
- 109 Allow for sale of subsistence-taken finfish in the Kuskokwim River Area.

Commercial (1 proposal)

- 110 Remove the option for gillnet mesh to be up to 8 inches in District 1 of the Kuskokwim River Area.

Sport (4 proposals)

- 111 Close all sport fishing on the Eek River.
- 112 Close all sport and commercial guide fisheries in the Kwethluk River from June 1 through July 25 and limit the size of net gear used in both subsistence and commercial fisheries for the same time frame.
- 113 Prohibit catch and release fishing for salmon on the Kanektok River and the Arolik River.
- 114 Prohibit sport fishing on all salmon spawning beds on the Kanektok and Arolik River drainages.

Norton Sound-Port Clarence Area Customary Trade (1 proposal)

- 115 Increase the amount of money a household may receive from the sale of subsistence-caught fish from \$200 to \$500.

Norton Sound-Port Clarence Area Salmon (14 proposals)

Management Plans (5 proposals)

- 116 Create a new commercial fishery for pink or chum salmon to be opened and closed by emergency order (EO) in Subdistrict 1 of Norton Sound.
- 117 Allow commercial fishing in Subdistrict 1 west of the longitude of Cape Nome for all species of salmon.
- 118 Allow for a commercial set gillnet fishery in Golovin Bay once 4,800 coho salmon have escaped into the Niukluk River.
- 119 Allow for a commercial coho salmon fishery when there would be no impacts to the chum salmon escapement goals.

- 120 Allow for commercial chum and pink salmon fisheries before July 1 in the Unalakleet and Shaktoolik subdistricts.

Subsistence (5 proposals)

- 121 Allow beach seines to harvest pink salmon for subsistence in Norton Sound subdistricts 5 and 6 except as specified by emergency order (EO).
- 122 Allow subsistence fishing in Norton Sound Subdistrict 1 unless restricted by emergency order (EO).
- 123 Allow subsistence fishing with beach seine nets in Subdistrict 1 without having to issue an emergency order (EO).
- 124 Remove Sinuk River from closed waters and open a subsistence fishery for retention of sockeye salmon by beach seine in the Sinuk River up to Boulder Creek.
- 125 Allow use of a dip net as legal subsistence gear for chum salmon in the Pilgrim River subsistence fishery.

Commercial (3 proposals)

- 126 Allow for an extension to the commercial fishery for coho salmon in the Norton Sound Subdistricts by emergency order (EO).
- 127 Allow for an increase in amount of commercial gillnet gear in the Norton Sound pink salmon fishery by emergency order (EO).
- 128 Allow commercial salmon fishermen the Norton Sound - Port Clarence Area to fish for pink salmon with set gillnet gear and use it for bait in other commercial fisheries.

Sport (1 proposal)

- 129 Re-open a sport fishery for chum salmon in the Nome Subdistrict with a daily bag limit of three chum salmon.

Yukon Area Salmon (25 proposals)

Management Plans and Amounts Necessary for Subsistence (9 proposals)

- 130 Review amounts reasonably necessary (ANS) for subsistence salmon in Yukon-Northern Area.
- 131 Require pulse protection in the king salmon management plan.
- 132 Prohibit sale of king salmon from the Yukon River drainage unless there is a directed king salmon commercial fishery.
- 133 Allow for a directed chum salmon commercial fishery in districts 1, 2, and 3 in the Yukon Area during times of king salmon conservation efforts using 5 ½-inch or smaller mesh size.
- 134 Require 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnets, with a maximum depth of 30 meshes, during June to July in District-1 if king salmon are a stock of concern and revert back if king salmon are no longer a stock of concern.
- 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 king salmon.
- 136 Cap bycatch of king salmon in the summer chum fishery in districts 1 and 2 at 2,000 fish.

- 137 Develop an optimum escapement or inriver goal for the Yukon River summer chum salmon stock that originates above Pilot Station.
- 138 Modify the fall chum salmon management plan trigger point from 500,000 to 400,000.

Subsistence (13 proposals)

- 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 (EO).
- 140 Revert back to a windows-only fishing schedule in the Yukon River.
- 141 Allow for concurrent subsistence and commercial fishing periods in districts 1–3 of the Yukon River Area.
- 142 Open Yukon River District 5-D from July 4–18 for subsistence fishing.
- 143 Remove restrictions during the subsistence fall chum season in districts 1, 2, and 3 of the Yukon Area.
- 144 Restrict gillnets to 35 meshes in depth in the Yukon River drainage.
- 145 Restrict depth of subsistence and commercial nets in districts Y1–5 to 35 meshes.
- 146 Allow only 6-inch stretched mesh gillnet gear in the Yukon River drainage.
- 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.
- 148 Extend subdistricts 4-B and 4-C drift gillnet area downstream from the mouth of the Yuki River for king salmon.
- 149 Create a harvest reporting system for subsistence-taken salmon in the Yukon River.
- 150 Create a harvest reporting system for subsistence-taken salmon in the Yukon River.
- 151 Require primary use of subsistence-caught salmon within the Yukon Area be for direct personal or family consumption as food.

Commercial (1 proposal)

- 152 Open Acharon Channel in the Yukon River drainage to salmon fishing.

Sport (2 proposals)

- 153 Repeal the regulation that closes Fielding Lake to salmon fishing.
- 154 Close the Black River and its tributaries to sport fishing for king salmon.

**ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES
ALASKA PENINSULA / ALEUTIAN ISLANDS
FEBRUARY 26–MARCH 3, 2013**

PROPOSAL INDEX

Following is a list of proposals that will be considered at the above meeting sorted by general topic. A board committee roadmap will be developed and distributed prior to the meeting.

PROPOSAL NUMBER (60) SUBJECT

Bering Sea – Aleutian Islands Groundfish (9 proposals)

- 155 Increase Aleutian Islands District state-waters Pacific cod guideline harvest level (GHL) to 4.5 percent of the federal Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands acceptable biological catch (ABC).
- 156 Clarify Aleutian Islands District state-waters Pacific cod guideline harvest level (GHL) rollover provision from A to B season.
- 157 Clarify Aleutian Islands District state-waters Pacific cod fishery bycatch provisions with respect to state-federal jurisdiction.
- 158 Amend Aleutian Islands District state-waters Pacific cod fishery management plan to address concurrent state-waters and federal Pacific cod seasons.
- 159 Update Aleutian Islands District state-waters Pacific cod fishery management plan for closure areas.
- 160 Establish a state-waters Pacific cod fishery in the Bering Sea portion of Area O.
- 161 Establish a state-waters Pacific cod fishery in the Bering Sea portion of Area O.
- 162 Close all waters of Unalaska Bay to groundfish fishing with pelagic trawl gear.
- 163 Modify state-waters sablefish season to coincide with federal sablefish season.

South Alaska Peninsula and Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands Groundfish (1 proposal)

- 164 Specify regulatory fishing seasons for black rockfish.

South Alaska Peninsula Groundfish (8 proposals)

- 165 Increase state-waters Pacific cod guideline harvest level (GHL) to 50 percent of the Western Gulf of Alaska acceptable biological catch (ABC).
- 166 Increase state-waters Pacific cod guideline harvest level (GHL) to 50 percent of the Western Gulf of Alaska acceptable biological catch (ABC).
- 167 Increase state-waters Pacific cod guideline harvest level (GHL) to 50 percent of the Western Gulf of Alaska acceptable biological catch (ABC).
- 168 Increase state-waters Pacific cod guideline harvest level (GHL) to 55 percent of the Western Gulf of Alaska acceptable biological catch (ABC).
- 169 Close state waters surrounding Caton and Sanak islands to nonpelagic trawl gear.
- 170 Modify preseason pot storage regulation for state-waters Pacific cod fishery.
- 171 Modify boundary description of the South Alaska Peninsula Groundfish Area.
- 172 Modify boundary description of the South Alaska Peninsula Groundfish Area.

South Alaska Peninsula Salmon Southeastern District Mainland Salmon (6 proposals)

- 173 Allow for concurrent fishing times between Chignik and Southeastern District Mainland (SEDM) and increase SEDM allocation to 20%.
- 174 Modify the Southeastern District Mainland (SEDM) management plan to establish weekly fishing periods from June 10 thru July 10 to gillnet gear, and from July 11 thru July 25, establish 48-hour periods followed by 48-hour closures to both setnet and seine gear.
- 175 Modify the Southeastern District Mainland (SEDM) management plan to establish fishing periods for set gillnet gear from June 6 through July 25.
- 176 Open and close the Northwest Stepovak Section, including Orzinski Bay, by emergency order (EO), between July 1 and July 25.
- 177 Create a *Southeastern District Post-July Salmon Management Plan* in regulation.
- 178 Modify the Southeastern District Mainland (SEDM) management plan to open weekly fishing periods in the Southeastern District to set gillnet gear in September and October.

South Alaska Peninsula Salmon June Management Plan (5 proposals)

- 179 Reinstate the chum salmon cap and limit fishing time in the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands salmon fisheries.
- 180 Incorporate a chum salmon catch cap of 350,000 salmon in the South Alaska Peninsula Area (Area M) salmon fisheries.
- 181 Modify the *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan* to base management on the Bristol Bay forecast, reduce time and area, and implement a harvest cap of 400,000 chum salmon.
- 182 Modify the *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands Management Plan* and the *Northern District Salmon Management Plan* to include a cap of allowable sockeye salmon harvest based on the Bristol Bay forecast and create terminal harvest areas around the mouth of each river system in the Northern District.
- 183 Change the season opening date from June 1 to June 15 in the Northwestern, Unimak, Southwestern, Southcentral, and Southeastern districts.

South Alaska Peninsula Salmon Post-June Management Plan (8 proposals)

- 184 Amend the *Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Peninsula* and clarify regulation language conflicting with the regulatory language within the *Southeastern District Mainland (SEDM) Salmon Management Plan*.
- 185 Provide the department more flexibility when conducting the Shumagin Islands Section test fisheries.
- 186 Allow a pink salmon fishery within waters of Ramsey Bay in the Stepovak Flats Section.
- 187 Amend fishing periods in the *Post-June South Peninsula Management Plan*, consolidating fishing periods.
- 188 Amend fishing periods in the *Post-June South Peninsula Management Plan*, consolidating fishing periods.
- 189 Amend fishing periods in the *Post-June South Peninsula Management Plan* to increase fishing time.
- 190 Amend fishing periods in the *Post-June South Peninsula Management Plan*.

191 Limit fishing periods in Bechevin Bay Section to four days in seven.

Alaska Peninsula Salmon Closed Waters (2 proposals)

- 192 Amend the closed water definition at Christianson Lagoon to better define closed waters as determined by the current lagoon exit channel.
- 193 Reduce the closed water area in Grub Gulch.

Alaska Peninsula Salmon Gear (4 proposals)

- 194 Change the distance between set gillnets from 900 to 1,800 feet in the Southeastern District Mainland (SEDM) of Area M set gillnet fishery.
- 195 Allow drift gillnet gear to operate in the Southwestern District of Area M from June 1–August 31.
- 196 Allow for the use of monofilament gillnet gear in the Alaska Peninsula Area.
- 197 Modify the allowable set gillnet and drift gillnet gear depth from 70 meshes to 45 meshes in the Northern District of the Alaska Peninsula Area salmon fishery.

North Alaska Peninsula Salmon Northern District (11 proposals)

- 198 Close the north side of Cape Seniavin and Nelson Lagoon on August 15 instead of September 30.
- 199 Close the north side of Cape Seniavin until July 15.
- 200 Establish a sockeye salmon fishery from June 20 through September 30 in the Cinder River Section.
- 201 Close the Outer Port Heiden Section to commercial salmon fishing for Area M drift gillnet permit holders.
- 202 Close the Outer Port Heiden Section to commercial fishing from June 1 to July 31.
- 203 Close the Outer Port Heiden Section, amend the Inner Port Heiden Section boundary, and create a new superexclusive fishery in Area T.
- 204 Allow Area T CFEC permit holders to fish both the Inner and Outer Port Heiden sections.
- 205 Create terminal harvest areas in the Sandy, Ilnik, and Bear rivers for the drift gillnet fishery in Area M.
- 206 Modify *Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan* time and area management.
- 207 Modify *Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan* time and area management.
- 208 Modify boundary description of the Northern District and create terminal fisheries.

Genetics (3 proposals)

- 209 Using genetic data, create terminal harvest areas in Area M.
- 210 Placeholder for possible regulatory changes based on results from Western Alaska Salmon Stock Identification Project (WASSIP).
- 211 Placeholder for possible regulatory changes based on results from Western Alaska Salmon Stock Identification Project (WASSIP).

Sportfish (3 proposals)

Alaska Peninsula/Aleutian Islands Sport Fish (2 proposals)

- 212 Restrict the Sapsuk River king salmon fishery to flyfishing only, single-hook, artificial fly, no retention.
- 213 Decrease coho salmon bag limit to one in the Ugashik, Dog Salmon, and King Salmon rivers. *(This proposal will be addressed in both the Bristol Bay and AK Pen/Aleutian Island meetings.)*

Misc proposal (1 proposal)

- 214 Close the Iliuliuk River upstream of the Church Hole to subsistence, sport, and personal use fishing for coho salmon.

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES
MARCH 19–24, 2013
STATEWIDE FINFISH AND SUPPLEMENTAL ISSUES

PROPOSAL INDEX

Following is a list of proposals that will be considered at the above meeting sorted by general topic. A board committee roadmap will be developed and distributed prior to the meeting.

PROPOSAL NUMBER (21) SUBJECT

Statewide Allocation, Management Plans, and Policies (5 proposals)

- 215 Address allocations by percentages.
- 216 Require statewide adherence to salmon fishery management plans.
- 217 Mandate statewide priority for management of king salmon.
- 218 Establish a sustained escapement threshold (SET) for stocks listed as yield or management concern.
- 219 Define terms, including "maximum sustained yield", "optimum sustained yield", "sustained yield", and "mixed stock fishery".

Commercial (6 proposals)

Statewide Groundfish (2 proposals)

- 220 Allow groundfish registration by facsimile, telephone, or e-mail.
- 221 Remove federal regulatory reference.

General Provisions (4 proposals)

- 222 Require a CFEC permit holder to provide proof of identification when attempting to sell fish or at the request of a peace officer.
- 223 Specify area registration requirements for salmon net fishing vessels.
- 224 Revise emergency order (EO) announcement process to add e-mail or facsimile as means of notification.
- 225 Develop and require use of a statewide policy during consideration of permit stacking proposals.

SPORT (10 proposals)

- 226 Update regulations to accurately reflect changes to the statewide *Sport Shark Fishery Management Plan* which allowed for an increase bag and possession limit of spiny dogfish shark and no annual limit requirement.
- 227 Provide the department with emergency order (EO) authority to restrict sport proxy fishing.
- 228 Prohibit the practice of "high grading" by anglers.
- 229 Specify harvest record reporting requirements for additional sport fishing licenses and harvest records.
- 230 If duplicate licenses are issued, ensure that the section for season or annual limits is removed from duplicate.
- 231 Define the term "compensation".
- 232 Clarify the use of sport-caught fish as bait.

- 233 Create an exemption for the use of footgear with felt soles for the disabled or handicapped fisherman.
- 234 Ban use of lead weights in fresh and salt waters of Alaska in sport fisheries.
- 235 Establish mandatory reporting system for sport fisheries statewide.

**ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES
DECEMBER 4-12, 2012
BRISTOL BAY FINFISH**

PROPOSAL 1 - 5 AAC 01.310. Fishing seasons and periods. Allow for a weekend subsistence schedule in the Nushagak District as follows:

(D) Change 9:00 am Friday to 9:00 am Saturday; to 9:00 am Saturday to 9:00 am Sunday. Instead of closing when the weekend is just starting, it gives those “workers” the opportunity to harvest and process their fish during the weekend when they are off.

ISSUE: Allow subsistence salmon fishing in the Nushagak River on weekends when subsistence restrictions are in place.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Under emergency order and when restricted, subsistence fishing is allowed on a weekly schedule. 9:00 am Monday to 9:00 am Tuesday, 9:00 am Wednesday to 9:00 am Thursday, and 9:00 am Friday to 9:00 am Saturday. Those workers who work a 40 hour work week from Monday to Friday do not have the opportunity to harvest and process subsistence salmon during the week and on the weekend when they are off.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Not quality, but opportunity.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Workers who work during the week.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Nushagak Advisory Committee (HQ-F12-126)

PROPOSAL 2 - 5 AAC 67.022(g)(5). Special Provisions, seasons, bag, possession and size limits and methods and means in the Bristol Bay Area. Increase nonretention, no bait waters of the Nushagak River as follows:

The current language is The Nushagak Drainage upstream of its confluence with Harris Creek [TO ITS CONFLUENCE OF CHICHITNOK RIVER] The proposed language would be **The Nushagak Drainage upstream of its confluence with Harris Creek...**

ISSUE: To create consistency in the regulation and to protect rainbow trout. Currently the regulations for rainbow trout on the upper Nushagak River between the confluence Harris Creek and the confluence of Chichitnok River are catch and release and no bait on rainbow trout. My proposal would extend catch and release and no bait to the waters of the Nushagak River above

the confluence of the Chichitnok River. This would provide protection to rainbow trout and add consistency to the regulation.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? I have seen a decline in the size and abundance of rainbow trout in the waters of the Nushagak River above the confluence of the Nushagak and Chichitnok Rivers. If nothing is done the population of rainbow trout will continue to decline. Also it would provide consistency in the regulation by for sport fisher persons. Rather than having two different bag limits above Harris Creek, they would be the same.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, it would reduce the harvest of rainbow trout and eliminate the use of bait. With a catch and release fishery the population of rainbow trout should increase. The goal would be to have the rainbow trout population get back to its historical population, distribution and size of the fish.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Sport Fisherman will have a better rainbow trout fishery.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one. There are plenty of Dolly Varden and grayling to catch and eat.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None. Going to a catch and release sport fishery is the only solution.

PROPOSED BY: Bud Hodson (HQ-F12-014)

PROPOSAL 3 - 5 AAC 67.022(x) Special Provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means in the Bristol Bay Area. Require barbless hooks in unbaited, single-hook, artificial fly waters as follows:

(x) from June 8 through October 31, only un-baited, barbless, single hook, artificial flies may be used.

ISSUE: Make freshwater fly fishing only nonretention fisheries barbless hooks.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The rainbow trout of the Bristol Bay drainages provide a tremendous economic engine for the sport fishing industry. Anglers from around the world travel to the Bristol Bay region to have the chance at catching a wild rainbow trout. Part of the allure for these customers is that the fish of the Bristol Bay region are larger than any other trout fishery in the world. The rainbow trout fishery plays a significant role in the sport fishery of Bristol Bay that recent studies have shown generates over \$100M a year to the State of Alaska economy. It is prudent that management of these fisheries and the means in which the fish are caught is as protective as possible while still allowing the angler to peruse and catch the fish. A barbless hook will allow for quick release of the fish in addition to minimizing the adverse affect of the hook in the fish's mouth. The barb hook does cause more bleeding

which has the potential to mortally wound the fish. The barbless hook will also cut down on the scaring of the fish.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? The rainbow trout will be healthier as the trauma of removing the barbed hook will be less and the scaring will also be less. The overall population of the rainbow trout will grow as less fish die after being hooked with a barbed hook. Fish that are not scarred up add to the quality of the anglers experience as well as to the perception in the customer's mind of a pristine untouched fishery. This is a major selling point when trying to get customers to spend money and to book trips to Alaska.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All anglers that wish to have a high quality experience when targeting rainbow trout.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Nobody. Less rainbows would die after being caught and thus the population would increase.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? I thought of keeping the regulation the same and the continued allowance of barbed hooks in these fisheries. However, we as a state are trying to be on the leading edge of protecting our fisheries in every possible way while still allowing the angler the enjoyment of catching a fish (Felt sole ban starting this year). It makes sense that if we can create a regulation that still allows the angler to catch fish, does not diminish those chances any, and it lessens the potential damage to the targeted fish, then we should implement that regulation.

PROPOSED BY: Brian Kraft (HQ-F12-030)

PROPOSAL 4 - 5 AAC 67.030. Methods, means, and general provisions - Finfish. Prohibit putting fish parts in water where use of bait is prohibited as follows:

Notwithstanding 5 AAC 75.995 (36), "bait" means any substance applied to fishing gear or placed in fresh water by a person for the purpose of attracting fish by scent, including fish eggs in any form, natural or preserved animal, fish, fish oil, shellfish, or insect parts, natural or processed vegetable matter and natural or synthetic chemicals.

ISSUE: On many of the freshwaters of the Bristol Bay Area it has become a common practice for individuals, often individuals working as sport fishing guides or sport fishing assistant guides to place substances defined as "bait" in 5 AAC 75.996 (36) into the waters in an effort to attract fish by scent. This practice is commonly referred to as "chumming". Bait applied to fishing gear is currently prohibited in many, if not most, of the waters where this is a common practice. The bait prohibitions found in 5 AAC 67.222 apply to freshwaters distributed throughout the Bristol Bay Area are the result of multiple cycles of Board deliberation. These prohibitions were adopted to address a wide range of both biological and quality of experience issues. The bait prohibitions are appropriate and well supported. This proposal seeks to prohibit the practice of

chumming as it is occurring today in those freshwaters of the Bristol Bay Area where bait is now prohibited.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Chumming alters the natural feeding routine of the rainbow trout, char and Arctic grayling. Fish concentrate in locations where quantities of bait are frequently placed in the water. Catch rates can increase dramatically as a result of the practice of chumming. Individual fish are caught and handled more often than would occur in a more natural setting. Although most areas are governed by "catch and release" regulations there is still some incidental mortality associated with this practice and that amount increases with increased number of catches. There is also a quality of experience issue that arises when multiple groups of sport fishermen are present in the proximity of each other on the same water and some are adhering to both the wording and the spirit of the bait prohibition and others are engaging in the practice of chumming. Catch rates are normally higher for individuals in the group that is chumming. The antagonism created by situations such as this are not helpful in maintaining the world class quality of the sport fishery in the Bristol Bay Area and if left unaddressed will likely lead to its diminishment.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. This proposal seeks to prohibit the practice commonly referred to as chumming specifically in those freshwaters of the Bristol Bay Area where the use of bait is currently prohibited by regulation. A wide range of both biological and quality of experience issues arise from common occurrence of the practice of chumming. The Alaska Board of Fisheries has throughout the years consistently taken the position that fisheries for wild rainbow trout must be managed conservatively and with emphasis on maintaining the quality of the sport fishing experience. "5 AAC 75.222. Policy for the management of wild trout fisheries" lays out an excellent framework. Most of the regulatory development found in 5 AAC 67.022 specifically addresses wild trout fisheries. Prohibiting chumming will enhance the State's consistent effort to protect both the biological integrity and quality of experience of the wild trout fisheries in the freshwaters of the Bristol Bay Area.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Prohibition of the practice of chumming will have a positive effect on the wild rainbow trout resource by maintaining catch rates at levels historically observed in fisheries where bait is prohibited. Conflicts between groups of sport fishermen over the appropriateness of chumming will cease to occur. The probability of achieving the dual goals of wild trout rainbow management, maintenance of historical size, age composition and abundance of the trout population and the maintenance of the quality of the sport fishing experience will be enhanced.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Sport fishermen who are now chumming the freshwaters of the Bristol Bay Area where the use of bait is prohibited in an effort to increase their catch rates on wild rainbow trout will find it more challenging to hook these prized fish.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Prohibition of chumming through adoption of the recommended regulatory wording is, in my opinion, the only practical way to eliminate this harmful practice.

PROPOSED BY: Pat Vermillion

(HQ-F12-056)

PROPOSAL 5 - 5 AAC 65.020. Bag limits, possession limits, and size limits for Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Area; 5 AAC 67.022. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means in the Bristol Bay Area. Decrease coho salmon bag limit to one in the Ugashik, Dog Salmon, and King Salmon rivers as follows: *(This proposal will be addressed in both the Bristol Bay and AK Pen/Aleutian Island meetings.)*

On page 7 of the Bristol Bay Waters Sport Fishing Regulations an added note would read:

On the Ugashik, Dog Salmon, King Salmon and Cinder River drainages the daily and possession limit for coho salmon is 1.

ISSUE: The recent decline in coho salmon populations on the Ugashik, Dog Salmon, King Salmon and Cinder River drainages. This decline is substantiated by 2011 Bristol Bay wide coho run being 1/3 of historical average and the total lack of commercial harvest on the proposed drainages other than incidental catches from the sockeye run. This problem is also magnified by the increased sport fishing pressure on the spawning grounds of these drainages.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Without restrictions on the resource both the sport and commercial users will be exposed to long term declines.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All sport, commercial, and subsistence fishermen in the mentioned watersheds.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Short term effects may impact the commercial sport fishing enterprises who do not practice catch and release.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Considered catch and release but no provision for a damaged fish.

PROPOSED BY: Lower Bristol Bay Advisory Committee

(HQ-F12-114b)

PROPOSAL 6 – 5 AAC 67.022. Special provisions for season, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means in the Bristol Bay Area. Clarify king salmon bag limit between Constantine and Newenham as follows:

In all fresh waters between Cape Constantine and Cape Newenham, the bag and possession limit for king salmon 20 inches or greater in length is three per day, three in possession, of which only two may be 28 inches or greater in length.

ISSUE: Bristol Bay regulations, which provide for a bag and possession limit for king salmon 20 inches or greater in length of three per day, three in possession, of which only one may be 28 inches or greater in length, are in conflict with prior board action. This proposal would correct the discrepancy between prior board action and regulations.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The codified regulations will not reflect prior board action.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? This proposal would clarify the regulations for fishery managers, enforcement staff, and anglers.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F12-217)

PROPOSAL 7 - 5 AAC 67.022. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means in the Bristol Bay Area. Reduce king salmon bag limit between Constantine and Newenham as follows:

In the waters between Cape Constantine to Cape Newenham the bag limit for Chinook salmon will be two per day one over 28”.

ISSUE: Currently the bag limit for Chinook in waters between Cape Constantine to Cape Newenham is three per day, two over 28". Most of the waters in this area (Bristol Bay) has a reduced bag limit to two Chinook per day and one over 28".

The Togiak river is one of the rivers that still has not been reduced from the three Chinook per day and one over 28". I am very concerned about the Chinook salmon escapement for the past three years. I have a camp on the Togiak river and guide sport fishermen for Chinook salmon. The past three years has been very poor sport fishing but more important the escapement has been dismal.

I also operate a camp up river on the Togiak for Dolly Varden and rainbow trout, followed by silver salmon. My observation in the up river Chinook spawning grounds confirms my concern over a lack of Chinook spawners up river.

This proposal would make the Chinook bag limit throughout the water between Cape Constantine to Cape Newenham (Bristol Bay) consistent throughout the bay.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Lack of escapement may cause the Togiak Chinook salmon become a stock of concern.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? It may in the future if we get strong Chinook runs back to the Togiak river. The commercial fishery will benefit along with Subsistence and sport fishing.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? In the future, all users will hopefully benefit by strong Chinook returns.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those anglers who wish to harvest two large Chinook per day.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Bud Hodson (HQ-F12-023)

PROPOSAL 8 - 5 AAC 67.022(x). Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means in the Bristol Bay Area. Reduce king salmon bag limit in the Togiak and Kulukak rivers as follows:

(x) Daily limits for king salmon 20” or longer in these drainages, including the Kulukak and Togiak river drainages are one per day, three in possession, only one over 28”.

ISSUE: Reduce the existing daily limits for king salmon 20” or longer in the Kulukak and Togiak river drainages, from three per day, three in possession, only two over 28”. to a lesser amount.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The larger king salmon shall continue to decline and the runs will have to be fully restricted even more than they are now. In light the resource has only so much pressure. Self-regulation in the sports industry in both these drainages is critical.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? It will make the king salmon that are caught that more valuable to client, guide and recreational user and we will see a bigger return in the future.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Close the fishing all together but that will have to be another proposal.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Clients that have reservations of keeping all that they catch, maybe lodges that sell more than three per day guided trips.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Close the fishery until stocks rebound, because that would not solve the problem we have to work together on building back these stocks back up for everyone to enjoy.

PROPOSED BY: Togiak Traditional Council (HQ-F12-089)

PROPOSAL 9 - 5 AAC 67.022. Special Provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits and methods and means in the Bristol Bay Area. Limit guided access to rivers as follows:

I recommend the Board consider a time and area allocation scheme which will fairly allow opportunity for all user groups. For commercial operators, client day limits are an obvious solution. This could best be defined in a subcommittee workshop. My personal views will differ from those of the recently established factory lodges who come here without regard for the conservation of the resource or their effects on other users.

ISSUE: Proliferation of guided, transported and boat rental effort has, over the last 15 years, grown to the point that locals have only limited opportunity to enjoy a peaceful day fishing on the Naknek River. These are people that live here year round. Additionally, commercial service providers have been battling for time and space, even if they consider it, to offer quality fishing opportunities. Combat fishing as accepted in other areas of the state is not desirable or acceptable in the Bristol Bay region which is known for quality of experience. The issue of crowding, conflicts in the field among users, and quality of experience are not new, either in hunting or fishing. As regards South West Alaska, people who go to the expense to sport fish here do not do so expecting to have to fight for a place to fish.

Local residents and subsistence users have had enough of large scale sport fish lodge operations owned by people in the lower 48 who know nothing about the Board of Fish process, or the management regimes which allow them to be here at all. They have no consideration for long term conservation of the fisheries resource or any historical knowledge of the Bristol Bay fisheries. They come here purely to take and sell Alaska, and contribute little to the communities involved. A critical question we must ask ourselves is how do we want Alaska to look given our great resource heritage? What is economically sustainable over the long term? What is best for the residents of our state? We are long past the time to allocate access in the sport fishery in Bristol Bay, and particularly the Naknek River.

I have lived here in King Salmon for 40 years and worked as a small scale sport fishing guide during that entire time. I have watched these changes with great consternation. It is now time to take regulatory action to prevent the decline, both biologically and in terms of quality of experience of the sport fishery on the Naknek River. Whatever may happen here could have state wide ramifications. I can tell you this, locals throughout the region, not just on the Naknek River have had enough.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Crowding and conflict amongst users will continue to worsen. The quality of experience for all user groups will definitely diminish.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. This proposal does improve quality of the resource and quality of the experience by reducing conflicts among users, reducing impacts of fish species, and provides long term sustainability of a quality sport fishery.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Over the long term, all users will benefit as will the resource.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? In the short term, large scale lodge operators who are primarily owned by lower 48 entities will be required to modify their marketing and business plans to accommodate other users. A vast majority of these people operating on the Naknek River have no idea about the development and establishment of management plans, the role of the Department of Fish and Game and the role of the Board of Fish in establishing management and allocation schemes. They simply come here to take without regard to who it may effect. Now is the time to find an alternative to the status quo.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Joe Klutsch (HQ-F12-202)

PROPOSAL 10 - 5 AAC 27.865(b)(7). Bristol Bay Herring Management Plan. Allow unharvested herring stocks in the Togiak District to be reallocated to the Dutch Harbor food and bait fishery as follows:

(b) (7) The maximum exploitation rate for the Bristol Bay herring stock is 20 percent. Before opening the sac roe fishery the department shall set aside approximately 1,500 short tons for the Togiak District herring spawn-on-kelp fishery, and seven percent of the remaining available harvest for the Dutch Harbor food and bait fishery. If the actual harvest level is less than the spawn-on-kelp guideline harvest level, the commissioner may reallocate 50 percent of the remainder to the Togiak District herring sac roe fishery. **If no spawn-on-kelp harvest occurs, after the commissioner has reallocated 750 tons to the Togiak District herring sac roe fishery the commissioner may reallocate the remaining 750 tons to the Dutch Harbor food and bait fishery.**

ISSUE: Increase the quantity (tons) of food and bait herring to be harvested in the Unimak, Akutan and Unalaska Districts.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Abundant herring stocks will remain unharvested. There is active demand for these food and bait herring in the local area. These herring bring a higher price per pound than sac roe herring fisheries. There are abundant stocks that can be harvested locally in the Dutch Harbor area.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? These herring are post-spawn and are actively feeding and

receive a much higher economic value than other harvested herring. There is a 100% utilization of these herring due to their size and quality.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The State of Alaska for increased value of the herring resource along with the seiners and gillnetters that participate in this food and bait fishery.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? This is an un-harvested resource, therefore no one will suffer.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Status-Quo.

PROPOSED BY: Daniel Veerhusens (HQ-F12-129)

PROPOSAL 11 - 5 AAC 27.865(b)(8). Bristol Bay Herring Management Plan. Remove the necessity for maintaining catch percentages between gear groups inseason by emergency order (EO) as follows:

(b)(8) After the spawn-on-kelp harvest another Dutch Harbor food and bait fishery have been subtracted, the remaining harvestable surplus is allocated to the sac roe fishery. The Department shall manage for a removal of 30% of that surplus by the gillnet fleet and 70% by the purse seine fleet.

ISSUE: Requiring the Commissioner to make adjustments to fishing periods and fishing area by Emergency Order to maintain the 70/30 percent harvest of surplus until each gear has harvested 50% of their allocation.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The loss of fishing time when marketable herring are available due to reasons other than processing capacity.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. It allows herring to be harvested when they are most marketable. It allows the processor to maximize their processing capacity.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The herring processors and harvesters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Possible herring gillnetters when weather and or the lack of fish available for harvest in the Kulukak section reduces their harvest.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Robert Heyano (HQ-F12-128)

PROPOSAL 12 - 5 AAC 27.865. Bristol Bay Herring Management Plan. Split the Togiak District herring sac roe quota allocated to seine and gillnet gear 50/50 as follows:

Split the quota 50/50 between purse seine and gillnet fishermen.

ISSUE: Make the quota for the Togiak Herring sac roe fishery more equitable.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The local gillnet fishermen will continue to get short changed on the economic value of the fishery.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, gillnet caught fish in the Togiak sac roe fishery have historically been of higher roe percentage thus better quality.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The local area residents who still participate in the fishery.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Very few non-Alaska residents who have benefited much from a local fishery.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Togiak Traditional Council (HQ-F12-182)

PROPOSAL 13 - 5 AAC 27.865. Bristol Bay Herring Management Plan. Close the Togiak herring sac roe fishery through 2016 as follows:

Close the Togiak herring sac roe fishery for one Board of Fisheries cycle. Justification; A) it no longer provides a viable economic benefit to the majority of the local area residents including Togiak; B) The management of the fishery no longer complies with Section 16.251 of the Board of Fisheries regulations which are addressed under (a) (17) 1) to promote fishing and preserving the heritage of fishing in the State; C) the management is out of compliance with the criteria for allocation of fishery resources under (e) of this section which may include such factors as (1) the history of each personal use, sport, guided sport, and commercial fishery; (2) the number of residents and nonresidents who have participated in each fishery in the past and the number of residents and nonresidents who can reasonably be expected to participate in the future; (3) the importance of each fishery for providing residents the opportunity to obtain fish for personal and family consumption; (4) the availability of alternative fishery resources; (5) the importance of each fishery to the economy of the State; (6) the importance of each fishery to the economy of the region and local area in which the fishery is located; and etc.

ISSUE: Lack of participation by the local residents in the Togiak herring sac roe fishery and lost opportunity for subsistence herring roe on kelp due to over harvest of herring before there is adequate spawn in the areas kelp beds.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The local Togiak village residents and others from surrounding villages who used to participate in this fishery will continue to lose opportunity for economic benefit from this State of Alaska resource in their backyard. Secondly, the historical spawn on kelp subsistence fishery and its importance use to the local communities will continue to be significantly jeopardized.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. The quality of the roe on kelp subsistence fishery will improve.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? More local residents who rely heavily on the roe on kelp for subsistence consumption.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Very few non-Alaska residents who have benefited greatly from a local area resource.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Litigation. Too cumbersome and costly to both the State of Alaska and concerned.

PROPOSED BY: Togiak Traditional Council (HQ-F12-184)

PROPOSAL 14 - 5 AAC 27.850. Closed waters in Bristol Bay Area. Extend the closed waters area in Togiak Bay as follows:

Add a new section (c) under 5 AAC 27.850. Closed waters in Bristol Bay Area to read **(c) Togiak Bay is closed to taking of herring from the longitude of the Quigmy River to the western point of the Nunavachak Bay. The boundary line will be described from a point west at Quigmy River at 58 degrees 51'20.79"N and 160 degrees 05'44.95"W to a point on the west of Nunavachak Bay at 58 degrees 54'07.61"N and 160 degrees 45'37.51"W.**

ISSUE: Extend the closed area outside of the existing Togiak Section to protect spawn on kelp beds for the health of the subsistence resource.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The herring will continue to not be able to spawn properly in their historical spawning areas due to over exploitation by the purse seine fleet in the existing open area.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. The quality of the spawn on kelp in their historical locations will improve due to less pressure from the current fishery in the area.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The local area residents who still rely heavily on the herring spawn on kelp as part of their subsistence food resource.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Very few, if any, non-Alaskan residents who have benefited much from the local fishery.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Togiak Traditional Council (HQ-F12-181)

PROPOSAL 15 - 5 AAC 06.331. Gillnet specifications and operations. Allow set gillnet anchors and running lines at registered sites to remain in the water during closed periods as follows:

The new regulation will state:

Setnet anchor tackle or gear placed at registered sites only can be left in the water during fishing period closures. At any unregistered location all gear will be removed from the water at each fishing period closure.

ISSUE: The problem is setnet fisherpeople are setting anchor tackle at non-registered sites, sometimes more than 0.5 miles from the beach, in an effort to reserve a fishing location. This setting takes place before and during the season. The anchor tackle consists of an end buoy separated by up to 100 fathoms of floating line from another end buoy. This 100 fathoms of floating line is a navigational hazard to all vessels transiting the area where this unattended gear is located. In most cases, this gear is left in the water for the entire season.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Vessels traveling along shorelines unfamiliar with the placement of this unattended gear will either run over it (the surface line) or if they observe it will alter course around it. At night due to lack of visibility, chances are the vessel will encounter the floating line. In either case, the interaction of the moving vessel and the surface line has the probability of fouling its propeller thus creating a stranded vessel.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Any vessel unfamiliar with the placement of this unattended gear.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Only those who currently do this.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? N/A.

PROPOSED BY: Dale Petersen & Duane Kapp (HQ-F12-130)

PROPOSAL 16 - 5 AAC 06.331. Gillnet specifications and operations. Allow set gillnet gear to remain in place between fishing periods on consecutive tides as follows:

Setnet gear will be permitted to remain in place between consecutive tides of announced open fishing.

ISSUE: Short closures for setnet fishers between tides at low water. The ADF&G has been announcing consecutive open tides for drift / set fishing, but closing the period for several hours at low water to allow more fish to enter the district at the line. The setnet sites often have little or no water at this time, and are not catching a significant amount of fish (if any). Pulling up and resetting the gear produces unneeded wear and tear on equipment, and consumes excess time needed in between tides.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Fishers will continue to have to unnecessarily pull and reset gear.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Fishermen will benefit by not having to return to their sites to pull the gear (or pull it early before delivering in order to avoid being in the water too late). ADF&G will benefit by not having to patrol / enforce an area that isn't really actively fishing at that time anyway.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Nobody will suffer.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? N/A.

PROPOSED BY: South Naknek Beach Set Net Association (HQ-F12-173)

PROPOSAL 17 - 5 AAC 06.331. Gillnet specifications and operations. In the Nushagak District, prohibit a permit holder from operating a set gillnet seaward of another set gillnet as follows:

5 AAC 06.331(n)

In the Nushagak District, no salmon interim-use or entry permit holder may set or operate a set gillnet seaward of set gillnets operated **by: another salmon interim-use or entry permit holder; or the entry permit holder who is operating either of their dual permits in accordance with 5 AAC 06.331(u).** In the following locations, no part of a set gillnet, anchor, peg, stake, buoy, or other device used to set the net may be seaward of the stated offshore distance:

5 AAC 06.331(o)

No salmon CFEC permit holder may set or operate a set gillnet seaward of set gillnets operated by another salmon CFEC permit holder **or the CFEC permit holder who is operating either of their dual permits in accordance with 5 AAC 06.331 (u)** in the following locations:

ISSUE: Adoption of 5 AAC 06.331(u) resulted in an unanticipated inconsistency with 5 AAC 06.331(n),(o) which has been interpreted to allow a dual setnet permit holder to operate a second 50 fathom net offshore of their own 50 fathom net on the same site in the Nushagak District. The nets must still be separated by the mandated distance but a person could still have 100 fathoms of net on one site at one time.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The current interpretation of 5 AAC 06.331(n),(o) will provide a competitive advantage for dual setnet permit holders not originally anticipated when 5 AAC 06.331(u) was adopted. Fishing two 50 fathom set gillnets on one site in the Nushagak District is inconsistent with the original intent of the dual setnet permit proposal – that dual setnet permit holders shall fish the permits in the same manner as if held by two separate permit holders with no greater privileges or encumbrances.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The Nushagak setnet fishery.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Nushagak setnet fishermen seeking to gain a competitive advantage over their peers via an unanticipated ambiguity in the regulations.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Doing nothing. Rejected because this ambiguity is highly allocative and was not subject to notice, comment, deliberation, and knowingly approved by the Board.

PROPOSED BY: Dylan Braund and Tom Rollman Jr. (HQ-F12-107)

PROPOSAL 18 - 5 AAC 06.331. Gillnet specifications and operations. Shorten the distance that a set gillnet can be set from the high-tide mark from 1,000 feet to 600 feet as follows:

Area description from 5 AAC 06.350(d)(1)

Those waters of the Ugashik River upstream of a line from 57°30.19’N lat, 157°39.37 W long to 57°29.83 N lat, 157°32.22 W long except that set gillnetters may be used to take salmon along that portion of the east bank of the Ugashik River from a point at 57°30.74’N lat, 157°24.10 W long to 57°32.27 N lat, 157°24.36 W long.

Change-

5 AAC 06.331 m 8 (this is an addition)

In the area described above, no part of a set gillnet may be more than 600 feet from the 18 foot high tide mark.

ISSUE: If setnet gear is allowed to extend 1000 feet from shore in the Ugashik Village setnet area, the gear will nearly touch shore to shore blocking the entire river. Drift boats home ported in the Ugashik Village area launch and haul out in the setnet area on the only gravel beach (nicknamed Sleepy Hollow). This beach is also used for repair work on setnet skiffs and drift boats. For the season of 2011, this access was restricted to very high tides for the drift boats and setnetters could not navigate to the tender on lower tides.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Safety is also an issue. The tender is anchored on the downriver side of this area and all setnet skiffs need to access the tender at all times. For the 2011 season, the setnet skiffs were running aground and drift boats only had limited access at high tides. In periods of bad weather, setnet skiffs loaded with salmon could roll over attempting to access the tender. Currents are extreme and there is a possibility of drowning or damage to the setnet skiffs.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? The river in front Ugashik village is constricted and the 1000 feet currently allowed in the regulations is too much for the confined spaces in the river. The 1000 feet blocks the channel. 600 feet is an acceptable compromise.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Setnetters, drift boats and the market will benefit from the solution.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one, the area further than 600 feet can rarely be fished due to currents which can elevate even 300 pound lead lines.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Hattie Albecker, Lucy Brunetti, Lower Bristol Bay Advisory Committee,
Ugashik Traditional Village Council (HQ-F12-118)

PROPOSAL 19 - 5 AAC 06.331. Gillnet specifications and operations. Restrict drift gillnet gear from fishing within 1,000 feet from the mean high-tide line as follows:

For commercial fishing time when both set and drift gillnet gear types are open for commercial fishing periods: In the Ugashik District between June 1 and July 17th no drift gillnet may be deployed within 1000' of the mean high tide line with respect to the inner beaches (waters toward the Ugashik River inside of Smoky Point 57° 36'39.30" N and 157° 41' 33.19" W and South Spit 57° 33' 53.32" N and 157° 41' 09.58" W). No setnet deployed using anchors can be more than 1,000 feet from the mean high water mark

ISSUE: Many drift gillnet fisherman are creating gear conflicts by fishing in between setnet sites. In many cases the drift fisherman are functionally setnetting by placing their lead line on the muddy bottom and allowing a gently moving tide to rise and fall while their position remains static. Some “rogue” drift fisherman will even go as far as placing the end of their net up on the shore so that as the tide rises and falls, they will fish right next to the beach without changing positions for hours. Despite existing regulations that exclude this type of drift gillnet deployment, fishing this way works well for catching fish on nice weather days with slow moving tides. However, on days with larger tidal exchanges and heavy winds, fishing in between setnet sites has proven to be an extreme hazard as the drift gear begins to move with the tidal current. Many times over the last few years, drifter gear has run over, snagged and wrapped-up stationary setnet gear located at lease held shore fishery sites. Until setnetters and drifters have mutually exclusive fishing areas the risk of catastrophe – loss of life - is sincere.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Gear conflicts will continue to be a safety hazard. A drifter in the Ugashik District does not know when he/she will encounter a deployed setnet. Drifters in the Ugashik District have proven to lack either the spatial awareness or the mechanical means to avoid running over setnet gear with driftnets. Damage to equipment and gear is occurring annually. Future loss of life is a clear possibility if not resolved. Setnet fishermen universally work out of less seaworthy vessels and are at greater risk of casualty when gear conflicts occur.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No. It addresses safety and pursuit of a more orderly fishery.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? If adopted drift and set gillnet fishermen will mutually benefit from improved safety. Setnet fishermen universally work out of less seaworthy vessels and are presently at greater risk of casualty related to gear conflict. In this sense, improved safety would be of greater benefit to the setnet group than to the drift group.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? The drift/setnet allocation will stand unchanged at 90/10. Setnetters will still be guided by ADF&G to catch 10% of the harvest and drifters will be guided to harvest 90% of the commercial harvest.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Most drift fishermen already respect a greater separation of gear types than are laid out by the presently mandated minimums. Most of these fisherman would be entirely unaffected by the proposed change to the regulations. Gentlemanly resolve has worked for safe fishing practices between gear types for most fishermen. Some fishermen however hold onto conflicting standards of safety and will routinely compromise the safety of another man for personal gain. These fishermen should be guided toward safer fishing practices by regulation.

PROPOSED BY: Ross Marley (HQ-F12-029)

PROPOSAL 20 - 5 AAC 06.331. Gillnet specifications and operations. Allow only historical set gillnet sites on the outside beaches of Ugashik District as follows:

In the Ugashik District between June 1 and July 17th no set gillnet may be deployed on the outer beaches (seaward of Smoky Point 57° 36'39.30" N and 157° 41' 33.19" W & South Spit 57° 33' 53.32" N and 157° 41' 09.58" W) without an established historical setnet site with required ADF&G markings and if necessary BLM lease documentation. No setnet deployed using anchors can be more than 1000 feet from the mean high water mark.

ISSUE: Adopt regulations that require holders of setnet limited entry permits to operate only on their designated and clearly marked Bureau of Land Management (BLM) registered sites. In recent years, holders of setnet limited entry permits deploy 2 each 25 fathoms of gear on their registered sites then travel outside the river mouth and set another 2 each 25 fathoms of gear on the open beach. These "rogue" sites have no markings, are not traditional setnet fishing sites and in many cases are off shore greater than the 1000 feet high tide mark. It has become increasingly hazardous to drift in our traditional drift areas outside the river mouth especially in foggy weather. A drifter does not know when a setnet deployed by anchors will just pop up out of nowhere in-front of your drift set. These "rogue" sets have become very dangerous navigational hazards.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Gear conflicts will become increasingly confrontational. A drifter in the Ugashik District does not know when he/she will encounter deployed "rogue" setnets. Setnet allocation plan limits will continue to be exceeded.

This proposal might be an enforcement issue but the Board of Fisheries needs to be aware that these very basic regulations are not being enforced in the Ugashik District.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Ugashik District drift fleet. State of Alaska Fish & Wildlife Enforcement Division.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? A few Ugashik "rogue" setnetters.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Daniel Kingsley, JP Ford, Bristol Bay Drifters Association (HQ-F12-121)

PROPOSAL 21 - 5 AAC 06.334. Identification of gear. Require name of permit holder on stationary gear as follows:

Insert sentence following the number specification sentence as follows: "The name of the fisherman shall be displayed in letters at least six inches in height with lines at least one inch wide and a color contrasting with the background."

ISSUE: Currently drift boats and set gillnet skiffs are required to have their ADF&G numbers displayed with 12” letters, drift vessels are required to have the vessel name in 6” letters. Normally a vessel can be contacted by VHF by using the vessel name. The specifications require that the name of the fisherman operating a set gillnet or fish wheel display the name of the fisherman operating it but there is no requirement for the size of the display of the fisherman’s name. They legally could be 1” high and marking pen thin. In an emergency, or other concern, the fisherman’s name allows others to contact the fisherman by phone, VHF, or other means, and to so directly, especially when resources to track by CFEC number are closed.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Regulations between gear groups will remain inconsistent. For enforcement and safety issues, identification will remain difficult as the name of the fisherman for direct contact and help could be unreadable even at high tide from a skiff or boat. Could continue to be more difficult than necessary to report, or check with permit holder, re possible resource concerns.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Can if someone notices quality issues as better able to report to permit holder, or if absolutely necessary to ADF&G. Can affect quality of someone’s life if able to mobilize help in safety situation.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All legitimate set gillnetters and driftnetters will benefit from consistent and practical regulations that enhance identification and communications. This makes set gillnet name requirement consistent and same as boat name requirement.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Resource suffer if not helpful readable identification when needed.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Considered 24” letters in locations where distance 1000 feet or more. Considered adding telephone number to marking sign.

PROPOSED BY: Bristol Bay Driftnetters Association (HQ-F12-190)

PROPOSAL 22 - 5 AAC 06.334. Identification of gear. Change marking requirement from six inches to twelve inches in height as follows:

Insert ~~twelve inches~~” where it now says ~~six inches~~.”

ISSUE: Currently drift boats and set gillnet skiffs are required to have their ADF&G numbers displayed with 12” letters, but shore side setnet markings are only required to be 6 inches. With 20/20 or greater vision, the maximum readable distance for 6” letters in only 200’.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Regulations between gear groups will remain inconsistent. For enforcement and safety issues identification will remain difficult as the distance from water viewing can be up to 1200’ from the setnet marking sign, whereas boats and

skiffs can be easily approached if necessary for identification purposes. Also, better able to report resource concerns to site permit holder if can identify in some fashion.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Can if someone notices quality issues as better able to report to permit holder, or if absolutely necessary to ADF&G.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All legitimate set gillnetters and driftnetters will benefit from consistent and practical regulations that enhance identification and communications.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Resource suffer if not helpful readable identification when needed.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Considered 24" letters in locations where distance 1000 feet or more.

PROPOSED BY: Bristol Bay Driftnetters Association (HQ-F12-191)

PROPOSAL 23 - 5 AAC 06.334(a)(2). Identification of gear. Remove the drift gillnet marking requirement that a cork must be marked every 10 fathoms and mark only at each end of the drift gillnet with vessel ADF&G number as follows:

At least one cork (at each end) of every drift gillnet that is plainly and legibly marked with the permanent vessel license (ADFG) number of the vessel operating the gear.

ISSUE: Requirement to (2) mark at least one cork every 10 fathoms with the vessel license number. Should read - mark one cork at each end of every drift gillnet.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Time wasted by harvesters and enforcement.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Enforcement: Free up enforcement to do the job they are called out there for - chase down violators. Harvesters: Free up harvesters to do their job - harvest fish.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? The makers of "Magic Marker".

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None, eliminate this goofy law. The markings fade and rub off. It would be much easier to maintain one cork (Plainly and Legibly) at the end of each net. This problem also exists in the herring gillnet fishery. A net that was "abandoned" or lost could still be identified.

PROPOSED BY: Daniel Farren

(HQ-F12-049)

PROPOSAL 24 - 5 AAC 06.330. Gear. Allow seine nets in Bristol Bay for permit holders who hold two Bristol Bay drift gillnet permits as follows:

75 fathom Seine net allowed. Two drift permits required to operate a seine net. Separate allocation for drift, setnet, seine. (Seine allocation based on number of participants involved). Separate openings for Drift / Seine.

ISSUE: Gillnetting Salmon in Bristol Bay.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Quality issue.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, Very much so. Live fish.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? If a fisherman decides to stay with drifting then he will have to share the overall harvest with the seiners as well as the setnetters - but he will have less boats (competition) on the water when he fishes. The price for Bristol Bay salmon would be higher so all would benefit, directly or indirectly.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Seine fishermen. Major learning curve trying to seine shallow, with current.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Fish Traps. Bad idea.

PROPOSED BY: Daniel Farren

(HQ-F12-050)

PROPOSAL 25 - 5 AAC 06.3XX. Bristol Bay commercial coho salmon troll fishery. Create a new troll fishery for coho salmon outside commercial fishing districts of Bristol Bay as follows:

Open a new fishery and/or experimental fishery to allow the Bristol Bay residents to troll for coho in the fall.

ISSUE: Troll fishing outside the commercial drift gillnet fishing districts of Bristol Bay for Coho for commercial sales and direct marketing.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Quality of coho will continue to be a problem and the specialty markets will be lost if processors leave before the runs quit returning in the fall.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Fresh troll caught coho right from the ocean and handling will make a superior product.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All those that have direct marketing and or want to fish later when the processors close.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Sports fisherman, because they get all the fish after the processors leave and / or shut down.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Keeping it up to the processors to buy from the existing gillnet fishery.

PROPOSED BY: Wiliam Sanchez (HQ-F12-196)

PROPOSAL 26 - 5 AAC 06.350(e). Closed waters. Amend closed waters in Togiak District from June 1 to June 30 for king salmon conservation as follows:

The north markers for the Togiak section at the mouth of the river shall be closed from June 1st till June 30th as listed (gps) West marker to be 59 degrees 03'05.57" N; 160 degrees 23'42.19W; East marker to be 59 degrees 03'12.36" N 160 degrees 20'07.55" W.

ISSUE: King salmon returns to the Togiak river system. The Traditional Council of Togiak would like to proposal a district boundary closer of time and area for conservation of Chinook salmon.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Chinook salmon will continue to decline.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Extend the conservation of Chinook to commercial users and help insure better returns.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The resource will rebound and all users of the resource will benefit.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Channel fishermen that use the channel in the beginning of the salmon fishery.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Togiak Traditional Council (HQ-F12-187)

PROPOSAL 27 – 5 AAC 06.350. Closed Waters. Change regulatory boundary descriptions for closed waters at the mouth of the Igushik River as follows:

(a) The following locations in the Nushagak District are closed to the taking of salmon:

(5) those waters of the Igushik River upstream of a line from **58° 43.82' N. lat., 158° 52.77' W. long.** [58° 43.60' N. LAT., 158° 52.27' W. LONG.] to 58° 43.60' N. lat., 158° 54.06' W. long.

ISSUE: When the department converted boundary lines from markers and loran coordinates to latitude and longitude coordinates, the boundary at the mouth of Igushik River was inadvertently changed by a small amount. This change has placed a previously existing set gillnet site in closed waters.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? If nothing is done, an existing set gillnet site will remain in closed waters.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? No one. This proposal would restore the district boundary line to the historical status quo.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F12-213)

PROPOSAL 28 – 5 AAC 06.350. Closed Waters. Change regulatory boundary descriptions for closed waters at the mouth of the Togiak River as follows:

(e) The following locations in the Togiak District are closed to the taking of salmon:

(1) those waters of the Togiak River upstream of a line from 59° 03.33' N. lat., 160° 20.08' W. long. to **59° 03.58' N. lat., 160° 22.60' W. long** [59° 03.66' N. LAT., 160° 22.36' W. LONG].

ISSUE: When the department converted boundary lines from markers and loran coordinates to latitude and longitude coordinates, the boundary at the mouth of Togiak River was inadvertently changed by a small amount. This change has increased the district such that there is room for an additional set gillnet site upstream of the historical boundary.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? If nothing is done, there will be the potential for a new set gillnet site further upstream from the historical boundary line. The

addition of a new site has already caused some turmoil and resulted in numerous phone calls to the departments of Fish and Game and Public Safety.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? No one. This proposal would restore the district boundary line to the historical status quo.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those who have fished the new site will no longer be able to fish it.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: Leave the line as it currently is.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F12-214)

PROPOSAL 29 - 5 AAC 06.350(e)(1). Closed Waters. Create a buffer zone closed to commercial drift gillnet fishing at the mouth of the Togiak River as follows:

5 AAC 06.350 (e)(1) Closed Waters. If adopted, this proposal would provide for a buffer zone closed to drift gillnet commercial fishing at the mouth of the Togiak River. The new boundary would close commercial fishing with drift gillnets upstream of a line from markers set at approximately 161° 20.00 west longitude 59° 03.00' north latitude to 161° 30.00' west longitude to 59° 01.00' north latitude.

ISSUE: Currently, commercial fishing with drift gillnets is allowed well into the mouth of the Togiak River. Because this is a choke point and because drift gillnets are mobile, commercial fisherman can target Chinook salmon in this narrow shallow area. Set gillnets are not as much of an issue because they don't reach the channel as easily as the more mobile drift gillnets do. The Chinook salmon escapement into the Togiak River has been poor for several years. Chinook salmon are incidentally harvested in the commercial sockeye salmon fishery in Togiak Bay. Historically the price for Chinook salmon has been low and there is little incentive to try and target these fish. Recently a new processor has started operating in Togiak Bay and they pay a much higher price for Chinook salmon. With a higher value there is more incentive to try and harvest Chinook salmon.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? As the value of Chinook salmon increases more people will drift fish in the narrowest part of the bay. This could damage the stock.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, the farther away from fresh water the fish harvest the better quality they tend to be.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Subsistence, sport and commercial users will benefit if the stock is healthy and does not become a stock of concern.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Some fishermen that now drift fish in this area will have to fish in a different area.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Josh Berberich (HQ-F12-015)

PROPOSAL 30 - 5 AAC 06.375. Landing requirements. Allow set gillnet vessels to transport salmon through the Snake River Section provided they have no gear on board the vessel as follows:

5 AAC 06.375

(a) All salmon must be landed in the district in which they were taken. A vessel used to take salmon may not have salmon on board when more than one mile outside the district from which the salmon were taken or when the vessel is more than one-half mile inside the boundary of the Snake River Section of the Nushagak District. Except setnet vessels may transport salmon through the Snake River Section, provided they have no nets onboard.

ISSUE: During the previous Board cycle, passage of a proposal limiting navigation of fishing vessels through the Snake River section of the Nushagak District has unnecessarily compromised navigability and safety for small-boat setnet fishermen. This regulation effectively eliminates a setnet fisherman’s ability to safely travel on the Westside of the Nusghagak District with fish onboard.

The original intent of limiting navigation through the Snake River Section is well founded – to eliminate illegal fishing in the Snake River Section. This proposal seeks to uphold the intent and the enforceability of the regulation while providing an exception for setnetters who need to transport fish safely out of the Igushik Subdistrict.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? For safety reasons, skiff fishermen predominantly travel close to shoreline. If an exception is not made for setnet fishermen it will unnecessarily be more dangerous to transport fish out of the Igushik District. Transportation of fish out of the Igushik District is necessary for some fishermen for two reasons: 1) direct marketing requires fish be transported to Dillingham for shipment; and 2) during times of abundance, tenders get “plugged.” Fishers who seek to avoid wanton waste often have to travel to other subdistricts to sell their catch to tenders with available capacity. If an exception is not made that recognizes the unique navigational needs of skiff fishermen, some setnetters who direct market their fish will continue to endure compromised navigability and thereby incur greater safety risks.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, restored navigability makes it easier to transport fish to direct markets.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All setnet fishermen who will no longer be subject to decreased navigability.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? This proposal potentially makes it more difficult to enforce illegal fishing in the Snake River Section. Therefore, a proper balance must be achieved between navigability and enforceability. Thus, the proposed setnet regulatory exception places a restriction that setnet vessels have no gear onboard while traveling through the Snake River Section with fish on board.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Removing the Snake River navigation restrictions. Rejected because effective enforcement of illegal fishing in the Snake River Section is clearly warranted.

PROPOSED BY: Dylan Braund & Stephen Olson (HQ-F12-144)

PROPOSAL 31 - 5 AAC 06.343. Vessel identification; 5 AAC 39.119. Vessel identification.
Allow vessels with permanent markings to be exempt from dual marking requirements when vessel is used in more than one salmon fishery as follows:

I propose the adoption of a new sub-paragraph to paragraph (b) of this section to read:

(5) Vessels bearing a permanent ADF&G vessel license plate number and license plate are exempt from this provision.

ISSUE: CONFLICTING IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTAIN DUAL-USE VESSELS.

With the exception of setnet skiffs, the vessel identification provisions (5AAC 39.119 p. 51) for Bristol Bay fishing vessels require an ADF&G registration license number and license plate.

Those vessels engaged in setnet operations, however, are instead required to have the operator's S/N number painted on the side.

Current regulatory reading is unclear which of these provisions takes precedence in the case of vessels used for both.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? In the past few years, I have encountered troopers who had trouble reconciling this section of the regulations with 39.119. On occasions they've even argued with each other as to which provision should take precedence.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No. This proposal is purely for regulatory clarification.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Enforcement personnel, vessel owners and fishermen should all benefit from this proposal.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one should suffer from this clarification, with the possible exception of judges in Naknek who love levying hefty fines for vague provisions of statute.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? For those who may not be familiar with the genesis of this regulation and, therefore, the conflict it creates:

During the lean years awhile back, some drift vessels spotted unmarked skiffs fishing in places they had never seen them before. They rightly suspected some setnet fishermen were sneaking out, making a few "stealth" sets and fleeing before anyone was able to discover who they were. This provision was intended to put an end to "anonymous" hit-and-run sets by giving each setnet skiff an easy-to-discover identity. This works fine for smaller skiffs and vessels employed in only one fishery, but some larger ones are often used in multiple endeavors.

To fully comply with current regulations and avoid legal complexity, I'm now forced to figure-out how to arrange the normal State AK numbers, the ADF&G license number and license plate, the vessel name AND find room for an additional eight digits of 12" height. Since skiffs routinely experience wear and tear on the hull unlike that of the drift fleet, this almost means re-writing 31 characters each year on each side of the hull.

PROPOSED BY: Chuck Thompson (HQ-F12-172)

PROPOSAL 32 - 5 AAC 06.341. Vessel specifications and operations. Increase vessel length up to 42 feet in length based on vessel processing capabilities as follows:

5 AAC 06.341(c) a vessel registered for salmon net fishing in Area T may be as long as 42 feet in overall length if this vessel a licensed catcher processor by State of Alaska, Division of Environmental Health (ADEH) and can provide weekly documentation of product transfer either to a freezer facility or purchase receipts/invoices from a direct buyer. The amount of catch processed and stored for future sales or sold directly to vendors has to be greater or equal to 80% of total volume documented on fish harvest tickets on a weekly basis. Vessel logs will have to updated on a daily basis and be available for inspection by ADEH and State of Alaska, Fish & Wildlife Enforcement personnel.

ISSUE: Bristol Bay 32 limit on drift vessels.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Drift fishermen that want to participate in the processing at sea of their salmon catch. Attempting to accommodate the necessary processing equipment to process salmon at sea on a 32 foot vessel is basically impossible.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, at sea processing will open up salmon fisheries and possibly other fisheries in areas that do not have buyers.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? A few local Bristol Bay fishermen

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Dan Kingsley & JP Ford

(HQ-F12-113)

PROPOSAL 33 - 5 AAC 06.341(a). Vessel specifications and operations. Increase vessel length to 36 feet if vessel chills catch and 39 feet if the vessel processes and freezes catch as follows:

Abolish the 32 foot limit or at minimum increase the existing limit. If there must be a limit then it should be 36 feet for vessels that chill at the point of harvest and up to 39 feet if the fishing vessel can process and freeze on board including all permits needed to process and freeze on board. Any vessel longer than 32 feet must at minimum chill its fish at the point of harvest.

ISSUE: No vessel registered for salmon net fishing may be more than 32 feet in overall length. An anchor roller may not extend more than eight inches beyond the 32 foot overall length, and any portion that extends beyond the 32 foot overall length may not be more than eight inches in width or height.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Bristol Bay salmon will not achieve its highest quality potential.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, currently the 32 foot limit restricts deck space and hull space, which reduce quality.

We are a long way from getting the most value out of the Bristol Bay resource. Although huge strides have been made in the chilling product in Bristol Bay, a huge percentage of the catch is still not chilled at the point of harvest. More chilling capacity will produce more #1, which increase the overall value of the catch. Furthermore, studies by Mark Buckley, have shown that as brailer weights increase quality goes down to that end, if you can spread the fish out in more fish holds, and deliver smaller brailers, your quality goes up.

In the current system any processor will tell you during the peak quality goes down. A lot of that can be attributed to poor handling at the point of harvest. Part of the problem is overloaded brailers and deck loading of the catch coupled with inadequate chilling capabilities of the 32 foot boat.

If, you are allowed to freeze on board, you would be able to produce the highest quality fish possible, and get the most economic value out of our resource. A frozen at sea Bristol Bay sockeye would do wonders for the Bristol Bay Brand. 32 feet is not enough space for equipment and hull capacity to reach economies of scale for a freezer operation.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All participants would benefit. Higher quality product gives Bristol Bay a good reputation in the market place. Increasing the vessel length is not about catching more fish, i.e. getting a bigger piece of the pie. It's about making the most of what you catch, i.e. growing the pie (increasing the overall value of our catch) to make it more profitable for everyone.

Keeping the existing 32 foot limit just ensures a limit on the quality that we can achieve on our boats. Imagine if we limited factory longliners or trawlers to 60 feet. The quality would go way down along with the revenues. My guess, is they would not freeze on board at 60 feet. It would be the end to FAS surimi, FAS fillet block, or even the high value frozen at sea pollock roe. What if we limited our existing processors plants to be only 32 wide. Yes, they would figure out a way to deal with it but the quality of the product would suffer and the cost of doing business would go up exponentially. Same for the us in the bay 32 foot limit hurts quality and increases our expenses, i.e. fuel costs go up, equipment costs go up or they are not inefficient because we need them to fit on a 32 foot boat.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Dominic Lee (HQ-F12-096)

PROPOSAL 34 - 5 AAC 06.341. Vessel specifications and operations. Increase vessel length up to 36 feet as follows:

It would allow for 36' overall vessel length for Bristol Bay Driftnet Salmon Fishery.

ISSUE: Current vessel length restriction at 32' does not allow sufficient deck space for improved quality fish handling methods such as bleeding, salmon slides, delivery chutes, etc. These methods and improvements are essential to maximize overall harvest revenue.

Adding RSW equipment (or slush ice) to existing 32' vessels and flooding fish holds, adds significantly to total vessel weight and reduces overall vessel freeboard and stability during peak operations or in heavy weather. This creates increased hazard of grounding in shallow water or swamping in rough seas. Existing 32' vessels that are modernized to increase revenue (with no increase in displacement) are potentially not as safe as the originally constructed vessel.

The existing 32' vessel length limitation combined with the current need for increased deck space and flotation creates an incentive to construct increasingly wider new vessels at very high cost and reduced efficiency. There is currently no limit on width so there are always larger vessels entering the fishery.

As a result, the vessel length limitation does not prevent larger vessels from entering the fishery. It does create lost revenue and increased risk of loss.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The incentive to add larger, wider and inefficient boats (with massive horsepower) to the fishery will continue.

Existing boats will be improved and made heavier, compromising their original stability and trim.

Overall value will diminish due to the loss of the optimum opportunity, which is to improve and lengthen an existing 32' vessel.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, this proposal directly enhances not only the increased value of the fish and overall harvest, but optimizes the utility and value of the existing 32' fleet. A participant looking for a competitive boat could more easily invest in a 32' vessel and improve/lengthen the vessel for a significantly lower overall cost.

The longer deck and increased carrying capacity would be utilized to perform fish handling and chilling operations in order to benefit from the increased value of higher quality products, while maintaining the stability and trim by way of increased length.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Those boat owners who choose to lengthen and improve their vessels will benefit and even existing unimproved boats will continue to hold value as they are all potential 36 footers. Those who cannot afford to construct new boats would have a more viable investment by improving their current vessel. Newly constructed vessels would not have to be built disproportionate any longer.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one should suffer if this proposal is adopted.

Anyone could lengthen their current vessel if they wanted more deck space or hull displacement.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? I considered building a wider boat, but the increasing costs of new construction is more than I can afford.

PROPOSED BY: Michael Friccero (HQ-F12-082)

PROPOSAL 35 - 5 AAC 06.341(a). Vessel specifications and operations. Increase vessel length over 32 feet as follows:

In the current regulation, 32' is used, with exceptions. Instead of dictating a specific length, I would like the BOF to have the latitude to set the length - if any, after testimony & discussion is heard. p.s. at the last BOF meeting for Bristol Bay, 38' was talked about quite a bit.

ISSUE: The inequality of being the only major drift gillnet fishery in the State of Alaska with a vessel length limit, and then trying to produce a best quality product that will compete against fish from other Alaskan fisheries, or fish farms, with an outmoded, obsolete vessel/tool.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Bristol Bay salmon will continue to be considered a lower quality product in the world market. In addition, those fishermen who participate in other Alaskan fisheries will be at a disadvantage when competing against other non-length limited vessels. Not to mention any possible safety advantages.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? There is no doubt in my mind that there isn't anything, quality wise, that a 38' vessel can't do better than a 32' vessel. Bigger, more efficiently operated, RSW systems come to mind that dovetails well with a fast-paced volume fishery like Bristol Bay. With more dollars being paid for RSW fish, it could now be very feasible to take a Rawson hull, stretch it 6' and have a pretty viable platform for producing higher quality/higher value, (\$\$\$), fish. To put it simply, larger boats would give Bristol Bay fishermen options that they don't currently have. In the commercial fishing business it is always a good thing to keep your options open.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Those fishermen willing to invest and work hard at producing a product that will literally sell itself.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those fishermen who shun technology, or cannot afford it, even though it may be the only way for Alaskan fishermen to compete with very cheap foreign labor/fish farms.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Continue to bury our heads in the sand, and pretend like our fish don't have to compete in the world market! This is not a viable option?

PROPOSED BY: John Webb (HQ-F12-036)

PROPOSAL 36 - 5 AAC 06.333. Requirements and specifications for use of 200 fathoms of drift gillnet in Bristol Bay. Allow one permit holder who owns two drift gillnet permits 200 fathoms of drift gillnet as follows:

This proposal would allow the owner of two Bristol Bay drift gillnet permits to fish and operate 200 fathoms of drift gillnet gear from a single vessel.

ISSUE: Currently, the full benefit of permit stacking (–D” Permits) is not being realized.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? We will fall short of the potential improvement in quality and reduction of vessels. (Optimum Number Study)

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Bristol Bay drift permit holders and crews will benefit because there will be fewer vessels and less gear per permit giving more opportunity for the remaining vessels and fishermen.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Kurt Johnson (HQ-F12-139)

PROPOSAL 37 - 5 AAC 06.333. Requirements and specifications for use of 200 fathoms of drift gillnet in Bristol Bay. Allow one permit holder who owns two drift gillnet permits 200 fathoms of drift gillnet as follows:

This proposal will allow one person to own and operate two Bristol Bay drift gillnet permits issued under the CFEC in accordance with the regulation 5 AAC 06.33 that allows two driftnet permit holders to operate an additional 50 fathoms of gear when used on one vessel.

ISSUE: Bristol Bay driftnet fishers, on average, have experienced a chronic decrease in economic value of their individual businesses, adjusted for inflation, over time. There is overharvesting capacity in Bristol Bay, see CFEC optimum number report 04-3N, October, 2004. During the 2011 season 1,435 vessels operated in Bristol Bay, whereas the report recommends that the optimum number of vessels fishing is between 800 and 1200.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Fishers operating in Bristol Bay will continue to struggle economically under this burden of overharvest capacity. The local region is impacted the most without alternative economic opportunity to help support the high costs of a fishing business in Bristol Bay. More local people will opt not to invest in the fishing business and more permits will leave the area. Excessive fishing competition will continue to drive costs up further impairing the sustainability of the fleet and rendering the fishery less efficient.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? This proposal will significantly contribute to improved quality of salmon harvested from the waters of Bristol Bay. By achieving the CFEC optimum number range the intense competition, —ace for the fish”, will be effectively diminished. Fisher’s attention and work will be redirected to help themselves improve profits by focusing on increasing the quality of fish harvested that will then be available for higher value markets.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The fishers that comprise the driftnet fleet will benefit in a number of ways.

This proposal, if enacted, will accomplish important economic, fishery and management improvements.

- First, the number of vessels in operation will more likely be reduced to the recommended number cited in the CFEC Optimum Number Study of 800-1200 permits. This important analysis by the CFEC revealed a critical economic balance point for the well-being and sustainability for the commercial drift fleet in Bristol Bay. Generally speaking, the balance sheet for fishing operations appears sustainable when a high price for salmon occurs or an excellent run of fish happens. During many off-years the balance sheet is not sustainable and fishers cannot make their payments or make a livable income. This proposed regulation will provide the help needed to improve the economic model for fishers in Bristol Bay for all seasons including the off-years.
- Second, the improved economic profile and balance sheet for an individual operating a driftnet operation in Bristol Bay will more likely perform in accordance with lending institutions' qualifications. The watershed residents, along with others from the state of Alaska, will more likely have the confidence to invest in the fishery, if the ability to repay loan obligations is improved and fits a reasonable and established economic loan model. The number of permits held by local and Alaska State residents would likely increase with the combination of a favorable loan program and an improved balance sheet for fishing operations. The slice of the pie, so to speak, will be made slightly larger for the operating fleet and provide a turning point for the community and the Bristol Bay fisheries for the future as the boat numbers continue to decrease over time.
- Third, the decrease in total number of vessels fishing will have additional benefits including reduced congestion, less intense competition and improved safety on the water. A more orderly fishery will result management wise, and reduced cost of enforcement is likely to occur.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? This proposal, if adopted, will have a slight consolidating affect for the fleet. ADF&G reports that 1,435 vessels participated in the Bristol Bay salmon fishery during the 2011 season. If enacted, the number of boats fishing could further decrease to 1,100 as recommended by the CFEC. The consolidation is self-limiting, however, as the boat number cannot go below the optimum number.

The effects of consolidation ostensibly disadvantage those without the financing to acquire the assets for consolidation. In this case, however, those fishers that choose not to invest in a second permit gain the advantages of reduced gear and competition on the water, but do not bear the costs to achieve it. If there are disadvantages, they are outweighed by the individual economic gains that would be realized by individual fishers to improve and promote their businesses.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? During joint legislative salmon task force meetings and hearings other potential solutions were discussed. They included: quota systems, buy backs and others.

All of which were ultimately rejected for they could not demonstrate that all the intended goals, not the least of which to retain permits in the watershed, could be achieved.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Independent Fishermen's Marketing Association (HQ-F12-088)

PROPOSAL 38 - 5 AAC 06.331. Gillnet specifications and operations. Allow an individual to have two drift gillnet permits registered in one name as follows:

A fisherman may have two limited entry drift permits registered in one name.

ISSUE: By not allowing two limited entry drift permits to be held in one name, the original intent of the proposal--to reduce the fleet size in Bristol Bay--is only being half met. It should be remembered the setnetters are allowed to have two permits in one name.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Fishermen willing to buy a second permit, but afraid of jeopardizing it by putting it into a crewman's name, will not buy the permit and thereby will not be a positive force in reducing the boat numbers on the water as the original proposal--and the CFEC--had recommended.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes! Less boats on the water (less nets in the water) fishing for the finite amount of fish available will result in less stress on the fish and crews because of more time to handle them in a manner more conducive to quality.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The world market will receive improved quality fish from Bristol Bay. Those remaining in the fishery will see their incomes improve by catching more fish and selling them (better quality) at a higher price.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? None I can think of.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? A federal or state buy-back program as has occurred in a number of other fisheries around Alaska.

PROPOSED BY: Chris White (HQ-F12-035)

PROPOSAL 39 - 5 AAC 06.333. Requirements and specifications for use of 200 fathoms of drift gillnet in Bristol Bay. Allow dual drift gillnet permit holders 200 fathoms in other districts when Naknek River Special Harvest Area (NRSWA) is open as follows:

Rescind the regulation passed at the 2009 Bristol Bay Board of Fish that only allows 150 fathoms of net to be fished in all the districts of Bristol Bay if any one of the special harvest areas reduces the amount of gear you can fish to less than 150 fathoms.

ISSUE: When the fishery is moved into any of the Special Harvest Areas that allow less than 150 fathoms, all the districts of Bristol Bay are not allowed to fish "D" Permits. (more than 150 fathoms).

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The value of permits will go down. The incentive to further consolidate permits / boats will be diluted. Further, with advance notice of a potential in-river fishery, secondary permit holders (watershed or otherwise) will not be able to collaborate with vessel owners; preventing them from participation in the fishery.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All permit holders, who have taken the initiative to invest in additional permits or collaborate with existing permit holders to reduce overheads in the fishery.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those who own a permit, yet who do not own or can afford a vessel; and must collaborate with an existing vessel owner. Historically, there have been times where fishery managers have stated – pre-season – that there is a strong possibility for an in-river fishery. With this type of advance notice, there is an equally strong likelihood of many permit holders not having access to the fishery given that a dual permit opportunity will not exist.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Kurt Johnson (HQ-F12-140)

PROPOSAL 40 - 5 AAC 06.333. Requirements and specifications for use of 200 fathoms of drift gillnet in Bristol Bay. Allow dual drift gillnet permit holders 200 fathoms in other districts when Naknek River Special Harvest Area (NRSHA) is open as follows:

Repeal Section (g) of 5AAC06.333.

ISSUE: Under this regulation the use of an extra 50 fathoms would be banned in all Bristol Bay Districts by "D" vessels when fishing is allowed in the Naknek Special Harvest Area. In the last 2-3 years we have had an influx of younger fishermen entering the fishery as permit holders that don't own a vessel. They usually participate in the fishery on a "D" vessel and are compensated more than typical crew members without permits. This regulation was passed with little to no input, or representation from this growing user group. Many permit holders are not even aware that this regulation exists! Since this regulation was adopted, fishing in the Naknek Special Harvest Area has not occurred. When this does happen it could be a real surprise for some, and create some financial hardship/disagreements for others.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? There could be some very hard feelings/financial hardships for some crew/permit holders when fishing is conducted in the Naknek Special Harvest Area. Inability to pay back loans, etc.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? It does not.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The next generation of Bristol Bay fishermen that can afford to buy a Drift permit (prices up), but can't afford to purchase a very expensive boat at the same time. The,"D", vessel regulation has given start-up fishermen a viable way to get involved in the fishery with a stake greater than being a crew member, when raising the capital to buy a permit and a vessel is not possible.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? It was perceived that at the time this regulation passed, the Nushagak River System, had a very high percentage of, "D", vessels, making it harder for single permitted Nushagak vessels to compete. That has not been the case in the last few years. If this proposal is passed it would have little lasting impact on any given group of fishermen in any given river system.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: John Webb (HQ-F12-033)

PROPOSAL 41 - 5 AAC 06.333. Requirements and specifications for use of 200 fathoms of drift gillnet in Bristol Bay. Disallow permit stacking in Bristol Bay as follows:

No Bristol Bay drift boat shall be operated with more than one permit on board and one compliment of gear.

ISSUE: Permit stacking in the Bristol Bay salmon drift fishery.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Watershed ownership of fishing permits will continue to decline, to the detriment of the local economy. If local people lose fishing rights, their interest in preserving the fishery will decline.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Longer nets damage fish quality by increasing the time fish stay in the nets, increasing damage by towing, round-hauling and lengthening the time it takes to bleed fish.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Everyone, because fish quality be improved, and also watershed resident who cannot afford to own two permits.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Some wealthy fishermen may object.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? N/A.

PROPOSED BY: Nels Johnson (HQ-F12-162)

PROPOSAL 42 - 5 AAC 06.333. Requirements and specifications for use of 200 fathoms of drift gillnet in Bristol Bay. Disallow additional gear for vessels with two drift gillnet permits as follows:

This proposal will not allow one person to operate two Bristol Bay drift gillnet permits issued under the CFEC in accordance with the regulation 5 AAC 06.33 that allows two driftnet permit holders to operate an additional 50 fathoms of gear when used on one vessel.

Repeal the regulation that allows dual permit stacking.

ISSUE: Bristol Bay driftnetters are made up of an aging population of boat and permit owners. Bristol Bay is dominated by highly efficient expensive boats and industry rewards and bonuses are paid on quantity verses quality. Bristol Bay has experienced a chronic decrease in investment capital for owning operating two permits. There is no investment capacity in Bristol Bay to capitalize on fishing two permits as it is set up now. During the 2011 season 1,435 vessels operated in Bristol Bay, whereas the majority of vessels using the permit stacking are not from the state and CFEC data of local owned permits that reside in Bristol Bay? It is minimal compared to non-local and non-residents of Alaska. This dual permit stacking has made an average fisherman into highliners and highliners into super fisherman. The study of the average catch of non-resident is double that of locals and one contributing factor is the permit stacking. In other words the dual permit stacking has contributed to /and in this capital investment problem.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Fishers operating in Bristol Bay will continue to struggle economically under this burden of investment capacity. The local region is impacted the most without alternative economic opportunities to help support the high costs of a fishing business in Bristol Bay. More and more the out migration of Dual permits is and can only hurt the fishery. More local people will opt not to invest in the fishing business and more permits will leave the area. Excessive fishing competition will continue to drive costs up further impairing the sustainability of the region and state. The dual permit fishery will only benefit more non residents that can access investment capital for these super operations.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? This proposal will significantly contribute to improved quality of salmon harvested from the waters of Bristol Bay. By achieving the markets and industry will reward quality and not quantity. Fisher's attention and work will be redirected to help themselves improve profits by focusing on increasing the quality of fish harvested that will then be available for higher value markets. The affects will not disadvantage those without the financing to acquire upgrades and new boats that focus on quality. If there are disadvantages it will be those that are rewarded on quantity not quality. They are outweighed by the individual economic gains that would be realized by individual fishers to improve and promote their businesses.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? This proposal will significantly contribute to improved quality of salmon harvested from the waters of Bristol Bay. By achieving the CEFC permit listed as 150 fathoms of gear to be operated as in statue all created equal. Intense competition, ~~face~~

for the fish”, will be effectively diminished.as fisherman focus on quality and not quantity Fisher’s attention and work will be redirected to help themselves improve profits by focusing on increasing the quality of fish harvested that will then be available for higher value markets and be rewarded for it. The improved economic profile and balance sheet for an individual operating a driftnet operation in Bristol Bay will more likely be improved because super fisherman numbers will be reduced. The watershed residents, along with others from the State of Alaska, will more likely have the confidence to invest in the fishery, if the ability to repay loan obligations is improved and fits a reasonable and established economic loan model. The number of permits held by local and Alaska State residents would likely increase with the combination of a favorable loan programs and an improved balance sheet for fishing operations.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? The number of local, non-local and non-residents that invested in the second and sometimes third permit when the permit prices were low. Catching 25% less fish without the dual permit will even the playing field to more favorable quality verses quantity and reverse the catch residents verses nonresidents.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Sunset the dual permit in 2015 and give the dual permit owners a chance to capitalize their investment and put them up for sale for residents to buy back in it to the fishery. Ultimately rejected this idea for it will not put more permits in the hands of watershed and Alaskan residents and in three years the investment capital of 25% more for this group of super fisherman will only give them that much more capital to invest as they wish.

PROPOSED BY: Frank Woods (HQ-F12-161)

PROPOSAL 43 - 5 AAC 06.333. Requirements and specifications for use of 200 fathoms of drift gillnet in Bristol Bay. Disallow additional drift gillnet gear for dual permit vessels in the Togiak District as follows:

5 AAC 06.333 (e)(4) Togiak District added to the non use area and time for conservation concerns.

ISSUE: The dual permits being allowed in the Togiak District. Disallowing the dual permits will help the race for fish and allow fishermen to focus on quality vs. quantity. The already small district runs and small fleet doesn’t need added pressure from dual permits to affect its already fragile returns of salmon.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The race for fish will continue to be the focus and not be quality.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Quality is always on the table for processors and fisherman the race for fish will be less of a focus for both.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Locals knowing that the small runs and the protection of these small runs will be continued.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Fisherman that have already registered and hit the peak in other districts that own and operate dual permits. One and/or two fisherman that might register to fish the Togiak District all year.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Status Quo. There is no added protections for this already small run.

PROPOSED BY: Togiak Traditional Council (HQ-F12-185)

PROPOSAL 44 - 5 AAC 06.331. Gillnet specifications and operations. Repeal sunset clause for a dual set gillnet permits for single permit holder as follows:

Remove the last sentence of 5 AAC 06.331(u) [THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBSECTION DO NOT APPLY AFTER DECEMBER 31, 2012.]

The remainder of the subsection would remain intact.

(u) A CFEC permit holder who holds two Bristol Bay set gillnet permits may not operate more than four set gillnets, and the aggregate length of set gillnets operated by the CFEC permit holder may not exceed 100 fathoms. A single set gillnet may not exceed 50 fathoms in length. The buoys must be marked as specified in 5 AAC 06.334 and 5 AAC 39.280 with both of the CFEC permit holder's five digit permit numbers followed by the letter "D". In addition at least one cork every 10 fathoms along the cork line must be plainly and legibly marked with both CFEC permit numbers. All identifiers must be displayed in a manner that is plainly visible, unobscured, and in a color that contrasts with the background.

ISSUE: 5 AAC 06.331(u) allows dual permit holders to operate up to four nets. This provision has a "sunset clause" of December 31, 2012. Remove the "sunset clause", thus permanently codifying the provision.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The 95 S04T operators that have invested economic and hardware resources to become dual permit holders and consolidate the fishing fleet shall suffer severe economic hardship due to provisions of 16.43.140 forcing sale of permits because this exception expired. The ensuing "Fire Sale" of permits will drive down permit value and disrupt the consolidation of the fishing fleet as envisioned when 16.43.140 (5) was enacted.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes; by allowing for an improved orderly harvest ensuring a higher quality product delivered to the cannery, thus they produce a higher quality product commanding improved purchase price, which in turns improves bottom line profits for all aspects of the industry and elevates "Wild Salmon" above "Farmed Salmon" as a truly superior product.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The 95 Bristol bay Gill Setnet operators that currently own two permits in the S04T fishery; by consolidation of the fishery, operations will become more streamlined increasing profit margins across the spectrum from fisher person to canneries on down the line to retail markets; opportunities will develop by consolidation to existing operations of current operators who seek to exit the fishery and have no viable family takeover.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? I envision no suffrage by any segment of the industry based on adoption of the solution.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Allow –sunset clause” to take effect. Rejected due to invested monies, hardware and resources. Hundreds of thousands of dollars would be lost. Crew members would have to be terminated as income would be reduced by 25-50%.

PROPOSED BY: Jerome D. McArthur, Jr. & Kristina M. Kurtz (HQ-F12-024)

PROPOSAL 45 - 5 AAC 06.331(u). Gillnet Specifications and Operations. Repeal sunset clause for a dual set gillnet permits for single permit holder as follows:

Remove the last sentence under 5 AAC 06.331 Gillnet Specifications and Operations. (u) [THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBSECTION DO NOT APPLY AFTER DECEMBER 31, 2012].

ISSUE: Remove the sunset clause for a person to own & operate two setnet permits in Bristol Bay (Permit stacking).

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? A person will be able to own but not operate two setnet permits in 2013.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Someone who owns two Bristol Bay setnet salmon permits.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Pete Caruso (HQ-F12-022)

PROPOSAL 46 - 5 AAC 06.331(u). Gillnet specifications and operations. Repeal sunset clause for a dual set gillnet permits for single permit holder as follows:

5 AAC 06.331(u) A CFEC permit holder who holds two Bristol Bay set gillnet permits may not operate more than four set gillnets, and the aggregate length of set gillnets operated by the CFEC permit holder may not exceed 100 fathoms. A single set gillnet may not exceed 50 fathoms in length. The buoys must be marked as specified in 5 AAC 06.334 and 5 AAC 39.280 with both of the CFEC permit holder’s five digit permit numbers followed by the letter “D”. In addition at least one cork every 10 fathoms along the cork line must be plainly and legibly marked with both CFEC permit numbers. All identifiers must be displayed in a manner that is plainly visible, unobscured, and in a color that contrasts with the background. [THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBSECTION DO NOT APPLY AFTER DECEMBER 31, 2012.]

ISSUE: 5 AAC 06.331(u) sunsets after December 31, 2012. If not amended, this would do away with dual setnet permit operation.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Unlike other fisheries, a setnet site is often a family operation, with several permits held by family members and fished as a whole. Prior to 5 AAC 06.331, a permit holder could only operate a single permit. This system works fine until a young adult enters a different line of work or until a parent reaches an elderly age and cannot fish anymore. Then you have only two choices: break up the operation and sell the permits outright, or transfer the permits into someone else’s name with the idea that they will continue to fish with you. A serious gamble as these permits are now legally out of your control and can be sold, lost in a divorce, seized by the IRS, etc.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Setnetting families who have more than one permit in their operation.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Eric M. Beeman (HQ-F12-031)

PROPOSAL 47 - 5 AAC 06.331(u). Gillnet specifications and operations. Repeal sunset clause for a dual set gillnet permits for single permit holder as follows:

(u) A CFEC permit holder who holds two Bristol Bay set gillnet permits may not operate more than four set gillnets, and the aggregate length of set gillnets operated by the CFEC permit holder may not exceed 100 fathoms. A single set gillnet may not exceed 50 fathoms in length. The buoys must be marked as specified in 5 AAC 06.334 and 5 AAC 39.280 with both of the CFEC permit holder’s five digit permit numbers followed by the letter “D”. In addition, at least

one cork every 10 fathoms along the cork line must be plainly and legibly marked with both CFEC permit numbers. All identifiers must be displayed in a manner that is plainly visible, unobscured, and in a color that contrasts with the background.

ISSUE: Remove the Sun Set on Setnet Permit stacking in Bristol Bay.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued loss of family fishing operations in Bristol Bay.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Family fishing operations in Bristol Bay.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Roland Briggs (HQ-F12-053)

PROPOSAL 48 - 5 AAC 06.331(u). Gillnet specifications and operations. Repeal sunset clause for a dual set gillnet permits for single permit holder as follows:

The Board should drop the sunset clause and allow the regulation to stand as written. I do not propose any changes in the wording of the regulation itself.

ISSUE: This provision has a –sunset” clause. I request that the Board drop the sunset clause so that the regulation continues as written.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The regulations will be changed by default to eliminate the dual permit holder provision. The many fishers who need this provision to maintain their family fishing businesses will be forced to find alternative permit holders, thereby increasing the amount of fishers sharing in the same catch, hurting everyone.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? All of the reasons that applied when the Board adopted this regulation still apply and the regulation has been the success that was expected. The regulation has been helpful in reducing the number of fishers who share in the resource, making the work more likely profitable and allowing professional fishers to concentrate on quality practices. I am confident that many more setnet fishers will use this regulation as they become aware of it and the result is that the many family fishing businesses can continue to exist and make a reasonable income and can concentrate a higher quality.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? I will benefit. My family will benefit. My neighbors who have or plan to get dual permits will benefit. The setnet fishers will benefit. Processors benefit. The Bristol Bay fishing industry benefits. State of Alaska benefits.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? I do not see any downside for anyone, and no downside for the industry or the State.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? I don't think this issue lends itself to alternatives.

PROPOSED BY: Tony Neal (HQ-F12-061)

PROPOSAL 49 - 5 AAC 06.331. Gillnet specifications and operations. Repeal sunset clause for a dual set gillnet permits for single permit holder as follows:

5 AAC 06.331(u) A CFEC permit holder who holds two Bristol Bay set gillnet permits may not operate more than four set gillnets, and the aggregate length of set gillnets operated by the CFEC permit holder may not exceed 100 fathoms. A single set gillnet may not exceed 50 fathoms in length. The buoys must be marked as specified in 5 AAC 06.334 and 5 AAC 39.280 with both of the CFEC permit holders five-digit permit numbers followed by the letter "D". In addition, at least one cork every 10 fathoms along the cork line must be plainly and legibly marked with both CFEC permit numbers. All identifiers must be displayed in a manner that is plainly visible, unobscured, and in a color that contrasts with the background. [THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBSECTION DO NOT APPLY AFTER DECEMBER 31, 2012.]

ISSUE: 5 AAC 06.331(u) sunsets after December 31st, 2012. If not amended, this would do away with dual setnet permit operation.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Unlike other fisheries, a setnet site is often a family operation, with several permits held by family members and fished as a whole. Prior to 5 AAC 06.331(u), a permit holder could only operate a single permit. This system works fine until a young adult enters a different line of work, or until a parent reaches an elderly age and cannot fish anymore. Then the family has only two choices: break up the operation and sell the permits outright, or transfer the permits into someone else's name with the idea that they will continue to fish with you—a serious gamble as these permits are now legally out of your control and can be sold, lost in a divorce, seized by the IRS, etc.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Setnetting families with more than one permit in their operation, especially families with aging parents, or young adults. This is an issue that affects many. Before deciding if we should submit this as a Ugashik Setnet Association proposal, UGSA polled its members as to their views on dual permit ownership. The response was 83% in favor of repealing the sunset clause, and thereby making 5 AAC 06.331(u) a permanent regulation.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? 17% of our response was from members who were against the stacking of setnet permits. One felt that stacking could potentially bring more setnet permits to the Ugashik fishery, which could lessen his share of the allocated setnet catch. Another member was opposed, as he felt that both drift and setnet stacking led to more cheating in the fishery. Another was against setnet stacking on general principle.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Ugashik Setnet Association (HQ-F12-095)

PROPOSAL 50 - 5 AAC 06.331. Gillnet specifications and operations. Repeal sunset clause for a dual set gillnet permits for single permit holder as follows:

(u) A CFEC permit holder who holds two Bristol Bay set gillnet permits may not operate more than four set gillnets, and the aggregate length of set gillnets operated by the CFEC permit holder may not exceed 100 fathoms. A single set gillnet may not exceed 50 fathoms in length. The buoys must be marked as specified in 5 AAC 06.334 and 5AAC 39.280 with both of the CFEC permit holders five digit permit numbers followed by the letter "D". In addition, at least every 10 fathoms along the cork line must be plainly and legibly marked with both CFEC permit numbers. All identifiers must be displayed in a manner that is plainly visible, un-obscured, and in a color that contrasts with the background.

ISSUE: The Egegik Setnet Association would like the board to remove the last sentence of section (u). This would remove the sunset clause from this proposal.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? If the sunset clause is not removed the Bristol Bay setnet fishers now fishing two setnet permits would not be able to fish 2 permits after December 2012. The dual permit program is working well in the Egegik District of Bristol Bay. We would like to make the use of dual permits in the setnet fishery a permanent regulation by removing the sunset clause of section (u), setnets would continue to be able to fish dual setnet permits.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Proposal does not address quality.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All setnet fishers in Bristol Bay would benefit from the ability to fish dual permits in the setnet fishery of Bristol Bay.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No setnet fishers would suffer if this proposal is adopted.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? No other solutions were considered.

PROPOSED BY: Egegik Setnet Association (HQ-F12-098)

PROPOSAL 51 - 5 AAC 06.331. Gillnet specifications and operations. Repeal sunset clause for a dual set gillnet permits for single permit holder as follows:

5 AAC 06.331 Gillnet specifications and operations.

Allow one owner to fish two set gillnet permits by amending the regulation as follows:

(f) Except as provided in (u) of this section, a person may not operate more than two set gillnets, and the aggregate length of set gillnets operated by that person may not exceed 50 fathoms in length. Notwithstanding 5 AAC 39.240(a), a person may assist in operation or transportation of additional set gillnet gear when the CFEC interim-use or entry permit card holder of the additional gear is present in compliance with 5 AAC 39.107.

(u) A CFEC permit holder who holds two Bristol Bay set gillnet permits may not operate more than four set gillnets, and the aggregate length of set gillnets operated by the CFEC permit holder may not exceed 100 fathoms. A single set gillnet may not exceed 50 fathoms in length. The buoys must be marked as specified in 5 AAC 06.334 and 5 AAC 39.280 with both of the CFEC permit holder's five digit permit numbers followed by the letter "D". In addition, at least one cork every 10 fathoms along the cork line must be plainly and legibly marked with both CFEC permit numbers. All identifiers must be displayed in a manner that is plainly visible, unobscured, and in a color that contrasts with the background. [THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBSECTION DO NOT APPLY AFTER DECEMBER 31, 2012.]

A CFEC permit holder who holds two Bristol Bay set gillnet CFEC permits shall be able to fish in exactly the same locations, in the same manner, and by the same means as if the permits were held by two separate permit holders. A CFEC permit holder who holds two Bristol Bay set gillnet CFEC permits shall not be able to fish in any location, in any manner, or by any means other than those permitted as if the permits were held by two separate permit holders.

ISSUE: This proposal asks the Board to remove the sunset provision specified in 5 AAC 06.331(u). The proposal asks the Board to exercise its authority under HB251 to continue to allow one person to own and operate two Bristol Bay CFEC set gillnet permits in accordance with existing regulations. This proposal adds additional language to subsection (u) intended to clarify inconsistencies in the regulations and aid in enforcement of the regulation by clarifying the original intent of the proposal – that a dual setnet permit hold shall fish the permits in the same manner as if they were held by two separate permit holders with no greater privileges or encumbrances.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? If 5 AAC 06.331(u) expires, hundreds of setnet fishermen who have transferred permits and shore fishery leases into their names will be forced to sell these permits and sites or transfer them to family members or crewmembers, thereby relinquishing all ownership rights. Thus, the hundred or more fishermen who will opt to relinquish ownership rights to family and crew, as opposed to selling their permits and sites, will be forced to operate in a more risky and unstable business environment. All setnetters will be foreclosed an option to build a more profitable, efficient, and adaptable dual permit setnet operation.

Removal of section 5 AAC 06.331(u) will: make it more difficult to develop direct marketing enterprises; undermine existing direct marketing enterprises; reduce setnet operational efficiencies and profitability; make it more difficult for families to hold on to permits and sites they intend to pass on to their children who have been raised as fishermen but are not yet old enough to hold a permit; compel longtime setnetters, whose kids have grown up and pursued other interests, to transfer permits and sites over to crew to maintain their existing operation, or sell off a portion of their longtime family setnet operation; and create unnecessary administrative work and expenses for setnetters, CFEC, and DNR shore fishery division both: in the short-term due to a significant volume of transfer applications from dual permit holders; and in the long-term because most dual setnet permit holders will opt to transfer permits to family and crew which generally results in more permit and site transfers from year to year as crewmembers frequently move on to other pursuits or buy into the fishery.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, increased profitability derived from fishing multiple set gillnets allows more disposable income to invest in capital improvements that increase product quality. Operational efficiency derived from dual permit setnet operations enables fishing gear to be actively managed continuously resulting more frequent picking, deliveries, and therefore better quality harvest.

A more consistent annual production afforded by multiple nets will provide a solid foundation from which an operation can vertically integrate. Multiple nets enable a fisherman to project a reasonable annual harvest with greater certainty despite changing runs from year to year. This production floor is essential to build long-term direct marketing clientele and ensure that orders are met. Furthermore, expanded harvesting capacity enables a higher average daily catch during scratch fishing, thereby incentivizing fishermen to add “shoulders” to the fishing season, making Bristol Bay direct marketers more competitive with other fishermen around the state who enjoy longer fishing seasons and therefore can guarantee direct marketing clients fresh product for a longer period of time.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All current Bristol Bay set gillnet holders will realize an increase in the fair market value of their permits. Existing multi-permit operations will avoid present and future risks associated with relinquishing ownership rights to family members and crewmembers. Single permit holders will be afforded a safe and predictable regulatory mechanism to both expand their operation and increase its profitability.

Dual permit set gillnet operations allow setnet fishermen to be more adaptive and flexible to changing market and fishing conditions. During the last few years, abundant salmon runs and increased grounds prices have increased the average gross earnings for Bristol Bay setnetters. However, several factors have either counteracted these benefits to fishermen, or have the potential to detrimentally affect the profitability of Bristol Bay setnet fishers. Increasing grounds prices have been offset to some extent by dramatically increasing food, fuel, ice, equipment, gear, freight, and other operational costs. History suggests that the historically abundant salmon runs of recent years are often followed by smaller returns of salmon. Furthermore, ocean acidification may introduce more variability into future salmon returns. Recently, there have

been some major processor consolidations occurring in Bristol Bay. Presently, there is potentially less processor competition than at any time in recent memory. Thus, the economic recovery of the fishery faces significant challenges.

In the face of economic uncertainty passage of this proposal will benefit setnet fishermen greatly by providing them with more options to develop a business model that can remain adaptive to changing economic conditions.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? New entrants into the fishery will probably pay a higher fair market value for a permit. However, access will probably not be precluded. Bristol Bay set gillnet permits are presently still available for purchase and have remained available for purchase since 5 AAC 06.331(u) was approved by the Board. A similar dual permit holder measure was passed for the Cook Inlet set gillnet fleet with no sunset provision and permits are currently available for purchase in that fishery.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Fishing cooperatives, joint ventures, a permit holder appoints a proxy, limiting the amended regulation to family members. Rejected: do not address the issue and/or may not conform to CFEC regulations.

PROPOSED BY: Corey Arnold (HQ-F12-165)

PROPOSAL 52 - 5 AAC 06.331. Gillnet specifications and operations. Repeal sunset clause for a dual set gillnet permits for single permit holder as follows:

Remove the last sentence of 5 AAC 06.331 (u): [THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBSECTION DO NOT APPLY AFTER DECEMBER 31, 2012].

The remainder of the subsection would remain intact.

ISSUE: 5 AAC 06.331, (u) allows dual permit holders to operate up to four nets by one setnet permit holder who holds two permits. It is already on the books that one person may hold two setnet permits. This provision allows the permittee to fish two permits simultaneously. This regulation has a sunset clause of December 31, 2012. Please remove the sunset clause and permanently codify this provision.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Individuals who have invested in this privilege will suffer loss of ability to harvest. It will cause loss of income. Setnet leases that some have purchased will be lost because they may not be legally fished. One may not hold a lease unless it can be legally fished by the permit holder. Any consolidation gains which allow a permit holder to do a viable business during diminished harvests will be lost. It is a boon to family operations which will be lost.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Allowing simultaneous setnet permit fishing keeps operators

in business during hard times. More income rather than reduced income and losses allows investment in equipment.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Permit holders will benefit.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? If this regulation is kept, the price of permits may rise. This remains to be seen.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? I do not see another solution.

PROPOSED BY: Harlan P. Bailey (HQ-F12-175)

PROPOSAL 53 - 5 AAC 06.331. Gillnet specifications and operations. Repeal sunset clause for a dual set gillnet permits for single permit holder as follows:

Remove the last sentence of 5 AAC 06.331 (u) [THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBSECTION DO NOT APPLY AFTER DECEMBER 31, 2012]. The remainder of the regulation would remain intact.

ISSUE: 5 AAC 06.331 (u) allows dual setnet holders to operate up to four nets. A provision exists allowing an individual to hold two setnet permits. This regulation allows a setnet permit holder to hold and fish two permits simultaneously. This provision has a sunset clause of December 31, 2012. Please remove the sunset clause and allow one permit holder to simultaneously fish two permits.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Individuals who have invested in and begun operating simultaneous permits will suffer financial loss. Individuals who have obtained sites for the second permit will automatically lose them. Setnet sites cannot be legally held if a permit holder cannot harvest on them. During small harvest seasons, operators will not have the same ability to invest in and remain viable in the fishery that this consolidation has given them.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? A viable business can invest in its assets. New and improved assets will produce a better product. This small consolidation will go further in enabling fishers to do a good business during reduced harvests.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? This proposal clearly benefits those who currently hold permits.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? The cost of permits may rise if they are more profitable to hold. If permits cost more, it is harder to buy in.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? There is no clear solution. I have a child who could hold a permit, but these children also have lives, need, and responsibilities of their own. A lot of

flexibility is lost if we must pass these permits around every year. I don't really see another solution as good as my proposal.

PROPOSED BY: Harlan P. Bailey

(HQ-F12-195)

PROPOSAL 54 - 5 AAC 06.331. Gillnet specifications and operations. Repeal sunset clause for dual set gillnet permits for single permit holder as follows:

5 AAC 06.331 Gillnet specifications and operations.

Allow one owner to fish two set gillnet permits by amending the regulation as follows:

(f) Except as provided in (u) of this section, a person may not operate more than two set gillnets, and the aggregate length of set gillnets operated by that person may not exceed 50 fathoms in length. Notwithstanding 5 AAC 39.240(a), a person may assist in operation or transportation of additional set gillnet gear when the CFEC interim-use or entry permit card holder of the additional gear is present in compliance with 5 AAC 39.107.

(u) A CFEC permit holder who holds two Bristol Bay set gillnet permits may not operate more than four set gillnets, and the aggregate length of set gillnets operated by the CFEC permit holder may not exceed 100 fathoms. A single set gillnet may not exceed 50 fathoms in length. The buoys must be marked as specified in 5 AAC 06.334 and 5 AAC 39.280 with both of the CFEC permit holder's five digit permit numbers followed by the letter "D". In addition, at least one cork every 10 fathoms along the cork line must be plainly and legibly marked with both CFEC permit numbers. All identifiers must be displayed in a manner that is plainly visible, unobscured, and in a color that contrasts with the background. [The provisions of this subsection do not apply after December 31, 2012].

A CFEC permit holder who holds two Bristol Bay set gillnet CFEC permits shall be able to fish in exactly the same locations, in the same manner, and by the same means in all legal fishing districts and special harvest areas as if the permits were held by two separate permit holders. A CFEC permit holder who holds two Bristol Bay set gillnet CFEC permits shall not be able to fish in any location, in any manner, or by any means other than those permitted as if the permits were held by two separate permit holders.

ISSUE: This proposal asks the Board to remove the sunset provision specified in 5 AAC 06.331(u). The proposal asks the Board to exercise its authority under HB251 to continue to allow one person to own and operate two Bristol Bay CFEC set gillnet permits in accordance with existing regulations. This proposal adds additional language to subsection (u) intended to address inconsistencies in the regulations and aid in enforcement of the regulation by clarifying the original intent of the proposal – that a dual setnet permit holder shall fish the permits in the same manner as if they were held by two separate permit holders with no greater privileges or encumbrances.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? If 5 AAC 06.331(u) expires, a significant number setnet fishermen who have transferred permits and shore fishery leases into their names will be forced to sell these permits and sites or transfer them to family members or crewmembers, thereby relinquishing all ownership rights. Thus, significant number of fishermen who will opt to relinquish ownership rights to family and crew, as opposed to selling their permits and sites, will be forced to operate in a more risky and unstable business environment. Other setnetters, who opted not to transfer their sites and permits out of family and crewmember names due to the sunset provision, will also continue to operate in this riskier business environment. All setnetters will be foreclosed an option to build a more profitable, efficient, and adaptable dual permit setnet operation.

Removal of section 5 AAC 06.331(u) will: make it more difficult to develop direct marketing enterprises; undermine existing direct marketing enterprises; reduce setnet operational efficiencies and profitability; make it more difficult for families to hold on to permits and sites they intend to pass on to their children who have been raised as fishermen but are not yet old enough to hold a permit; compel longtime setnetters, whose kids have grown up and pursued other interests, to transfer permits and sites over to crew to maintain their existing operation, or sell off a portion of their longtime family setnet operation; and create unnecessary administrative work and expenses for setnetters, CFEC, and DNR Shore Fishery Division both: in the short-term due to a significant volume of transfer applications from dual permit holders; and in the long-term because most dual setnet permit holders will opt to transfer permits to family and crew which generally results in more permit and site transfers from year to year as crewmembers frequently move on to other pursuits or buy into the fishery.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, increased profitability derived from fishing dual set gillnets allows more disposable income to invest in capital improvements that increase product quality. Operational efficiency derived from dual permit setnet operations enables fishing gear to be actively managed continuously resulting more frequent picking, deliveries, and therefore better quality harvest.

A more consistent annual production afforded by dual nets provides a solid foundation from which an operation can vertically integrate. Dual nets enable a fisherman to project a reasonable annual harvest with greater certainty despite changing runs from year to year. This production floor is essential to: justify direct marketing capital, fixed costs, and variable costs; and build long-term direct marketing clientele and ensure that orders are met. Furthermore, expanded harvesting capacity enables a higher average daily catch during scratch fishing, thereby incentivizing fishermen to add “shoulders” to the fishing season, making Bristol Bay direct marketers more competitive with other fishermen around the state who enjoy longer fishing seasons and therefore can guarantee direct marketing clients fresh product for a longer period of time.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All current Bristol Bay set gillnet holders will probably continue realize an increase in the fair market value of their permits. Existing dual permit operations will avoid present and future risks associated with relinquishing ownership rights to

family members and crewmembers. Single permit holders will be afforded a safe and predictable regulatory mechanism to both expand their operation and increase its profitability.

Dual permit set gillnet operations allow setnet fishermen to be more adaptive and flexible to changing market and fishing conditions. During the last few years, abundant salmon runs and relatively better grounds prices have increased the average gross earnings for Bristol Bay setnetters. However, several factors have either counteracted these benefits to fishermen, or have the potential to detrimentally affect the profitability of Bristol Bay setnet fishers. Increasing grounds prices have been offset to some extent by dramatically increasing food, fuel, ice, equipment, gear, freight, and other operational costs. History suggests that the historically abundant salmon runs of recent years are often followed by smaller returns of salmon. Furthermore, ocean acidification may introduce more variability into future salmon returns. Recently, there have been some major processor consolidations occurring in Bristol Bay. Presently, there is potentially less processor competition than at any time in recent memory. Thus, the economic recovery of the fishery faces significant challenges.

In the face of economic uncertainty, passage of this proposal will benefit setnet fishermen greatly by providing them with more options to develop a business model that can remain adaptive to changing economic conditions.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? New entrants into the fishery will probably pay a higher fair market value for a permit. However, access will probably not be precluded. Bristol Bay set gillnet permits are presently still available for purchase and have remained available for purchase since 5 AAC 06.331(u) was approved by the Board. A similar dual permit holder measure was passed for the Cook Inlet set gillnet fleet, with no sunset provision, and permits have remained available for purchase in that fishery.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Fishing cooperatives, joint ventures, a permit holder appoints a proxy, limiting the amended regulation to family members. Rejected: do not address the issue.

PROPOSED BY: Dylan Braund and Tom Rollman Jr. (HQ-F12-109)

PROPOSAL 55 - 5 AAC 06.331. Gillnet specifications and operations. Allow two set gillnet permit holders to fish 100 fathoms on a single site as follows:

Allow two CFEC permit holders to register as a dual and fish one site with up to 100 fathoms gear in the Naknek/Kvichak section.

ISSUE: Drifters are allowed to fish 200 fathoms on one boat as dual permit option. I would like the board to address having a dual permit option for setnet to fish 2 permits on one site with up to 100 fathoms gear.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? No possibility to consolidate fishing operations to limit costs. Less options available for setnetters to use at their disposal to better

manage their business. Less fishing area/sites available to fish. Possibly higher fuel costs due to long travel time between sites fished. Overall less options available for set gillnet fishermen to use as their circumstances warrant. Drifters will continue to have the option but setnet will not.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? This proposal could possibly improve quality with the potential to consolidate operations and less travel time in between sites to pick.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Setnet fishermen would get the same option as the drifters to help consolidate costs and fishing operations as their circumstances warrant.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? None.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Jim W. Reynolds (HQ-F12-101)

PROPOSAL 56 - 5 AAC 06.370. Registration and reregistration. Prior to June 25, if a drift gillnet permit holder intends to fish in either the Ugashik or Egegik district they must be registered for that district as follows:

Too many boats will be on-ground to warrant any substantial fishing time in the Egegik and Ugashik Districts prior to June 25th because of escapement concerns into the Egegik River. In the last couple of years a good portion of the run occurred considerably earlier than historical run timing and catches were too large to warrant reasonable early fish escapement into the Egegik River.

(4) Beginning June 25, before taking salmon in the Naknek, Kvichak or Egegik Districts, a commercial salmon drift permit holder shall register for one of these districts;

(4a) beginning June 1, before taking salmon in the Ugashik and Egegik District(s), a commercial salmon drift permit holder shall register for the Ugashik or Egegik District(s).

ISSUE: Revert back to original regulation that drift permit holders in the Ugashik District prior to June 25th have to register for the Egegik and Ugashik Districts. Too many drift vessels jumping back and forth between east side districts prior to June 25th. Reduce the number of vessels in the Ugashik and Egegik District prior to June 25th when they jump back to the Naknek/Kvichak or Nushagak Districts.

This proposal is a trade off to the “General District” concept introduced by the industry to promote early fishing effort on the east side of Bristol Bay.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? ADF&G management biologist will have no estimate of exact fleet size until a fishing period is announced. Vessels continue to jump between districts with no restrictions limitations prior to June 25th. Too many vessels currently

in Egegik and Ugashik Districts prior to June 25th and the Department have expressed concerns because of the difficulty managing early escapement numbers into the Egegik River.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, increases fishing time and subsequently reduces the need to “~~cut~~” stack the fish prior to closing time.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? A few local Ugashik and Egegik fishermen, the area management biologist, the sustainability of Egegik sockeye run.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? A few Nushagak and Naknek-Kvichak drift fishermen.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Lower Bristol Bay Advisory Committee (HQ-F12-119)

PROPOSAL 57 – 5 AAC 06.XXX. Regulatory changes and/or management plans pertaining to chum and sockeye salmon in the Bristol Bay Area. Placeholder for possible regulatory changes based on results from Western Alaska Salmon Stock Identification Project (WASSIP) as follows:

ISSUE: This is a placeholder proposal to allow fishery stakeholders, the board, and the department an opportunity to discuss proposed regulatory changes in the Bristol Bay Area based upon results of the Western Alaska Salmon Stock Identification Project, which will not be available until late summer 2012.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Potentially important information regarding fisheries management will not be utilized until the next Alaska Board of Fisheries cycle for Bristol Bay in 2015/2016.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Unknown.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Unknown.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Unknown.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F12-212)

PROPOSAL 58 - 5 AAC 06.3XX. General District Salmon Management Plan. Open General District and allow a harvest of up to 25% of projected sockeye salmon run as follows:

Allow General District fishing as generally promulgated during the 2004 season to harvest up to 25% of the projected catch.

ISSUE: Some years in Bristol Bay runs are too compressed and overwhelm processing production capacity. A general district will allow early harvesting of fish with higher commercial value and improve quality. This higher quality fish can be put into a higher value fresh market raising the price paid to Bristol Bay fisherman.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The quality of the fish will suffer because processors are frequently overwhelmed with too many fish. This will alleviate the problem. In the past this has led to over escapement and foregone harvest. Potential revenues are lost from reduced quality and foregone harvest.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, as stated above.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Everyone.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Dominic Lee (HQ-F12-080)

PROPOSAL 59 - 5 AAC 06.200. Fishing districts and sections. Create two new general districts when all eastside systems have met their escapement goals or on July 17, whichever comes first as follows:

At the end of the season when the escapement goals are met for the Naknek/Kvichak, Egegik, and Ugashik Districts, or the 48-hour transfer is no longer required (July 17th), fishing will be allowed in two new general district sections: The first would connect the Naknek Section-Johnson Hill Line and the North line of Egegik running approximately three miles offshore. The second would connect the South line of Egegik to the North line of Ugashik running approximately three miles off shore. These new sections would remain open until July 27th.

ISSUE: At the end of the season, very few boats get to share the harvest of fish that lead the beach and enter the districts in a small ribbon on the northern and southern district boundaries.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, higher quality will be achieved by catching the fish in deep water and not along the beach.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The majority of the fishermen.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Aggressive fishermen.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Kurt Johnson (HQ-F12-138)

PROPOSAL 60 - 5 AAC 06.3XX. General District Salmon Management Plan. Create a general district when all eastside river systems have met their escapement goals or on July 17, whichever comes first as follows:

When all eastside rivers reach their biological goals, or the EO goes off on July 17, whichever comes first, there shall be a General District fishery in which--except for the upriver boundary lines--the boundary lines in each eastside district are dissolved. Fishermen may fish anywhere they like within three nautical miles of shore.

ISSUE: Towards the end of the main salmon season, the AK State Troopers, because of budget constraints, greatly reduce their presence in patrolling the boundary lines of the eastside rivers. Because of their absence, hungry fishermen push the lines into illegal territory. Anyone willing to catch the few remaining fish must risk arrest by the infrequent flyovers by the Troopers. It is not conducive to maintaining an 'equal opportunity' fishery.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Otherwise legal fisherman, presented the choice to catch some fish illegally, or far fewer in legal waters, will again face extreme frustration in being corked-off by the pirate minority freely breaking the law. Pirates win again! The unequal opportunity line-fishery remains unchanged.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes! There will be less frantic towing and stern-hauling, as occurs in the line fishery, and the fish will tend to be harvested in a fashion that allows time to put quality first. Better quality equals better price.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Fishermen who desire to fish legally (the majority) will have the same opportunity as everyone.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those that disregard the law will be forced to fish on a level playing field with everyone else.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Find more money for some sort of line enforcement that extends late in the season, but this seems impractical and far more difficult than just

removing the boundary lines. When a river's biological requirements are satisfied, why have boundary lines?

PROPOSED BY: Chris White (HQ-F12-034)

PROPOSAL 61 - 5 AAC 06.350. Closed waters. After all eastside Bristol Bay rivers have reached escapement goals, remove existing boundaries and allow open access on or after August 1 as follows:

After August 1st (or a date determined by the biologist) and after all eastside rivers of Bristol Bay have reached escapement goals, allow the biologist to remove the boundaries and open the eastside of Bristol Bay for fishing.

ISSUE: After August 1st and after all the eastside rivers have reached escapement goals, we would like the Board to address the issue of the fishing boundaries on the east side of Bristol Bay.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Less opportunity to fish; lower quality of fish; less marketing opportunity and possible over escapement.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, this proposal would improve the quality of the resource harvested by allowing harvest before contact with fresh water. It would also allow a marketing campaign to be established.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? People who choose to fish at this time. All of Bristol Bay due to increased buzz and name recognition of marketing as Bristol Bay salmon.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one (in recent history there have been no fishermen this late).

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Other solutions would be leaving to fish other areas of the state. However, fishing for salmon elsewhere would only be lowering our standards since Bristol Bay already has the best salmon in Alaska.

PROPOSED BY: Wild Salmon Now (HQ-F12-189)

PROPOSAL 62 - 5 AAC 39.XXX. Restructuring Process. Develop a process for addressing future proposals deemed as Bristol Bay salmon industry restructuring proposals as follows:

Bristol Bay Salmon Industry Restructuring Proposals

Definition: A restructuring proposal is a proposal that is likely to have substantial economic, social or biological impacts and may require significant changes to the management of the

Bristol Bay salmon fishery. The proposed regulatory change may strive to improve the value of the fishery by providing new and increased opportunities to: (1) raise the revenue generated from harvested fish (e.g. through improved quality); or (2) lower the cost of fishing operations; or (3) improve conservation. Such proposals may include but are not limited to, consolidation of fishing effort, a shift in who harvests the fish, changes in harvest methods, or allocations.

Board of Fisheries Criteria for Review of Bristol Bay Restructuring Proposals

Keeping in mind that all proposals must promote the sustainability of fishery resources and be consistent with other Board of Fisheries policies, the Board of Fisheries may consider comprehensive regulatory restructuring proposals, and when doing so shall use the following criteria:

- 1) Promote an increased economic benefit to the participants remaining in the Bristol Bay fishery following restructuring;
- 2) Identify possible interactions within the region.
- 3) Identify potential mitigation measures for those dependent on the fishery that may be negatively impacted;
- 4) Promote improvements in the fisheries value, product quality, or an increase in efficiency;
- 5) Adequately address biological impacts to the resource caused by changes in management systems and utilization of the resource.
- 6) Promote a healthy fishing economy in Bristol Bay that provides social and economic benefit to communities dependent upon the fishery and contributes to the overall benefit of the resource and sustainability of Bristol Bay communities and the economy of the State.
- 7) In addition to the criteria above, other factors may be considered as appropriate.

Process to Review Restructuring Proposals

Restructuring proposals may have substantial economic, social and/or biological impacts and may require significant changes to the management of the fishery. Accordingly the Board of Fisheries is interested in ensuring ample opportunity for review and comment by Bristol Bay communities and participants in the fishery.

- 1) Submit the proposal as part of a regular review cycle for Bristol Bay. (Responsibility: Applicant)
- 2) Determine if the proposal is a restructuring proposal. (Responsibility: Board)
- 3) Publish restructuring proposals in a separate section of the board proposal book or otherwise identify proposal as a restructuring proposal. (Responsibility: Board's Support Section)
- 4) Hold a publicly-noticed work session to determine: (Responsibility: Board)
 - a. Is proposal complete?

- b. Are there outstanding questions or information needed?
 - c. Confirm that the board has authority to act on proposal; identify any aspects or proposal where the board may need additional authority to make decisions.
 - d. Identify whether CFEC, DNR or other agencies need to be consulted on issues raised by the proposal. If so, bring staff together to schedule work and process.
 - e. Identify proposal's review process and schedule.
- 5) Hold information-gathering public hearing(s) within the region. (Responsibility: Board)
 - 6) Hold other hearings/work sessions as needed. (Responsibility: Board)
 - 7) Board of Fisheries decision. (Responsibility: Board)

Alaska Board of Fisheries – Bristol Bay Salmon Restructuring Proposal Form

Please answer the questions below as completely as possible. Your responses will likely require multiple pages and considerable time and effort. Some questions may not be applicable to your proposal. Some questions might be difficult to answer; incomplete answers will not necessarily disqualify your proposal.

Please carefully read the instructions on the following page before answering these questions.

- 1) What Bristol Bay gear type does this restructuring proposal affect?
- 2) Please thoroughly explain your proposal. (See Part II, Question 2 of the instruction page for important guidance on how to answer this question).
- 3) What are the objectives of the proposal?
- 4) How will this proposal meet the objectives in question #3?
- 5) Please identify the potential allocative impacts of your proposal. Is there an allocation or management plan that will be affected by this proposal?
- 6) If the total value of the resource is expected to increase, who will benefit?
- 7) What will happen if the fishery is not restructures as your proposal recommends, and how is this proposal an improvement over current practices?
- 8) Considering the history of the commercial fishery, what are the potential short- and long-term positive and negative impacts on:
 - a. watershed communities and fishermen
 - b. the fishery resource;
 - c. harvesters;
 - d. the sector, species and regional interdependence relationships
 - e. safety;
 - f. the market; and
 - g. processors.
- 9) What is your understanding of the level of support for your proposal among the harvesters, processors, watershed communities and fishermen?
- 10) What are the potential short and long-term impacts on conservation and resource habitat?

11) What are the potential legal, fishery management and enforcement implications if this proposal is adopted? What other governmental actions may need to be taken into account?

Submitted By: Name _____ (signature required)
Individual or Group _____
Address _____ Zip Code _____ Phone _____

Instructions for Bristol Bay Restructuring Proposal Form

Please answer the question below as completely as possible. Your responses will likely require multiple pages and considerable time and effort. Some questions may not be applicable to your proposal. Some questions might be difficult to answer; incomplete answers will not necessarily disqualify your proposal.

Part I: How to determine if your proposal is a 'restructuring' proposal.

A "restructuring proposal" is a proposal that is likely to have substantial economic, social, and/or biological impacts and may require significant changes to the management of a fishery. The proposed regulatory change may strive to improve the value of Bristol Bay's salmon fishery by providing new and increased opportunities to: (1) raise the revenue generated from harvested fish (e.g. through improved quality); or (2) lower the cost of fishing operations; or (3) improve conservation.

Please note that if the board does not have the legal authority to implement the proposed regulation then your proposal may be dismissed or tabled. If your proposal is found to be incomplete, the board may direct you to potential resources or specific agencies you may need to work with. If your proposal is determined to be a restructuring proposal, the board may put the proposal on a special timeline for action to allow for appropriate public input. If the proposal is determined to be incomplete or otherwise needs further development prior to action, the board, at its discretion, may table the proposal for future action. The board may, at its discretion, amend any proposal and move it forward.

Restructuring proposals may have broad ramifications with both positive and/or negative impacts to harvesters, processors, coastal communities, associated businesses and the State of Alaska. Therefore, your proposal should consider the potential impacts of the proposed new regulation on all stakeholders.

Part II: How fill out the Bristol Bay Salmon Restructuring Proposal Form

Question #1: For which gear type will the regulations be changed?

Question #2: To completely explain your proposal, address the questions below:

- a. Will this proposal require initial harvester qualification for eligibility? If so, how would it work?

- b. Are there new harvesting allocations? If so, how are they determined?
- c. What means, methods, and permitted fishing gear are proposed?
- d. Is a change in vessel length proposed?
- e. Is the transferability of permits affected? If so, explain.
- f. Is there a defined role for processors? If so, please describe.
- g. Will this proposal be a permanent change to regulation? If not, for how long?
- h. If adopted, will your proposal require a change in monitoring and oversight by ADF&G?
- i. Will vertical integration (e.g. harvesting and/or processing) or consolidation occur? Will limits be imposed?
- j. How do you propose to monitor and evaluate the restructured fishery?
- k. Is there a conservation motivation behind the proposal? If so, please explain.
- l. What practical challenges need to be overcome to implement your proposal, and how do you propose overcoming them?

Question #3: Restructuring proposals may have many goals that may not be apparent from the proposal itself. What specific changes do you want to occur if this proposal is put into place?

Question #4: How and why will your proposed regulation meet the goals and objectives in question #3?

Question #5: A restructuring proposal will often have allocative or re-allocative impacts. Please identify those potential impacts. Other than already identified in question # 1, what management plans and allocation regulations might be affected?

Question #6: Who will benefit? Harvesters? Processors? Communities? State? Subsistence users? Etc.

Question #7: How is your proposal better than status quo?

Question #8: Restructuring proposals will have positive and/or negative impacts to Bristol Bay harvesters, processors, coastal communities, associated businesses and the State of Alaska. Your proposal is more likely to be judged complete if you try to identify both the positive and negative impacts of your proposal on:

- a. The Bristol Bay fishery resource: 1) biological; 2) management system; and 3) economic utilization.
- b. Harvesters: 1) economic efficiency of the harvesting function; 2) species interdependence impacts; 3) distribution of product value; and 4) market access.
- c. Interdependence: How will your proposal impact other gear types and fisheries targeting other species? How will it affect interactions between the communities of the region?
- d. Safety: How does your proposal affect safety, if at all?

- e. The market: 1) market access and product form 2) market timing; 3) competitive opportunities; 4) other, if any.
- f. Processors: 1) economic efficiency of the processing function; 2) species interdependence impacts; 3) processing asset ownership impacts; 4) distribution of product value; and 5) market access.
- g. Local communities: 1) employment enhancement, displacement, and loss; 2) municipal revenue impacts; 3) industry infrastructure impacts; 4) species interdependence impacts; 5) ownership of local permits and processing impacts, and 6) gain or loss of associated businesses.

Question #9: Is this a “one-person idea” or does your proposal have broad support?

Question #10: Conservation and development of fisheries resources and major goals of the board and any impacts on these goals, positive or negative, are of high importance. Please explain the likely impacts of your proposal.

Question #11: Restructuring proposals often have legal, fishery management, and enforcement implications that the board will have the address before it can take action. Please identify the potential issues in these areas.

ISSUE: The lack of formal guidelines for evaluating restructuring proposals in the Bristol Bay salmon fishery.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Without formal guidelines the Board risks making decisions on restructuring proposals in an arbitrary manner, to the potential detriment of harvesters, coastal communities and the State of Alaska. That risk is greatest in the Bristol Bay region, should new restructuring efforts accelerate the loss of locally-owned limited entry permits. Without access to the fishing economy, increasing numbers of watershed residents will be forced to pursue other economic development options, with potentially serious negative impacts to Bristol Bay’s salmon resource.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. Maintaining the biological health of the watershed remains an important community value as long as resident participation in the fishery remains viable.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Harvesters, coastal communities and the State of Alaska.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Status quo, rejected for the reasons described above.

PROPOSED BY: Nushagak Advisory Committee (HQ-F12-124)

PROPOSAL 63 - 5 AAC 06.355. Bristol Bay Commercial Set and Drift Gillnet Sockeye Salmon Fisheries Management and Allocation Plan; 5 AAC 06.364. Naknek-Kvichak District Commercial Set and Drift Gillnet Sockeye Salmon Fisheries Management and Allocation Plan. Increase set gillnet allocation 20% in Nushagak, Naknek-Kvichak, Egegik, and Ugashik districts as follows:

The allocation would be increased in each district to 20%. The new regulation should read: 5 AAC 06.355. Bristol Bay Commercial Set and Drift Gillnet Sockeye Salmon Fisheries Management and Allocation Plan.

(a) The purpose of this management and allocation plan is to ensure an adequate escapement, as determined by the department, of sockeye salmon into the river systems of the Naknek-Kvichak District to distribute, to the extent practicable, the harvestable surplus of sockeye salmon to the set and drift gillnet fisheries for the allocation percentages specified in (b) of this section. This plan also provides management guidelines to the department in an effort to preclude allocations conflicts between various users of this resource.

(b) It is the intent of the Board of Fisheries (board) that Bristol Bay sockeye salmon be harvested in the traditional harvest locations and that historical sockeye salmon catches be allocated between drift and set gillnet fisheries by district. To achieve this allocation, the department shall manage, to the extent practicable, the commercial sockeye salmon fisheries to achieve the allocation percentages established in the Naknek-Kvichak District.

AND

5 AAC 06.364 (repealed)

ISSUE: Allocation percentages in Bristol Bay/Naknek-Kvichak District to be increased to 20% per district.

It has no basis in either conservation or development of the resource, and only results in lost fishing time. Additionally, it has made management of the resource onerous, as fishery managers must currently take the allocation into effect when determining fishing time. This has produced forgone harvests, as the allocation numbers are based on setnet and driftnet numbers that are not current.

(a) The purpose of this management and allocation plan is to ensure an adequate escapement, as determined by the department, of sockeye salmon into the river systems of the Naknek-Kvichak, and to distribute, to the extent practicable, the harvestable surplus of sockeye salmon to the set and drift gillnet fisheries for the allocation percentages specified in (b) of this section. This plan also provides management guidelines to the department in an effort to preclude allocations conflicts between various users of this resource.

(b) It is the intent of the Board of Fisheries (board) that Bristol Bay sockeye salmon be harvested in the traditional harvest locations and that historical sockeye salmon catches be allocated between drift and set gillnet fisheries by district. To achieve this allocation, the department shall

manage, to the extent practicable, the commercial sockeye salmon fisheries to achieve the allocation percentages established in 5 AAC 06.364 (Naknek-Kvichak District).

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? It will inhibit the Department of Fish and Game to manage and achieve adequate escapement of salmon run into the Naknek-Kvichak Districts.

The allocation will continue to result in forgone harvests, as the drift fishermen have not been able to meet their allocation percentages in time to obtain the maximum return from the salmon run. So, while the setnetters are sitting on the beach "waiting for their turn" the driftnetters have been allowed to fish. If the fish are running close to shore, as they tend to do in certain years due to colder waters, the salmon will continue to over-escape up the rivers, resulting in loss of revenue for the State of Alaska and commercial fishermen.

This will help the Department of Fish and Game to do their job as listed below to manage the fishery:

(d) The department shall manage, subject to existing management plans, fishery openings, closures, and areas to

(1) achieve adequate escapement from all segments of the run by spacing openings throughout the run;

(2) maintain and improve stock specific management through the use of district, subdistrict, and section openings and closures;

(3) distribute fish within individual districts and subdistricts through the spacing and duration of openings;

(4) reduce intensive boundary line fishing through the spacing and duration of openings;

(5) reduce harvest of stocks bound for other districts, subdistricts, or sections in accordance with specific regulatory management plans.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, this proposal will improve the quality of the resource harvested and products produced. Based on a 2011 study of Bristol Bay area gear type and fishing area, the highest quality fish in the entire Bristol Bay was produced by Naknek River beach setnetters. However, by severely circumscribing the Naknek setnet fleet's ability to fish, and limiting openings to only 4 hours (due to the attempt to meet allocation goals by area fishery managers), this has resulted in less of this high quality Naknek setnet fish being harvested and brought to market.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Naknek beach setnetters will benefit, but the entire fleet will benefit overall as an improved quality fish is delivered out of the area, thus helping to buoy prices in the region. The canneries will also benefit from higher quality of fish, and the entire fishery will benefit due to a higher quality of fish being delivered.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? The Naknek drift fleet is likely to suffer somewhat. However, they may also benefit in some ways, as they will be allowed to fish for longer periods if the setnet fleet doesn't have shorter periods. The flexibility afforded managers will allow area managers to schedule fishing times that are more conducive to every fisherman's schedule.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? An alternative solution might be to adjust the allocation to allow for a higher setnet allocation, that is adjusted annually based on the actual numbers of boats registered in the fishing district. This is not a preferred alternative, as it will result in more time devoted to this issue by area managers, and a lot less flexibility as boats transfer out of the region. And from one district to another. Whereas a setnetter has one area to fish the whole season.

PROPOSED BY: Naknek-Kvichak Setnetters (HQ-F12-027)

PROPOSAL 64 - 5 AAC 06.355. Bristol Bay Commercial Set and Drift Gillnet Sockeye Salmon Fisheries Management and Allocation Plan; 5 AAC 06.364. Naknek-Kvichak District Commercial Set and Drift Gillnet Sockeye Salmon Fisheries Management and Allocation Plan. Increase set gillnet allocation 20% in Nushagak, Naknek-Kvichak, Egegik, and Ugashik districts as follows:

The allocation would be increased in each district to 20%. The new regulation should read: 5 AAC 06.355. Bristol Bay Commercial Set and Drift Gillnet Sockeye Salmon Fisheries Management and Allocation Plan.

(a) The purpose of this management and allocation plan is to ensure an adequate escapement, as determined by the department, of sockeye salmon into the river systems of the Naknek-Kvichak District to distribute, to the extent practicable, the harvestable surplus of sockeye salmon to the set and drift gillnet fisheries for the allocation percentages specified in (b) of this section. This plan also provides management guidelines to the department in an effort to preclude allocations conflicts between various users of this resource.

(b) It is the intent of the Board of Fisheries (board) that Bristol Bay sockeye salmon be harvested in the traditional harvest locations and that historical sockeye salmon catches be allocated between drift and set gillnet fisheries by district. To achieve this allocation, the department shall manage, to the extent practicable, the commercial sockeye salmon fisheries to achieve the allocation percentages established in the Naknek-Kvichak District.

AND

5 AAC 06.364 (repealed)

ISSUE: Allocation percentages in Bristol Bay/Naknek-Kvichak District to be increased to 20% per district.

It has no basis in either conservation or development of the resource, and only results in lost fishing time. Additionally, it has made management of the resource onerous, as fishery managers must currently take the allocation into effect when determining fishing time. This has produced forgone harvests, as the allocation numbers are based on setnet and driftnet numbers that are not current.

(a) The purpose of this management and allocation plan is to ensure an adequate escapement, as determined by the department, of sockeye salmon into the river systems of the Naknek-Kvichak, and to distribute, to the extent practicable, the harvestable surplus of sockeye salmon to the set and drift gillnet fisheries for the allocation percentages specified in (b) of this section. This plan also provides management guidelines to the department in an effort to preclude allocations conflicts between various users of this resource.

(b) It is the intent of the Board of Fisheries (board) that Bristol Bay sockeye salmon be harvested in the traditional harvest locations and that historical sockeye salmon catches be allocated between drift and set gillnet fisheries by district. To achieve this allocation, the department shall manage, to the extent practicable, the commercial sockeye salmon fisheries to achieve the allocation percentages established in 5 AAC 06.364 (Naknek-Kvichak District).

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? It will inhibit the Department of Fish and Game to manage and achieve adequate escapement of salmon run into the Naknek-Kvichak Districts.

The allocation will continue to result in forgone harvests, as the drift fishermen have not been able to meet their allocation percentages in time to obtain the maximum return from the salmon run. So, while the setnetters are sitting on the beach "waiting for their turn" the drift netters have been allowed to fish. If the fish are running close to shore, as they tend to do in certain years due to colder waters, the salmon will continue to over-escape up the rivers, resulting in loss of revenue for the State of Alaska and commercial fishermen.

This will help the Department of Fish and Game to do their job as listed below to manage the fishery:

- (d) The department shall manage, subject to existing management plans, fishery openings, closures, and areas to
- (1) achieve adequate escapement from all segments of the run by spacing openings throughout the run;
 - (2) maintain and improve stock specific management through the use of district, subdistrict, and section openings and closures;
 - (3) distribute fish within individual districts and subdistricts through the spacing and duration of openings;
 - (4) reduce intensive boundary line fishing through the spacing and duration of openings;
 - (5) reduce harvest of stocks bound for other districts, subdistricts, or sections in accordance with specific regulatory management plans.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, this proposal will improve the quality of the resource harvested and products produced. Based on a 2011 study of Bristol Bay area gear type and fishing area, the highest quality fish in the entire Bristol Bay was produced by Naknek River beach setnetters. However, by severely circumscribing the Naknek setnet fleet's ability to fish, and limiting openings to only 4 hours (due to the attempt to meet allocation goals by area fishery

managers), this has resulted in less of this high quality Naknek setnet fish being harvested and brought to market.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Naknek beach setnetters will benefit, but the entire fleet will benefit overall as an improved quality fish is delivered out of the area, thus helping to buoy prices in the region. The canneries will also benefit from higher quality of fish, and the entire fishery will benefit due to a higher quality of fish being delivered.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? The Naknek drift fleet is likely to suffer somewhat. However, they may also benefit in some ways, as they will be allowed to fish for longer periods if the setnet fleet doesn't have shorter periods. The flexibility afforded managers will allow area managers to schedule fishing times that are more conducive to every fisherman's schedule.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? An alternative solution might be to adjust the allocation to allow for a higher setnet allocation, that is adjusted annually based on the actual numbers of boats registered in the fishing district. This is not a preferred alternative, as it will result in more time devoted to this issue by area managers, and a lot less flexibility as boats transfer out of the region. And from one district to another. Whereas a setnetter has one area to fish the whole season.

PROPOSED BY: Laverne Pettigen (HQ-F12-028)

PROPOSAL 65 - 5 AAC 06.355. Bristol Bay Commercial Set and Drift Gillnet Sockeye Salmon Fisheries and Management and Allocation Plan; 5 AAC 06.364(b)(2). Naknek - Kvichak District Commercial Set and Drift Gillnet Sockeye Salmon Fisheries Management and Allocation Plan. Increase set gillnet allocation to 20% in Nushagak, Egegik, and Ugashik districts, and to 22% in the Naknek-Kvichak District as follows:

The allocation would be increased in each district to 20%.

The new regulation should read:

5 AAC 06.355. Bristol Bay Commercial Set and Drift Gillnet Sockeye Salmon Fisheries Management and Allocation Plan

(a) The purpose of this management and allocation plan is to ensure an adequate escapement, as determined by the department, of sockeye salmon into the river systems of the Naknek-Kvichak District to distribute, to the extent practicable, the harvestable surplus of sockeye salmon to the set and drift gillnet fisheries for the allocation percentages specified in (b) of this section. This plan also provides management guidelines to the department in an effort to preclude allocations conflicts between various users of this resource.

(b) It is the intent of the Board of Fisheries (board) that Bristol Bay sockeye salmon be harvested in the traditional harvest locations and that historical sockeye salmon catches be allocated between drift and set gillnet fisheries by district. To achieve this allocation, the department shall

manage, to the extent practicable, the commercial sockeye salmon fisheries to achieve the allocation percentages established in the Naknek-Kvichak District.

AND

5 AAC 06.364 (repealed)

ISSUE: Allocation percentages in Bristol Bay/Naknek-Kvichak district to be increased to 22% per district.

It has no basis in either conservation or development of the resource, and only results in lost fishing time. Additionally, it has made management of the resource onerous, as fishery managers must currently take the allocation into effect when determining fishing time. This has produced forgone harvests, as the allocation numbers are based on setnet and driftnet numbers that are not current.

Allocation percentages in Bristol Bay/Naknek-Kvichak District to be increased to 22% per district. It has no basis in either conservation or development of the resource, and only results in lost fishing time. Additionally, it has made management of the resource onerous, as fishery managers must currently take the allocation into effect when determining fishing time. This has produced forgone harvests, as the allocation numbers are based on setnet and driftnet numbers that are not current.

(a) The purpose of this management and allocation plan is to ensure an adequate escapement, as determined by the department, of sockeye salmon into the river systems of the Naknek-Kvichak, and to distribute, to the extent practicable, the harvestable surplus of sockeye salmon to the set and drift gillnet fisheries for the allocation percentages specified in (b) of this section. This plan also provides management guidelines to the department in an effort to preclude allocations conflicts between various users of this resource.

(b) It is the intent of the Board of Fisheries (board) that Bristol Bay sockeye salmon be harvested in the traditional harvest locations and that historical sockeye salmon catches be allocated between drift and set gillnet fisheries by district. To achieve this allocation, the department shall manage, to the extent practicable, the commercial sockeye salmon fisheries to achieve the allocation percentages established in 5 AAC 06.364 (Naknek-Kvichak District).

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? It will inhibit the Department of Fish and Game to manage and achieve adequate escapement of salmon run into the Naknek-Kvichak Districts.

The allocation will continue to result in forgone harvests, as the drift fishermen have not been able to meet their allocation percentages in time to obtain the maximum return from the salmon run. So, while the setnetters are sitting on the beach "waiting for their turn" the driftnetters have been allowed to fish. If the fish are running close to shore, as they tend to do in certain years due to colder waters, the salmon will continue to over-escape up the rivers, resulting in loss of revenue for the State of Alaska and commercial fishermen.

This will help the Department of Fish and Game to do their job as listed below to manage the fishery:

- (d) The department shall manage, subject to existing management plans, fishery openings, closures, and areas to
 - (1) achieve adequate escapement from all segments of the run by spacing openings throughout the run;
 - (2) maintain and improve stock specific management through the use of district, subdistrict, and section openings and closures;
 - (3) distribute fish within individual districts and subdistricts through the spacing and duration of openings;
 - (4) reduce intensive boundary line fishing through the spacing and duration of openings;
 - (5) reduce harvest of stocks bound for other districts, subdistricts, or sections in accordance with specific regulatory management plans.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, this proposal will improve the quality of the resource harvested and products produced. Based on a 2011 study of Bristol Bay area gear type and fishing area, the highest quality fish in the entire Bristol Bay was produced by Naknek river beach setnetters. However, by severely circumscribing the Naknek setnet fleet's ability to fish, and limiting openings to only four hours (due to the attempt to meet allocation goals by area fishery managers), this has resulted in less of this high quality Naknek setnet fish being harvested and brought to market.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Naknek beach setnetters will benefit, but the entire fleet will benefit overall as an improved quality fish is delivered out of the area, thus helping to buoy prices in the region. The canneries will also benefit from higher quality of fish, and the entire fishery will benefit due to a higher quality of fish being delivered.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? The Naknek drift fleet is likely to suffer somewhat. However, they may also benefit in some ways, as they will be allowed to fish for longer periods if the setnet fleet doesn't have shorter periods. The flexibility afforded managers will allow area managers to schedule fishing times that are more conducive to every fisherman's schedule.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? An alternative solution might be to adjust the allocation to allow for a higher setnet allocation, that is adjusted annually based on the actual numbers of boats registered in the fishing district. This is not a preferred alternative, as it will result in more time devoted to this issue by area managers, and a lot less flexibility as boats

transfer out of the region. And from one district to another. Whereas a setnetter has one area to fish the whole season.

PROPOSED BY: Betty J. Bonin (HQ-F12-066)

PROPOSAL 66 - 5 AAC 06.364. Naknek – Kvichak District Commercial Set and Drift Gillnet Sockeye Salmon Fisheries Management and Allocation Plan. Remove set and drift gillnet allocations as follows:

Allocation of drift / setnet fishery is removed.

ISSUE: Allocation of set versus drift gear. Numbers of fishers have changed, and the fish hit at certain segments of the bay / beach, generating total numbers that don't reflect when and where the fish are actually caught. The allocation system also causes unnecessary closures when both gear groups could be benefiting from harvesting the salmon run.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Setnet fishers (particularly those on the non-prime sites) will continue to harvest less amounts when they could be benefitting from a more continuous fishery. Drift fishers will have unnecessary closures when they could be helping to control the over-escapement (which has been happening every year).

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. It would allow both gear groups to harvest quality fish during the prime portion of the run.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Everyone. Increased fishing opportunities are a benefit for all.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those who don't want a specific gear group to benefit over the other.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Every other tide openings for drift and set fishing. It's still an option, but during the run, I feel that this would allow too many fish to escape up the river during the set openings (unless the setnet fishery was moved to the NRSHA).

PROPOSED BY: Shannon Ford (HQ-F12-203)

PROPOSAL 67 - 5 AAC 06.364. Naknek-Kvichak District Commercial Set and Drift Gillnet Sockeye Salmon Fisheries Management and Allocation Plan. Stagger fishing periods throughout run as follows:

Fishing openings shall occur at staggered intervals throughout the run to allow 1) a more balanced sample of escaped fish to spawn, and 2) make a more predictable and steady amount of

salmon available for harvest and processing. One option: every other tide from the beginning, moving to continuous openings at or near the escapement point.

ISSUE: Naknek River Escapement being composed primarily of fish from a small segment of the total run. Often there are either continuous openings at the beginning of the season and then extended closures later, or the opposite. The salmon escapement is therefore all arriving at the same time to compete for resources, and not comprised of a significant sample from the entire run. Likewise, the commercial fishery may not be able to harvest the plentiful mid-run, or largest and most commercially desirable fish at the time when they come through the fishing grounds. When the fishing is open in a continuous flood, canneries go on limit and fish buyers sometimes stop buying fish all together. This causes the waste of fish, and the time and effort expended to catch them. Quality of end product also goes down.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The biological impact may be significant. I would like to see more research into this area of study. Canneries will continue to not have capacity for the run, and quality will go down.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. Fishermen and canneries alike could better handle the steadier influx of salmon.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Everyone.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those that prefer to fish for only a week or two, and are not concerned with fish quality or biological impact.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? See above in the first section: fishing more heavily in either the beginning or the end may produce an unbalanced harvest.

PROPOSED BY: Shannon Ford (HQ-F12-201)

PROPOSAL 68 - 5 AAC 06.364. Naknek-Kvichak District Commercial Set and Drift Gillnet Sockeye Salmon Fisheries Management and Allocation Plan. Open a new set gillnet fishery at Levelock when Kvichak River reaches minimum escapement as follows:

A fishery would be created in front of Levelock for setnetters to provide salmon for the Levelock Fish Plant.

ISSUE: Open a fishery in front of Levelock once the Kvichak river system reaches its minimum escapement goal.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Levelock Packing Plant would have to travel all the way to the graveyard and west side for the Levelock Fish Plant.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? The salmon will be fresher than having to run all the way to the graveyard and west side for the processing plant in Levelock.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The village of Levelock and the fishers who wish to fish have to go all the way to the Kvichak openings at graveyard and the west side in front of Levelock.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? To haul fish all the way from the graveyard and west side is a 12 mile trip and is dependent of the tides and winds.

PROPOSED BY: Levelock Village Council (HQ-F12-006)

PROPOSAL 69 - 5 AAC 06.3XX. Alagnak River Special Harvest Area Management Plan. Open Alagnak River Special Harvest Area (ARSHA) to set gillnets when the Kvichak Section is open as follows:

A fishery would be created in the ARSHA Area.

ISSUE: Open the Alagnak River to a setnet fishery when the Kvichak has openings.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The Alagnak River System will again be over escapement and salmon will over run the spawn of salmon that went before them.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Salmon that are harvested will not escape up the river systems and over run the salmon that spawned before them.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Levelock Packing Company and the Village of Levelock because Levelock is creating a fish plant to benefit the residents and fishers who will want to fish the Alagnak.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? We would have to run all the way to the graveyard and west side for salmon.

PROPOSED BY: Levelock Village Council (HQ-F12-005)

PROPOSAL 70 - 5 AAC 06.373. Alagnak River Sockeye Salmon Special Harvest Area Management Plan. Change the allocation plan in the Alagnak River Special Harvest Area (ARSHA) to 84% drift and 16% set as follows:

When the Naknek-Kvichak District is closed and there is a harvestable surplus of sockeye salmon in the Alagnak River Special Harvest Area (ARSHA), the distribution of the harvestable surplus will be as follows: (A) drift gillnet-84 percent; and (B) set gillnet-16 percent. Once the minimum escapement goal for the ARSHA is met, both gear groups may fish at the same time in an effort to achieve the allocation percentages.

ISSUE: Change the allocation plan in the Alagnak River Sockeye Special Harvest Area Management Plan to have the same allocation as in the Naknek-Kvichak District.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The Allocation Agreement from the 1997 Bristol Bay Board of Fish meeting that was based on the 20 year set and drift gillnet catch averages and was intended to include all fish harvested commercially by both gear groups. The Alagnak River Sockeye Special Harvest Area which is defined to be within the Naknek-Kvichak District does not have the same allocation.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All fishermen who made the 1997 allocation agreement; the fish that otherwise would be caught in the Naknek-Kvichak District, but for conservation of the Kvichak River sockeye salmon run, are caught in the ARSHA will be allocated as if they were caught in the Naknek-Kvichak District.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Kurt Johnson (HQ-F12-141)

PROPOSAL 71 - 5 AAC 06.360. Naknek River Sockeye Salmon Special Harvest Area Management Plan. Open the Naknek River Special Harvest Area (NRSHA) to set gillnet gear when the Naknek River escapement goal is met as follows:

The area now designated as the Naknek Special Harvest Area will be opened to setnet fishers when the Naknek River achieves its escapement goal for the season as announced by the ADF&G.

ISSUE: Low catch numbers and increased challenges (including loss of income and safety concerns) for setnet fishers.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The setnet fishery will continue to dwindle, which will increasingly contribute to loss of traditional business for multi-generational family fisheries. Many of our South Naknek beach permits have been in families since the beginning of the fishery regulation, and almost all are either local / Alaska residents or from long-time Alaska families. Also, there will be continuing hazardous conditions which will likely bring more accidents and unnecessary risk for fisherman. Fish quality will also suffer, and more resources will be consumed in conducting the fishery as it currently stands. High numbers of fish over and above the escapement goal will continue to go up the river (thus exceeding the management plan which should be a biological concern, and denying those fish to fishermen which constitutes a wasted resource during an economic depression).

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. Harvesting fish closer to the point of delivery / processing results in better fish quality. Setnet fishers do not have reliable access to ice, nor often the resources to convert a small-scale skiff fishing operation into one that is designed for holding fish for any length of time while maintaining quality. Canneries no longer operate on the South Side, and they do not send tenders very far into the Bay (if at all). As a result, setnet fishermen will often transfer fish several times from skiff to shore (or pick a dry net when the tide goes out), then drive the fish up the beach to the river where they reload them into a skiff for running out to the tender. This time and excess handling can result in lowered quality if the fisherman isn't able to take special care. Maintaining quality requires either good weather for safe skiff operation, or an extreme amount of extra work to address the quality of each individual fish.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Everyone will benefit.

- Setnetters will reap a more bountiful harvest.
- Fishing conditions will be safer and consume less resources.
- Seafood companies will receive quicker deliveries of higher quality fish.
- The Naknek River system will not be overburdened with excess salmon above its management goal.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Nobody is likely to suffer, except possibly companies selling fuel (less will be consumed).

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Purchasing and using ice machines, transportation equipment, and infrastructure. Cost prohibitive at this time, especially considering the low numbers of fish being harvested (often barely enough to cover fishing expenses).

PROPOSED BY: South Naknek Beach Set Net Association (HQ-F12-170)

PROPOSAL 72 - 5 AAC 06.360. Naknek River Sockeye Salmon Special Harvest Area Management Plan. Open the Naknek River Special Harvest Area (NRSHA) to set gillnet gear when the Naknek Section is open as follows:

When the Naknek section is open to set gillnet gear also open is all or some (open to negotiation) of the NRSHA to set gillnet gear with 37 1/2 fathoms gear.

ISSUE: I would like the board to address the area open to set gillnet gear during Naknek section set gillnet gear openings.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? There will continue to be a lack of sites to fish, some will not fish due to the lack of a fishable site, unsafe conditions, no beach delivery on the south side, high fuel costs, long delivery times due to travel, weather, etc. Tenders are located in river. Less access to ice for chilling. There is no way for a setnet fishermen to expand or add a permit if you don't have a site to fish. Would open up easier access to local fishermen who might not have all the equipment, bikes, boat etc to fish the outside sites. When escapement is met or beyond this would give setnet fishermen a chance to limit foregone harvest.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, the quality is improved with less time holding fish, little to no delivery time, pick and deliver to chilled tenders or company dock. Same tide caught fish delivered to dock. More number 1 fish available to processors. Reasonable and quick access to ice for chilling which would improve quality. Possibly no need for ice with instant pick and deliver option. Enormous fuel savings for fishermen and processors. Much safer conditions for all.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Setnet fishermen would have more sites to pick from and cost savings and would open up more area to others fishing in the Naknek section.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? None.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Keeping the status quo rejected because it doesn't solve the problem.

PROPOSED BY: Jim W. Reynolds (HQ-F12-103)

PROPOSAL 73 - 5 AAC 06.331. Gillnet specifications and operations. Limit the amount of gillnet on board a drift vessel to 75 fathoms in the Naknek River Special Harvest Area (NRSHA) as follows:

No more than 75 fathoms of drift gillnet gear may be used to take salmon. Gear is considered to be in use if it is aboard the vessel with salmon in it.

ISSUE: The ability of a vessel fishing the Naknek inriver fishery to round haul 75 fathoms, and then throw out another 75 fathoms before picking the first 75 fathoms.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Many fishers will continue round hauling the first 75 fathoms, stepping all over them while fishing the next 75. In some cases the first 75 will not get picked in total for many hours, oftentimes being covered with a tarp in the hot sun so as not to interfere with an outgoing net.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? It has been solidly shown by digital observers that round hauled fish are of inferior quality. This is also common sense knowledge by anyone who has done so.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Almost all fishers will benefit. The higher the quality of the overall Bristol Bay pack, the higher the perception of Bristol Bay quality and thus our overall price. Further, Bristol Bay will be increasingly subjected to scrutiny by a discriminating press, and a lump of fish and nets does not impress.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? It will hurt those who care only of quantity.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? In the past I have often fished the Naknek inriver fishery, and personal observations have brought me to feeling that there are no other good solutions. It is not practical to outlaw round-hauling gear as many times it becomes necessary, to avoid obstacles or fishery boundary lines. However, once gear is round-hauled I feel it should be picked before further fishing.

PROPOSED BY: Dave Hansen (HQ-F12-032)

PROPOSAL 74 – 5 AAC 06.361. Nushagak-Mulchatna King Salmon Management Plan.
Revise king salmon reference points as follows:

(b) The department shall manage the commercial and sport fisheries in the Nushagak District as follows:

(1) to achieve an inriver goal of XX,XXX [75,000] king salmon present in the Nushagak River upstream from the department sonar counter; the inriver goal provides for

(A) a biological escapement requirement of XX,XXX [65,000] fish;

(C) a king salmon sport fishery guideline harvest level of X,XXX [5,000] fish, 20 inches or greater in length;

(c) If the total inriver king salmon return in the Nushagak River is projected to exceed XX,XXX [75,000] fish, the guideline harvest level described in (b)(1)(C) of this section does not apply.

(d) If the spawning escapement of king salmon in the Nushagak River is projected to be more than XX,XXX [40,000] fish and the projected inriver return is less than XX,XXX [75,000] fish, the commissioner;

(1) shall close, by emergency order, the directed king salmon commercial fishery in the Nushagak District; during a closure under this paragraph, the use of a commercial gillnet with webbing larger than five and one-half inches in another commercial salmon fishery is prohibited;

(2) if the projected inriver return of king salmon in the Nushagak River is at least XX,XXX [55,000], but less than XX,XXX [75,000] fish, and to ensure that sport fishery guideline harvest established in (b)(1)(C) [(b)(2)(C)]of this section is not exceeded, shall establish, by emergency order, a daily bag limit of one fish per day, one in possession for king salmon 20 inches or greater in length;

(3) if the projected inriver return of king salmon in the Nushagak River is less than XX,XXX [55,000] fish, and to ensure that the projected spawning escapement does not fall below XX,XXX [40,000] fish, shall establish, by emergency order, fishing periods to restrict the king salmon sport fishery in the Nushagak River during which any, or a combination of the following restrictions may be applied at the discretion of the commissioner:

(e) If the spawning escapement of king salmon in the Nushagak River is projected to be less than XX,XXX [40,000] fish, the commissioner...

ISSUE: The department operates a sonar counting project on the Nushagak River. Nushagak River is too wide for sonar escapement counts across the entire river because of the effective range of the sonar technology and the bottom profile of the river. The sonar project was designed to count sockeye salmon, which migrate close to shore, and provides an estimate of migrating sockeye salmon. King and chum salmon have also been counted by the sonar in nearshore areas. However, king salmon, and to a lesser extent chum salmon, migrate further offshore. It has also been assumed the sonar counts a consistent proportion of king salmon returning each year.

The department completed the transition from Bendix sonar to DIDSON sonar on the Nushagak River. Due to increased range and resolution, DIDSON sonar is now counting a higher proportion of king salmon migrating up the Nushagak River than was previously possible with Bendix sonar. The king salmon escapement estimates are used to make management decisions for subsistence, sport, and commercial fisheries. In addition, there are escapement points referenced in the management plan that need to be changed to account for the higher proportion of king salmon being counted. The Bendix sonar-to-DIDSON sonar analysis will not be completed in time to meet the publishing deadline for this proposal. An adjustment factor will be presented by staff and available to the public for review prior to the Bristol Bay Alaska Board of Fisheries meeting. The adjustment factor may result in a change to the king salmon escapement goal and may require adjustments to escapement levels, management trigger points, and terminology in this plan.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The department will manage for king salmon escapements referenced in the management plan that do not reflect the current sonar technology.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All users benefit when the department uses the best available information to make decisions.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F12-216)

PROPOSAL 75 - 5 AAC 06.361. Nushagak-Mulchatna King Salmon Management Plan.
Increase king salmon escapement in the Nushagak River by restricting the drift gillnet fleet as follows:

(e)(1) shall close, by emergency order, the sockeye salmon commercial fishery in the Nushagak District until the projected sockeye salmon escapement into the Wood River exceeds 100,000 fish; **at which time the drift gillnet fleet would be put into the Wood River until the King escapement get 2 days ahead of its escapement forecast.**

(2) shall not open the drift gillnet fishery in the Nushagak Section of the Nushagak District prior to June 28 unless the department can drift gillnets in the Igushik Section of the Nushagak District and may open drift gillnet fishing only in the Wood River Special Harvest Area;

(3) if provision 1 is invoked then sport fishing for Chinook salmon is restricted to a seasonal bag limit of two Chinook salmon. Until such time as the escapement exceeds 55,000 Chinook salmon.

ISSUE: To help the king salmon reach escapement and not to kill off the upper river king run with early netting. This will also help the reds reach their escapement.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? We could lose or greatly reduce the King salmon runs on the Nushagak. We could also lose the upper river kings as they are netted in the early season by the gillnet fishermen.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? I believe YES, as we allow all salmon (reds and kings) to reach escapement.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Local people who use the kings for a food source and sport fishermen.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? I believe no one will suffer from this as there should be more fish in the river system. Both commercial and sport fishermen will suffer if we don't do this.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? ??? Open for ideas.

PROPOSED BY: Save the Nushagak Kings/ Bob Simoni (HQ-F12-010)

PROPOSAL 76 - 5 AAC 06.320. Fishing periods. Restrict commercial fishing to no more than 3 tides in a 48-hour period and fishing time may not exceed 24 hours in length as follows:

All commercial netting operations cannot exceed 75% of tides in any 48 hour period. Time limits for commercial netting operations cannot exceed 24 hours in any 24 hour period.

ISSUE: Managing the sockeye run to an escapement goal as the only criteria is detrimental to everybody except commercial fisheries. The potential to have several days without sufficient fish in the river is very bad for tourism. It is also not ideal for the ecosystem.

Managing only to a total escapement goal for the sockeye run on the Naknek is not sufficient, and will be harmful to tourism if continued. Managing to just the total escapement goal can result in several days (three-five or more) of commercial netting resulting in very few fish making it into the river during that time. This is severely detrimental to the entire sport fishing industry (lodges, guide services, hotels, restaurants, air taxi services, etc.), and also completely avoidable.

Sport anglers have plenty of choices for fishing trips. Consistency of fish is a high priority for many of these people. Allowing commercial nets to be in the water for extended periods of time over several days kill that consistency. This means that sport anglers run the risk of booking a fishing trip when there are no fish in the river, which defeats the main purpose of the trip. While that variability is part of nature, it should not be imposed by humans.

Think about your own vacation. Would you book a trip to Mexico for sunshine and warm weather if you knew that it would be rainy and cold the ENTIRE time? One or two days out a five to seven day trip would be tolerable, but the ENTIRE time? Even worse, what if that was because somebody in the Mexican government controlled the weather? Suppose that person decided that they had already reached their total amount of sunshine needed for that season, and thus decided to make it rain for one week straight? They could claim that their beaches still average 90 degrees and 300+ days of sunshine per year. They would be correct, but it still resulted in a lousy trip for you. Managing to a total escapement goal for the season with no parameters on a daily or weekly escapement is equivalent.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Tourism will decline. Sport lodges, guide services, hotels, and restaurants will suffer.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Sport lodges, anglers, tourists, hotels, restaurants.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Nobody. With no change in the escapement goal, commercial fishing has the same harvest potential.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Increasing the escapement goal was rejected due to the negative impact on commercial.

PROPOSAL 77 - 5 AAC 06.361. Nushagak - Mulchatna King Salmon Management Plan.

Restrict commercial fishing to no more than 12 hours of commercial fishing in any 24-hour period and no commercial fishing on consecutive high tides if there has been any sport fishing restrictions placed on the Nushagak as follows:

The Nushagak / Mulchatna River Chinook management plan calls for the burden of conservation to be placed solely on the sport fishing user group. There is nothing in this plan that calls for restrictions of any effort by the commercial fishing fleet of Bristol Bay if the Chinook Salmon run is falling short of expectations. In essence, the commercial fleet could have non-stop commercial openers in the Nushagak District while the sport fishers are not even allowed to catch and release Chinook. This simply does not make sense. The plan is an "In-river" conservation effort in such that the river has a set amount of fish and the only way to increase the number of fish to escapement is through limitations on the sport caught fish. In 2010, the entire sport fish user group for the Nushagak River was approximately 4,500 fish. Protection and effort to increase escapement happens in season after the returning numbers fall below expectations and thus the maximum biological gain in increased escapement would only be a small fraction of the entire minimum escapement goal of 75,000 fish as set forth by the management plan. For instance, if the 2014 run were coming in lower numbers than expected, and the management plan called for the sport fishery to go to catch and release only on July 1 (approximate mid point of the run), the net result in additional Kings making it to escapement would be maybe 2,000 fish. In comparison, the commercial fishery, even while implementing smaller mesh size on their nets, still has an intercept impact on the Chinook salmon. With approximately 450 drift gillnet permit holders fishing in the Nushagak District alone (not counting setnets), there is the potential for the commercial fleet to intercept 900 Chinook salmon in a 12 hour period, assuming a 12 hour opener and only two sets per vessel happening in that opener. The commercial fleet has also had openers on every high tide even while the Chinook salmon runs have been falling short of expectations (2010). In addition, the number of Chinook salmon that are sent home in "Home packs" from the commercial fleet is alarming and unregulated.

The solution would be to not allow more than 12 hours of commercial fishing in a 24 hour period, nor could there be commercial openers on consecutive high tides, if there have been any restrictions put on the sport fishing user group due to the shortage of returning Chinook Salmon per the Nushagak / Mulchatna Management plan.

ISSUE: The decline in Chinook Salmon making it back to the Nushagak River.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The Chinook salmon run on the Nushagak River provides a tremendous economic opportunity for those in the sport fishing business. The ability for the sport fishing industry to market to the world the opportunity and then the realization to catch a Chinook Salmon brings a willingness for the potential visitor to pay for that opportunity. As the population of returning fish dwindles, and threats of potential closures to the sport fishing industry loom, the potential visitor is more likely to choose not to

pay to visit the area. Visitor dollars that are new to the region are re-spent six times before leaving the region. This is a tremendous economic engine for the sport fish, visitor industry, and communities of the region. If we do not protect the Chinook Salmon run through various means of conservation of the fish prior to entering the Nushagak River, we will ultimately lose the marketing battle for those outside dollars to other fishing and travel destinations throughout the world.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? By implementing conservation measures that would allow more Chinook Salmon to enter the Nushagak River, we will encourage more and more sport fishing opportunities which will encourage the industry to grow and continue to provide millions of dollars to the Bristol Bay economy. A recent economic study shows that the Bristol Bay sport fishing industry brings almost \$100M a season in revenue to the state of Alaska.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The health of the Chinook salmon resource would be the biggest benefactor of adopting this proposal. All user groups would ultimately benefit since a stronger and stronger Chinook run on the Nushagak will mean that future restrictions in future years will be less likely and thus the impact on the commercial fishery will be minimized. However, if we wait until the Chinook run is at a crisis level and continue to rely solely on the sport fish users for conservation measures we will ultimately need to place more restrictive and potentially drastic measures on all user groups--including severe limitations on commercial openers. We are better served now to address the issue, make sacrifices with all user groups participating in order to ensure the longevity and survival and ultimate increase in the Chinook population.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? At first, the commercial fishing fleet will potentially see some restrictions on opener lengths or times. However, as I stated above, the short term sacrifices will result in a long term sustainable gain as we allow the Chinook population to return to sustainable levels. Remember, these restrictions would only go into effect IF there are also restrictions on the sport fish user group. Thus both industries would be making a sacrifice in order to protect the resource.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? 1) Not allowing a commercial opener on consecutive high tides until 75% of the expected Chinook escapement has made it into the Nushagak River.

This was rejected because it is too restricting on the commercial user group. It also would be in place regardless if the sport fish user group were making any effort through restrictions. The intent is to have both groups that impact the resource do something in the way of sacrificing to protect the run. Thus this idea was rejected.

2) Move the commercial fleet into the Wood River if the Nushagak Chinook run was falling short of escapement goals.

This idea has merit but it could be too restricting on the commercial fleet. For example, the sockeye run was coming in very strong yet the Chinook run was weak. The proposal I have set forth still allows for the fleet to have commercial openers within the district without going to an

in-river fishery. Thus the economic opportunities for the comfishers will still be there. By moving the fleet into the Wood River special management area, the fleet would lose economic opportunity. Thus this idea for the purposes of this proposal was rejected.

PROPOSED BY: Brian Kraft (HQ-F12-177)

PROPOSAL 78 – 5 AAC 06.358. Wood River Sockeye Salmon Special Harvest Area Management Plan. Revise sockeye salmon escapement reference points as follows:

(c) The commissioner may open, by emergency order, the Wood River Special Harvest Area when

(1) the department projects that the sockeye salmon escapement into the Wood River will exceed 700,000 fish and as follows;

(A) if the preseason forecast for the Nushagak River sockeye salmon run is at least 1,000,000 fish, the department shall manage the Nushagak District to exceed a minimum **sustainable** [BIOLOGICAL] escapement goal of XXX,XXX [340,000] sockeye salmon to the Nushagak River, and the commissioner may open the Wood River Special Harvest Area only when department projections indicate the Nushagak River sockeye salmon escapement will not exceed XXX,XXX [340,000] fish;

(B) if the preseason forecast for the Nushagak River sockeye salmon run is less than 1,000,000 fish and the ration of Wood River to Nushagak River sockeye salmon is projected to be greater than three to one, the department shall manage the Nushagak District for an optimal escapement goal of at least XXX,XXX [235,000] sockeye salmon to the Nushagak River, and the commissioner may open the Wood River Special Harvest Area only when department projections indicate the Nushagak River sockeye salmon escapement will be less than XXX,XXX [235,000] fish;

(C) if the inseason forecast prepared by the department during the first week of July for the Nushagak River sockeye salmon run is at least 1,000,000 fish, the department shall manage the Nushagak District to exceed a minimum biological escapement goal of XXX,XXX [340,000] sockeye salmon to the Nushagak River, and the commissioner may open the Wood River Special Harvest Area only when department projections indicate the Nushagak River sockeye salmon escapement will be less than XXX,XXX [340,000] fish;

(D) if the inseason forecast prepared by the department during the first week of July for the Nushagak River sockeye salmon run is less than 1,000,000 fish, the department may open the Wood River Special Harvest Area only when department projections indicate the Nushagak River sockeye salmon escapement will be less than XXX,XXX [235,000] fish;

ISSUE: The department operates a salmon sonar counting project on the Nushagak River. Nushagak River is considered too wide for sonar escapement counts across the entire river because of the effective range of sonar technology and the bottom profile of the river. The sonar project was originally designed to count sockeye salmon, which migrate close to shore, and is believed to provide fairly good estimates of migrating sockeye salmon. It has also been assumed that the sonar project has counted a consistent proportion of sockeye salmon returning each year.

The department has completed the transition from Bendix sonar to DIDSON sonar on the Nushagak River. Due to increased range and resolution, DIDSON sonar is now counting a higher proportion of sockeye salmon migrating up the Nushagak River than was previously possible with Bendix sonar. Sockeye salmon escapement estimates are used to make management decisions for subsistence, sport, and commercial fisheries. In addition, there are escapement reference points in the management plan that may need to be changed to account for the higher proportion of sockeye salmon being counted. An adjustment factor may be presented to the board when the Bendix sonar-to-DIDSON sonar analysis is complete.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The department will manage for sockeye salmon action points that do not reflect the current sonar technology.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All users benefit when the department uses the best available information to make decisions.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F12-215)

PROPOSAL 79 - 5 AAC 06.358. Wood River Sockeye Salmon Special Harvest Area Management Plan. Allow separate drift and set gillnet fishing periods in the Wood River Special Harvest Area (WRSHA) and require all running lines, anchors, and buoys shall be removed from the water during drift periods as follows:

- (4) (f) The drift gillnet and set gillnet fisheries will open separately.**
 - 1) The following provisions apply to set gillnet openings in the WRSSSHA.**
 - a) set gillnet running lines, buoys, and anchoring devices may not be in the water during a drift gillnet fishing period.**
 - b) when a set gillnet fishery is occurring, the provisions of (a) of this subsection does not apply.**

ISSUE: Congestion in the Wood River Sockeye Salmon Special Harvest Area. When the Wood River Special Harvest Area is open to fishing, both gear types are allowed to fish concurrently. With both set and drift operators fishing, congestion and gear conflict occurs between gear types especially in the lower harvest area. The allocation ratio's in the harvest area between gear types is consistent with the outer Nushagak District. Consequently the set gear type fishes continually 24.7 while the drift operators cease fishing to balance the allocation ratio specific to 5 AAC 06.358.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? If status quo, then continued congestion in the Wood River Special Harvest Area by both gear types. Most setnet operators prefer the lower district because their harvest diminishes further upstream. Consequently, a small percentage of the Nushagak Set Gear operators fish in Wood River because of limited productive sites.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Both drift and set gillnet operators with less gear conflict and congestion.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Set gillnet operators. Each time the WRSSSHA has been open, the drift gillnet fishermen have to stop fishing to keep the allocation ratio's balanced. If there were alternating openings between gear types, setnetters would give up their non-stop fishing.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Make everyone a drifter but have separate openings. Not allowed in State Statute.

If this proposal were adopted, allow setnet fishermen to anchor their nets anywhere in the WRSSSHA regardless of distance offshore. Not allowed in State Statute.

PROPOSED BY: Nushagak Advisory Committee (HQ-F12-123)

PROPOSAL 80 - 5 AAC 06.358(d). Wood River Sockeye Salmon Special Harvest Area Management Plan. Allow separate drift and set gillnet fishing periods in the Wood River Special Harvest Area (WRSHA) as follows:

Allow separate and alternating openings between drift and setnet fishermen during the Wood River Special Harvest fishery.

ISSUE: The Wood River Special Harvest Area. Modify the management plan to allow separate openings between drift fishermen and setnet fishermen. This would reduce gear conflict between gear types.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? We will continue to have frenzied and hectic openings, gear conflicts and turmoil.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? This will prevent congestion in a small area in the Wood River Special Harvest Fishery.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Both gear types.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Make everyone a drifter but still have separate and alternating openings between permit types.

PROPOSED BY: Kenny Wilson (HQ-F12-043)

PROPOSAL 81 - 5 AAC 06.358(d)(4). Wood River Sockeye Salmon Special Harvest Area Management Plan. Allow up to 150 fathoms on board a drift gillnet vessel when fishing in the Wood River Special Harvest Area (WRSHA) as follows:

Same wording as NRSWA 5 AAC 06.360.

ISSUE: WRSHA – NRSWA. Both harvest areas allow 75 fathoms for drift gillnet. NRSWA allows for 75 fathoms which can be on the vessel, with fish in it – while another 75 fathoms is in the water fishing.

WRSHA allows for 75 fathoms which can be on the vessel, with fish in it – while the other 75 fathoms has to be bagged. AAC 06.358 (4)

Change WRSHA. Make it the same as NRSWA.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Age old problem of trying to prevent over escapement to the Wood River.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Drift Fishermen. ADF&G will have “stronger” tools in trying to control fish movement into the Wood River.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? My crew.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Other Solutions might be - Forget about the WRSHA. Prior to the WRSHA fishermen fished in the outer Nushagak District since around 1882. The Nushagak sockeye run never collapsed or went extinct.

PROPOSED BY: Daniel Farren (HQ-F12-046)

PROPOSAL 82 - 5 AAC 06.358. Wood River Sockeye Salmon Special Harvest Area. Allow dual drift gillnet vessels to have up to 200 fathoms on board in the Wood River Special Harvest Area (WRSHA) as follows:

Change the 150 fathoms to 200 fathoms. Nothing else changes.

ISSUE: Dual permit operators who fish the Wood River Sockeye Salmon Special Harvest Area have to unload 50 fathoms of gear from their vessels to legally participate in the fishery. Current regulation is specific to 150 fathoms allowed. **“(D) a person may not have more than 150 fathoms of drift gillnet on board a vessel;”**

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Dual permit operators could inadvertently fish the Wood River Special Harvest Area with 200 fathoms of gear on board. Potential for citation is at risk.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Dual permit operators who will not have to unload 50 fathoms of gear off their fishing vessels.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Nushagak Advisory Committee (HQ-F12-127)

PROPOSAL 83 - 5 AAC 06.358. Wood River Sockeye Salmon Special Harvest Area Management Plan. When the Nushagak District is closed and the Wood River Special Harvest Area (WRSHA) is open, allow set gillnet permit holders to remain in the Nushagak District with 25 fathoms of gear as follows:

Whenever the Wood River Sockeye Salmon Special Harvest Area is open and the Nushagak District is closed to Commercial Fishing, setnet fishermen are allowed to fish one half of their legal compliment of gear (25 ftms) in the Nushagak District.

ISSUE: Limited participation by setnet fishermen in the Wood River Sockeye Salmon Special Harvest Area because they are not ~~mobile~~”. When the WRSSSHA is open and when the Nushagak District is closed to commercial fishing, setnet fishermen who do not have the resources or skiffs to fish the Special Harvest Area do not have the opportunity to fish.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued inability for setnet fishermen in the Nushagak District to harvest fish.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Setnet fishermen who do not fish the WRSSSHA.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Nushagak Advisory Committee

(HQ-F12-125)

PROPOSAL 84 - 5 AAC 06.358. Wood River Sockeye Salmon Special Harvest Area Management Plan. Allow dual set gillnet permit holders to have up to 50 fathoms of gear on board and fish two sites with up to 25 fathoms at each site as follows:

(d) When the Wood River Special Harvest Area is open under this section, the following apply within the open waters:

(1) set gillnets may be operated only as follows:

(A) a set gillnet may not exceed 25 fathoms in length;

(B) a set gillnet may not be set or operated within 150 feet of another set gillnet;

(C) a person may not place any part of a set gillnet, anchor, peg stake, buoy, or other device to set

the gillnet, more than 250 feet from the terrestrial vegetation line of a bank of the Wood River,

during the operation of the set gillnet; for purposes of this section ~~“a~~ bank of the Wood River”

does not include the banks of any island of the Wood River;

(D) a set gillnet must be operated in a substantially straight line perpendicular to the nearest bank

of the Wood River;

(E) a person may not have more than 50 fathoms of set gillnet, per CFEC set gillnet permit, on board a vessel.

(3) a CFEC setnet permit holder may not use more than one site to take salmon at any one time. Except in accordance with 5 AAC 06.331(u), a person who holds two Bristol Bay set gillnet permits may not use more than two sites to take salmon at any one time.

ISSUE: Adoption of 5 AAC 06.331(u) resulted in an unanticipated inconsistency with 5 AAC 06.358 which has been interpreted to only allow a dual setnet permit holder to operate one of their entry permits within the Wood River Special Harvest Area and made it illegal for them to store the gear for both permits on board their skiff while inside the special harvest area.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The current interpretation of 5 AAC 06.358 places an encumbrance on a dual permits holder’s second permit by restricting their ability to utilize that permit in the Wood River Special Harvest Area. Additionally, a person who

holds two Bristol Bay set gillnet permits cannot travel from the fishing grounds with their full complement of gear and legally enter the special harvest area. Restricting dual permit holders to one site within the Wood River Special Harvest Area is inconsistent with the original intent of the dual setnet permit proposal – that dual setnet permit holders shall fish the permits in the same manner as if held by two separate permit holders with no greater privileges or encumbrances.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Nushagak setnet fishers who will no longer be subject to fishing restrictions not originally intended when 5 AAC 06.331(u) was adopted.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Persons who hold two Bristol Bay set gillnet permits who will not be able to fish their permits as originally intended when 5 AAC 06.331(u) was adopted.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Dylan Braund and Tom Rollman Jr (HQ-F12-146)

PROPOSAL 85 - 5 AAC 06.3XX. Togiak River King Salmon Management Plan. Create a Togiak River King Salmon Management Plan similar to the Nushagak River Plan.

Develop a Togiak River King Salmon Management Plan similar to the existing Nushagak-Mulchatna King Salmon Management Plan.

ISSUE: Enhance the management for the Togiak River King Salmon for all user groups in the Togiak River Section and to ensure the local subsistence uses of kings are not negatively affected as in other areas of the state.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? There will be less kings salmon for all user groups to harvest in the future.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. All the different user groups will have a better tool for planning of having a real quality experience in participating in their own area of the king fishery.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All the historical users of the king salmon, especially the local subsistence users of this important resource.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? None known as of this writing.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Togiak Traditional Village Council (HQ-F12-179)

PROPOSAL 86 - 5 AAC 06.3XX. Togiak River Coho Salmon Management Plan. Create a Togiak River coho salmon management plan similar to Nushagak River plan as follows:

Develop a Togiak River Coho Salmon Management Plan similar to the existing Nushagak River Coho Salmon Management Plan.

ISSUE: Enhance the management for the Togiak River Coho Salmon for all user groups in the Togiak River Section and to ensure the local subsistence uses of Coho are not negatively affected as in other areas of the state. Furthermore, there has been very little active management of this important resource primarily for the commercial fishery in the Togiak River section in the last decade. Therefore, it has become harder for market planning to harvest the surplus for commercial fishery thus resulting in loss of economic opportunity for those who would like to participate in what could continue to be a viable opportunity to help provide the need for extra cash to pay for high cost of energy and fuel in surrounding communities.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? There will continue to be less coho salmon for all user groups to harvest in the future.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. All the different user groups will have a better tool for planning of having a real quality experience in participating in their own area of the existing coho fishery.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All the historical users of the coho salmon, especially the local commercial and subsistence users of this important resource.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? None known as of this writing.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Togiak Traditional Village Council (HQ-F12-180)

PROPOSAL 87 - 5 AAC 06.369. Togiak District Salmon Management Plan. Change the waiving period to July 24 if escapement goal is projected to exceed 175,000 before July 27 as follows:

The department may waive the requirements of this paragraph after 9:00 a.m. (NEW) **July 24** if the department projects that the Togiak River escapement will exceed 175,000 sockeye salmon before 9:00 a.m. July 27. This would align the added three days of protection at the last BOF cycle.

ISSUE: The department may waive the requirements of this paragraph after 9:00 a.m. July 21 if the department projects that the Togiak River escapement will exceed 175,000 sockeye salmon before 9:00 a.m. July 27. The last BOF added three days of protection this would be aligning that effort.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? In early strong returns and run timing and years of early escapement the Department might feel pressure to open the fishery earlier than July 27.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Quality is always on the BB fisherman's mind and industry is finally rewarding that peace of the puzzle.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Locals knowing an early run might not open the fishery any earlier than July 24th to preserve this already small run.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Fisherman that have already registered and hit the peak in other districts.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Leave it the same but aligning the dates makes sense.

PROPOSED BY: Togiak Traditional Council (HQ-F12-186)

**ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES
JANUARY 15-20, 2013
ARCTIC-YUKON-KUSKOKWIM FINFISH**

PROPOSAL 88 – 5 AAC 74.010. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Tanana River Area. Close Rainbow Lake to fishing for rainbow trout from October 1–May 14 as follows:

(c)(18) in Rainbow Lake, rainbow trout, landlocked salmon, Arctic char/ Dolly Varden, and Arctic grayling may be taken only from May 15 through September 30, with a combined bag and possession limit of one fish, [THE BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT FOR RAINBOW TROUT, LANDLOCKED SALMON, ARCTIC CHAR/ DOLLY VARDEN AND ARCTIC GRAYLING, COMBINED IS ONE FISH] which must be 18 inches or greater in length; all fish that are less than 18 inches in length must be released immediately.

ISSUE: Rainbow Lake is designated as a special management water under the *Tanana River Area Stocked Waters Management Plan* (5 AAC 74.065). Under this category, a stocked water body is managed so ~~that~~ there is a high probability of an angler catching more than one fish a day that is 18 inches or greater in length”. In recent years, access to Rainbow Lake has improved and fishing effort has increased to a level such that all large fish 18 inches or greater in length are being harvested and fewer anglers are getting the opportunity to catch a fish 18 inches or larger.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Rainbow Lake anglers’ expectations of catching more than one 18-inch fish will not be met.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Rainbow Lake anglers who fish from May 15 through September 30 and wish to catch fish 18 inches or larger.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Rainbow Lake anglers who wish to fish from October 1 through May 14.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Remove Rainbow Lake from the special management designation under the *Tanana River Area Stocked Waters Management Plan*.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F12-227)

PROPOSAL 89 – 5 AAC 74.010. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Tanana River Area; and 5 AAC 74.065. Tanana River Area Stocked Waters Management Plan. Close Little Harding Lake to fishing for northern pike and remove Little Harding Lake from the Tanana River Area stocked waters management plan as follows:

5 AAC 74.010(c)(15) in Little Harding Lake, **sport fishing for northern pike is closed** [RAINBOW TROUT MAY BE TAKEN ONLY FROM MAY 15 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, WITH A BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT OF ONE FISH, WHICH MUST BE 18 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH,];

5 AAC 74.065(g)(1) repealed [LITTLE HARDING LAKE];

ISSUE: Little Harding Lake is currently managed under the *Tanana River Area Stocked Waters Management Plan* as a special management stocked water for a trophy rainbow trout fishery. However, the lake has not been able to produce a trophy fishery in many years despite restrictive regulations (1-fish limit 18” or greater; open season May 15–September 30). In addition, sampling in Little Harding Lake in 2011 captured several large northern pike in the lake, which supported recent angler reports of northern pike in the lake. As a result, the department plans to stop stocking Little Harding Lake and remove the gabion and barrier grate from the channel that connects Little Harding and Harding lakes to allow the northern pike in Harding Lake access to the spawning and rearing habitat of Little Harding Lake. Harding Lake has been closed to fishing for northern pike since 2000 due to low abundance. This proposal would close Little Harding Lake to northern pike retention until that time when the northern pike population can sustain a fishery.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? If the department removes the barriers that keep northern pike from accessing Little Harding Lake and the lake is not closed to retention, anglers would be able to catch and harvest the northern pike that move into Little Harding Lake from Harding Lake. Anglers would continue to expect Little Harding Lake to be managed as a trophy rainbow trout fishery, when it is unable to provide that type of fishery.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Anglers who wish to fish for northern pike in Harding and Little Harding lakes.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Anglers who wish to fish for rainbow trout and northern pike in Little Harding Lake.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F12-229)

PROPOSAL 90 - 5 AAC 74.065. Tanana River Area Stocked Waters Management Plan. Remove Little Harding Lake, Harding Lake, Summit Lake, Monte Lake, and Donnelly Lake from special management and leave Rainbow Lake in special management as follows:

Amend paragraph (g) to delete all lakes designated for special management except Rainbow Lake. The new regulation would specify only Rainbow Lake for special management.

ISSUE: Some waters classified as Special Management in the Tanana River Area Stocked Waters Management Plan are not best suited to their current classification and are biologically unable to meet their management objectives.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Lakes will continue to be unable to meet management objectives.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No, at least not for stocked rainbow trout. However it might increase the amount of spawning habitat available for northern pike in Harding and Little Harding Lakes.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? People who like to fish for northern pike.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Midnight Sun Trout Unlimited (HQ-F12-004)

PROPOSAL 91 – 5 AAC 74.010. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Tanana River Area; and 5 AAC 74.065. Tanana River Area Stocked Waters Management Plan. Update the Tanana River Management Area stocked waters regulations and management plan as follows:

5 AAC 74.010(c)(15) repealed. [IN LITTLE HARDING LAKE, RAINBOW TROUT MAY BE TAKEN ONLY FROM MAY 15 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, WITH BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT OF ONE FISH, WHICH MUST BE 18 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH.]

5 AAC 74.010(c)(29) in stocked waters, the bag, possession, and size limit for rainbow trout, Arctic char/Dolly Varden, landlocked salmon, and Arctic grayling is 10 of all stocked species combined, of which no more than one fish may be 18 inches or greater in length; for the purposes of this paragraph, "stocked waters" include Backdown Lake, Ballaine Lake, Bathing Beauty Pond, Bear Lake, Big "D" Pond, [BIG LAKE], Birch Lake, Bluff Cabin Lake, Bolio Lake, Brodie Lake, Bullwinkle Lake, Chena Lake, Chet Lake, CHSR 25.0 Mile Pit, CHSR 30.0 Mile Pit, CHSR 42.8 Mile Pit (Red Squirrel Pit), CHSR 45.5 Mile Pit, CHSR 47.9 Mile Pit, Coal Mine Road #5, Craig Lake, [CRYSTAL LAKE], Dick's Pond, Doc Lake, Donna Lake, Forest

Lake, Four Mile Lake, Fourteen Mile Lake, Geskakmina Lake, Ghost Lake, Grayling Lake, Hidden Lake (Eielsen Air Force Base), Hidden Lake (Tetlin NWR.), Horseshoe Lake, "J" Lake, Jan Lake, Johnson R. #1 Pit, Kenna Lake, Ken's Pond, Kids Fishing Pond, Kimberly Lake, Last Lake, Lisa Lake, Little Donna Lake, Little Lost Lake, Long Pond, Lost Lake, Luke Lake, Lundgren Pond, Manchu Lake, Mark Lake, Meadows Rd. #1, Meadows Rd. #2, [MEADOWS RD. #3], [MEADOWS RD. #4], Meadows Rd. #5, [MEADOWS RD. #6], Monterey Lake, Moose Lake, Mullins Pit, Nenana City Pond, Nickel Lake, No Mercy Lake, Nordale #2, North Chena Pond, North Pole Pond, North Twin Lake, Olnes Pond, Otto Lake, Parks 261 Pond, Parks 285 (White Alice Pit), Parks 286.3, Paul's Pond, [PILED RIVER SLOUGH], Polaris Lake, Quartz Lake, Rangeview Lake, Rapids Lake, Richardson Hwy. 28 M. Pit, Richardson Hwy. 31 M. Pit, Richardson Hwy. 81 Mile Pit, [ROBERTSON #2], Rockhound Lake, Round Pond, Shaw Pond, Sheefish Lake, Silver Lake (Mosquito Creek Lake), Sirlin Drive Pond, South Johnson Lake, South Twin Lake, Steese Hwy. 29.5 Mile Pit, Steese Hwy. 31.6 Mile Pit, Steese Hwy. 33.5 Mile Pit, Steese Hwy. 34.6 Mile Pit, Steese Hwy. 35.8 Mile Pit, Steese Hwy. 36.6 Mile Pit, Stringer Rd. Pond, Triangle Lake, [TSCHUTE LAKE], Wainwright #6, Weasel Lake, West Iksigiza Lake, [WEST POND], Z Pit (Chena Floodway);

5 AAC 74.010(c)(31) repealed. [IN SUMMIT LAKE (CANTWELL), THE BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT FOR RAINBOW TROUT, LANDLOCKED SALMON, ARCTIC CHAR/DOLLY VARDEN, ARCTIC GRAYLING, AND LAKE TROUT COMBINED IS ONE FISH, WHICH MUST BE 18 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH; ALL FISH CAUGHT THAT ARE LESS THAN 18 INCHES IN LENGTH MUST BE RELEASED IMMEDIATELY.]

5 AAC 74.065(g) Water bodies managed under the special management approach include

- (1) **repealed.** [LITTLE HARDING LAKE];
- (2) Harding Lake;
- (3) **repealed.** [SUMMIT LAKE];
- (4) Monte Lake;
- (5) Donnelly Lake; and
- (6) Rainbow Lake

ISSUE: In conjunction with each Alaska Board of Fisheries cycle, the department reviews stocked waters to ensure consistency between the *Statewide Stocking Plan for Recreational Fisheries* and the Tanana River Management Area stocked waters regulations and management plan. Stocked waters are removed from the stocking plan, are no longer stocked, and are removed from corresponding regulations due to a loss of public access, poor fish growth or survival, or insufficient fishing effort. As new waters are identified and included in the stocking plan they are added to the regulations.

Sampling in 2011 at Little Harding Lake captured several large northern pike and very few stocked rainbow trout over 18 inches. Sampling in 2010 at Summit Lake resulted in no stocked fish species being captured and access to the lake has been restricted. Since neither of these lakes is meeting the goals of the special management approach, they are being removed from that designation and from the stocking plan. The proposed language will update the Tanana River Area stocked waters regulations and management plan.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The stocked waters listed in regulation will not be correct.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The public will benefit by having up-to-date regulations.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F12-226)

PROPOSAL 92 – 5 AAC 69.130. Methods, means, and general provisions – Finfish; 5 AAC 70.030. Methods, means, and general provisions – Finfish; 5 AAC 71.030. Methods, means, and general provisions – Finfish; 5 AAC 73.030. Methods, means, and general provisions – Finfish; and 5 AAC 74.030. Methods, means, and general provisions – Finfish. Allow large hooks in all waters for taking fish other than salmon as follows:

5 AAC 69.130, 5 AAC 70.030, 5 AAC 71.030, 5 AAC 73.030, and 5 AAC 74.030.

(b) In all **waters** [LAKES], multiple hooks with a gap between the point and shank greater than one-half inch may be used for taking fish other than salmon.

ISSUE: Current regulations which prohibit the use of multiple hooks with a gap between the point and shank greater than one-half inch (large treble hooks) in flowing waters of the five Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim (AYK) sport fish management areas were established with the objective of discouraging the illegal practice of snagging salmon. Commercially manufactured lures designed to capture large fish, such as northern pike, are frequently equipped with large treble hooks. A high percentage of AYK northern pike and sheefish sport fisheries occur in flowing waters. Many anglers unwittingly violate current regulations in flowing waters by using lures as manufactured. There is no biological justification for continuing to prohibit the use of large treble hooks in flowing waters when fishing for fish other than salmon.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Anglers may not use large commercially manufactured lures equipped with large treble hooks without replacing the hooks.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Anglers desiring to use large treble hooks while fishing to catch large fish other than salmon.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game. (HQ-F12-242)

PROPOSAL 93 – 5 AAC 71.010. Seasons and bag, possession and size limits for the Kuskokwim-Goodnews Area; and 5 AAC 74.010. Seasons and bag, possession and size limits for the Tanana River Area. Clarify that a single-hook artificial lure is an artificial lure with one single-hook or one fly as follows:

5 AAC 71.010(d)(1) only **one** unbaited, single-hook artificial **lure** [LURES] may be used in the

(A) Aniak River drainage upstream of Doestock Creek;

(B) Kisaralik River drainage upstream of 60° 49.50' N. lat., 160° 55' W. long. (Akiak Village Lodge site);

(C) Kwethluk River drainage, upstream of 60° 31.96' N. lat., 161° 05.47' W. long. (Pulamanek (Pocahontas) Creek);

(D) Kasigluk River drainage;

(E) Kanektok River drainage;

(F) Goodnews River drainage;

5 AAC 74.010(d)

(7) in Fielding lake,

(B) only **one** unbaited single-hook artificial **lure** [LURES] may be used;

...

(12) in Little Harding Lake, only **one** unbaited single-hook artificial **lure** [LURES] may be used;

ISSUE: Current regulations are unclear whether artificial lures with two single hooks or two artificial flies may be used when regulations state that only unbaited, single-hook artificial lures may be used. The unbaited, single-hook artificial lure regulations are in place to provide for sustained yield of rainbow trout, Arctic grayling, Dolly Varden, or lake trout; allowing an artificial lure with a single hook or only one artificial fly to be fished reduces potential hooking mortality. Prefacing the language by the word “one” clarifies that only one artificial lure with one hook or only one artificial fly may be used. This would provide consistency in area regulations within the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim (AYK) region.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Regulations will remain unclear.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The public, enforcement staff, and ADF&G personnel all benefit from clear regulations. Rainbow trout, Arctic grayling, Dolly Varden, or lake trout populations in these water bodies will likely experience lower levels of hooking mortality.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Sport anglers who prefer to fish using artificial lures with more than one hook or fish with two artificial flies.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F12-224)

PROPOSAL 94 – 5 AAC 74.010. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Tanana River Area. Modify method and means regulation for the Chena River to be consistent with the area regulations as follows:

(d)(5)(A) only one unbaited single-hook, artificial lure may be used, except that a treble hook with a gap between hook and shank **greater than** [OF] one-half inch [OR GREATER] may be used **when taking fish other than salmon;**

ISSUE: In 2007, the Alaska Board of Fisheries amended Chena River methods and means to allow anglers the use of a large treble hook to catch northern pike in conjunction with regulations protecting Arctic grayling. However, the hook size description adopted into regulation was not the same as what is currently defined in area regulations for large multiple hooks (5 AAC 74.030(b)). This proposed change will make the large treble hook size description consistent throughout the Tanana River Management Area.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The Chena River treble hook regulation will remain inconsistent with the area regulation.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The public, enforcement staff, and ADF&G personnel all benefit from clear regulations.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Anglers who wish to use a single large treble hook to catch salmon in the Chena River.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F12-228)

PROPOSAL 95 - 5 AAC 71.030. Methods, means, and general provisions - Finfish. Prohibit putting fish parts in water where use of bait is prohibited as follows:

Notwithstanding 5 AAC 75.995 (36), "bait" means any substance applied to fishing gear or placed in the fresh water by a person for the purpose of attracting fish by scent, including fish

eggs in any form, natural or preserved animal, fish, fish oil, shellfish, or insect parts, natural or processed vegetable matter and natural or synthetic chemicals.

ISSUE: On many of the freshwaters of the Kuskokwim - Goodnews Area it has become a common practice for individuals, often individuals working as sport fishing guides or sport fishing assistant guides to place substances defined as "bait" in 5 AAC 75.995 (36) into the waters in an effort to attract fish by scent. This practice is commonly referred to as "chumming". Bait applied to fishing gear is currently prohibited in many, if not most, of the waters where this is a common practice. The bait prohibitions found in 5 AAC 75 apply to freshwaters distributed throughout the Kuskokwim - Goodnews Area are the result of multiple cycles of Board deliberation. These prohibitions were adopted to address a wide range of both biological and quality of experience issues. These bait prohibitions are appropriate and well supported. This proposal seeks to prohibit the practice of chumming as it is occurring today in those freshwaters of the Kuskokwim - Goodnews Area where bait is now prohibited.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Chumming alters the natural feeding routine of the rainbow trout, char and Arctic grayling. Fish concentrate in locations where quantities of bait are frequently placed in the water. Catch rates can increase dramatically as a result of the practice of chumming. Individual fish are caught and handled more often than would occur in a more natural setting. Although most areas are governed by "catch and release" regulations there is still some incidental mortality associated with this practice and that amount increases with increased number of catches. There is also a quality of experience issue that arises when multiple groups of sport fishermen are present in the proximity of each other on the same water and some are adhering to both the wording and the spirit of the bait prohibition and others are engaging in the practice of chumming. Catch rates are normally higher for individuals in the group that is chumming. The antagonism created by situations such as this are not helpful in maintaining the world class quality of the sport fishery in the Kuskokwim - Goodnews Area and if left unaddressed will likely lead to its diminishment.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. This proposal seeks to prohibit the practice commonly referred to as chumming specifically in those freshwaters of the Goodnews-Kuskokwim Area where the use of bait is currently restricted by regulation. A wide range of biological and quality of experience issues arise from common occurrence of the practice of chumming. The Alaska Board of Fisheries has throughout the years consistently taken the position that fisheries for wild rainbow trout must be managed conservatively and with emphasis on maintaining the quality of the sport fishing experience. "5 AAC 75.222. Policy for the management of sustainable wild trout fisheries" lays out an excellent framework. Most of the special regulatory development found in 5 AAC 75 specifically addresses the wild trout fisheries in this area. Prohibiting chumming will enhance the State's consistent efforts to protect both the biological integrity and quality of experience of the wild trout fisheries in the freshwaters of the Goodnews-Kuskokwim Area.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Prohibition of the practice of chumming will have a positive effect on the wild rainbow trout resource by maintaining catch rates at levels historically observed in fisheries where bait is prohibited. Conflicts between groups of sport fishermen over

the appropriateness of chumming will cease to occur. The probability of achieving the dual goals of wild trout management, maintenance of historical size, age composition and abundance of the trout population and the maintenance of the quality of sport fishing experience will be enhanced.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Sport fishermen who are now chumming the freshwaters of the Goodnews-Kuskokwim Area where the use of bait is prohibited in an effort to increase their catch rates on wild rainbow trout will find it more challenging to hook these prized fish.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Prohibition of chumming through adoption of the recommended regulatory wording is, in my opinion, the only practical way to eliminate this practice.

PROPOSED BY: Pat Vermillion (HQ-F12-057)

PROPOSAL 96 - 5 AAC 74.010. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Tanana River Area. Increase the season for northern pike to year-round as follows:

In the lakes of the Tanana River drainage upstream of the Robertson River, the open season for northern pike would be January 1-December 31. The daily bag and possession limit would remain five fish with only one over 30 inches or longer.

ISSUE: Pike season in the lakes of the Tanana River drainage was set to protect the pike spawning season, but the season is too conservative. Opening the season year round will not effect spawning.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Fishing opportunity will be needlessly lost.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Improve fishing opportunity with longer seasons.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Sport fishers.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Upper Tanana Fortymile Advisory Committee (HQ-F12-091)

PROPOSAL 97 - 5 AAC 73.010. Seasons, bag, possession and size limits, and methods and means for the Yukon River Area. Reduce northern pike bag and possession limits in the Yukon River from Holy Cross to Paimiut Slough as follows:

5 AAC 73.010(c)(1) in all waters of the Innoko River Drainage, including all waters draining into the Yukon River **and waters of the Yukon River** from Holy Cross downstream to and including Paimiut Slough, the bag and possession limit for northern pike is three fish, of which only one fish may be 30 inches or greater in length;

ISSUE: The GASH AC is concerned that there are too many pike being taken during the winter subsistence fishery, including too many large, spawning able females. In the past several years we have observed multiple (20-40) groups of people (3 to 6 people per group) coming up and camping for several days at a time. While camping, these folks ice fish for pike night and day with tip up poles and when done leave with sled loads of fish. Currently there is NO bag limit during this subsistence fishery. The GASH AC is very concerned what this targeted fishing pressure will have on the pike stocks of both the Yukon and the Innoko River Drainages, and we would like to see some form of limits being placed to insure that there are pike available for future generations and for multiple user groups.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? There will be continued overfishing of an important fish stock for the people of this area. This will result in a population crash which will lead to either complete closure of the fishery, or more severe restrictions being put in place on this fishery. This will also impact the sport fishery in the Innoko drainage, since it has been shown that Innoko pike overwinter in this area. This will lead to the loss of opportunity for not only subsistence fishermen, but for sports fishermen as well.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Both Subsistence users as well as sport fishermen

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one interested in conserving pike for subsistence and sport fishermen.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Grayling Anvik Shageluk Holy Cross Advisory Committee (HQ-F12-073)

PROPOSAL 98 - 5 AAC 01.234. Limitations on subsistence fishing with hook and line gear. Reduce northern pike bag and possession limits for subsistence fishers in the Yukon River from Holy Cross to Paimiut Slough as follows:

5 AAC 01.2XX. **For subsistence fishing in all waters of the Innoko River drainage, including all waters draining into the Yukon River and waters of the Yukon River from Holy Cross downstream to and including Paimiut Slough, with a hook and line attached to a rod or pole, the following provisions apply:**

- 1) **The methods and means specified in 5 AAC 73.010, 5 AAC 73.030, 5 AAC 75.021 and 5 AAC 75.022; and**
- 2) **The bag and possession limits for northern pike specified in 5 AAC 73.010.(c)(1).**

ISSUE: The GASH AC is concerned that there are too many pike being taken during the winter subsistence fishery, including too many large, spawning able females. In the past several years we have observed multiple (20-40) groups of people (3 to 6 people per group) coming up and camping for several days at a time. While camping, these folks ice fish for pike night and day with tip up poles and when done leave with sled loads of fish. Currently there is NO bag limit during this subsistence fishery. The GASH AC is very concerned what this targeted fishing pressure will have on the pike stocks of both the Yukon and the Innoko River Drainages, and we would like to see some form of limits being placed to insure that there are pike available for future generations and for multiple user groups.

Tying the sport and subsistence bag limits together makes sense. We abide by the sports fishing bag limit when fishing in the summer with rod and reel. If we are truly concerned for the population of the pike, the summer bag limit should carry over to when the pike are more vulnerable with being grouped up together and hungrier; such as they are in the winter.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? There will be continued overfishing of an important fish stock for the people of this area. This will result in a population crash which will lead to either complete closure of the fishery, or more severe restrictions being put in place on this fishery. This will also impact the sports fishery in the Innoko drainage, since it has been shown that Innoko pike overwinter in this area. This will lead to the loss of opportunity for not only subsistence fishermen, but for sports fishermen as well.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Both future subsistence users as well as future sport fishermen.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one interested in conserving pike for subsistence and sport fishermen.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? N/A.

PROPOSED BY: Grayling Anvik Shageluk Holy Cross Advisory Committee (HQ-F12-074)

PROPOSAL 99 – 5 AAC 01.225. Waters closed to subsistence fishing. Repeal the regulation prohibiting subsistence retention of northern pike in portions of the Tanana River drainage as follows:

(d) **Repealed.** [WATERS OF THE TANANA RIVER DRAINAGE ARE CLOSED TO THE SUBSISTENCE TAKING OF PIKE BETWEEN THE MOUTH OF THE KANTISHNA

RIVER AND DELTA RIVER AT BLACK RAPIDS ON THE RICHARDSON HIGHWAY AND CATHEDRAL RAPIDS ON THE ALASKA HIGHWAY, EXCEPT THAT PIKE MAY BE TAKEN FOR SUBSISTENCE PURPOSES IN THAT PORTION OF THE TOLOVANA RIVER DRAINAGE NOT INCLUDED IN THE NONSUBSISTENCE AREA DESCRIBED IN 5 AAC 99.015(A) (4).]

ISSUE: Retention of northern pike for subsistence uses is prohibited in the Tanana River drainage between the mouth of the Kantishna River upriver to the Delta River at Black Rapids on the Richardson Highway and Cathedral Rapids on the Alaska Highway, excluding the Tolovana River drainage. Northern pike may be retained if harvested while subsistence fishing in the Tanana River drainage downriver and upriver of these closed waters.

Available harvest data from Subdistrict 6-B salmon fishery permits suggest there is no biological concern if retention of northern pike was allowed within this area. Subsistence salmon fishing permits are required in this portion of the Tanana River drainage and although the permits include provisions stating northern pike cannot be retained in the waters identified in this regulation, fishermen may not be aware they cannot retain northern pike. Since 2002, an average of 70 northern pike have been reported annually as harvested incidentally in the Subdistrict 6-B subsistence salmon fishery, which occurs within a portion of the area closed to retention of northern pike for subsistence purposes. Because these permits are for the taking of salmon, incidental harvest of northern pike may be greater than reported.

The Fairbanks Nonsubsistence Area, that portion of the Tanana River upriver from the upstream mouth of the Wood River to the Johnson River on the west bank, and the Volkmar River on the east bank, including the Delta River to Black Rapids, is managed under the personal use fishing regulations and would not be affected by this proposal.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Subsistence fishermen will continue to be prohibited from retaining northern pike within that portion of the Tanana River drainage from the Kantishna River upriver to the Wood River and from the Johnson River on the west bank and Volkmar River on the east bank upriver to Cathedral Rapids.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Not applicable.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Subsistence fishermen who wish to retain northern pike caught in that portion of the Tanana River drainage from the Kantishna River upriver to the Wood River and from the Johnson River on the west bank and Volkmar River on the east bank upriver to Cathedral Rapids.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F12-222)

PROPOSAL 100 - 5 AAC 01.225. Waters closed to subsistence fishing. Allow retention of northern pike in Yukon and Tanana subsistence salmon fisheries as follows:

Allow incidentally caught pike to be legally retained fisher in Yukon and Tanana Subsistence salmon fishery.

ISSUE: Current regulation requires waste of incidentally caught pike in the subsistence salmon fishery in the Yukon and Tanana River Drainage. Our understanding is that this incidental catch is very minimal, and we would like to see these fish be able to be utilized by the fishers.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued waste of incidentally caught pike in these fisheries.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, incidentally caught pike will be able to be utilized, and therefore the resource would be respected by allowing consumption rather than waste.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Subsistence fishers in these fisheries, and the pike themselves.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? N/A.

PROPOSED BY: Fairbanks Advisory Committee (HQ-F12-210)

PROPOSAL 101 - 5 AAC 01.220. Lawful gear and gear specifications. Ban the use of gillnets in the subsistence fishery for pike in both Ten Mile Lake and Mark Lake as follows:

Make use of all gillnets illegal for subsistence fishing in Ten Mile Lake and Mark Lake. All other methods of subsistence harvest of fish in Ten Mile Lake and Mark Lake would still be allowed.

ISSUE: Over harvest of pike over 30 inches in gillnets set for whitefish in Ten Mile Lake and Mark Lake in the Upper Tanana River Drainage near Northway. This over harvest of large pike has resulted in a decline in the size of pike in these lakes.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Breeding female pike will continue to be over harvested and the pike populations will continue to be at risk.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. It would reduce the harvest of adult female pike and would allow the population to increase, resulting in additional pike fishing opportunity. This will also result in an increase of larger pike.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All sports and subsistence fishermen.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Upper Tanana Fortymile Advisory Committee (HQ-F12-051)

PROPOSAL 102 - 5 AAC 01.175. Waters closed to subsistence fishing. Allow for the subsistence take of grayling in the Nome River by the use of jigging with hook-and-line gear as follows:

Allow subsistence take of Grayling by jigging under ice in Nome River.

ISSUE: Lack of opportunity to harvest Arctic Grayling by jigging under ice in Nome River.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued lack of opportunity.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Subsistence fishermen have not been able to harvest.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Subsistence fishermen.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Allow subsistence Grayling fishing October 15 – May 1.

PROPOSED BY: Tom Sparks (HQ-F12-038)

PROPOSAL 103 – 5 AAC 04; 5 AAC 05; 5 AAC 07. Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Region fishery regulatory changes and/or management plans pertaining to chum and sockeye salmon in the Kuskokwim Area, Yukon Area, Norton Sound-Port Clarence Area, and Kotzebue Area. Placeholder for possible regulatory changes based on results from Western Alaska Salmon Stock Identification Project (WASSIP) as follows:.

ISSUE: This is a placeholder proposal to allow fishery stakeholders, the board, and the department an opportunity to discuss proposed regulatory changes in the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim (AYK) Area based upon results of the Western Alaska Salmon Stock Identification Project, which will not be available until late summer 2012.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Potentially important information regarding fisheries management will not be utilized until the next Alaska Board of Fisheries cycle for AYK Region in 2015/2016.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Unknown.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Unknown.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Unknown.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F12-218)

PROPOSAL 104 – 5 AAC 01.286. Customary and traditional subsistence uses of fish stocks and amounts necessary for subsistence uses. Review amounts reasonably necessary (ANS) for subsistence for salmon in the Kuskokwim River drainage as follows:

(a) The Alaska Board of Fisheries (board) finds that the following fish stocks are customarily and traditionally taken or used for subsistence:

- (1) halibut, Pacific cod, and all other finfish, except as specified in (2)–(4) of this section, in the Kuskokwim Area;
- (2) salmon in the Kuskokwim Area, except the Kuskokwim River drainage;
- (3) king, chum, sockeye, coho, and pink salmon in the Kuskokwim River drainage;
- (4) herring and herring roe, along the coast between the westernmost tip of the Naskonat Peninsula and terminus of the Ishowik River, and along the coast of Nunivak Island.

(b) The board finds that the following amounts of fish are reasonably necessary for subsistence uses:

- (1) 64,500–83,000 king salmon in the Kuskokwim River drainage;
- (2) 39,500–75,500 chum salmon in the Kuskokwim River drainage;
- (3) 27,500–39,500 sockeye salmon in the Kuskokwim River drainage;
- (4) 24,500–35,000 coho salmon in the Kuskokwim River drainage; and
- (5) 7,500–13,500 salmon in the remainder of the Kuskokwim Area.

ISSUE: This proposal provides an opportunity for the Alaska Board of Fisheries (board) and public to revisit the ANS for subsistence findings for salmon stocks in the Kuskokwim area. The ANS for subsistence findings in codified regulations were set by the board in 2001 based upon the harvest history on the Kuskokwim River during the years 1990–1999. The ANS ranges were based on the low harvest and mean (average) harvest over the 10 years (Table 1).

Table 1.—Estimated subsistence salmon harvests of Kuskokwim Area salmon used for ANS determination in 2001.

Kuskokwim River					Remainder of Kuskokwim Area				
	Minimum	Average	High	ANS		Minimum	Average	High	ANS
King salmon	64,795	82,762	96,436	64,500-83,000	King salmon	3,535	4,511	6,699	
Chum salmon	39,970	75,143	126,508	39,500-75,500	Chum salmon	1,006	3,004	4,961	
Sockeye salmon	27,791	39,204	52,984	27,500-39,500	Sockeye salmon	823	2,073	3,420	
Coho salmon	24,864	34,803	50,370	24,500-35,000	Coho salmon	1,682	3,416	5,922	
					Salmon				7,500-13,500

Kuskokwim Area subsistence salmon harvests have been estimated by ADF&G Division of Commercial Fisheries (1960–1987) and Division of Subsistence (1988–2007) annually since 1960. Harvest estimation methods changed in 1988 and again in 2008. The board may determine that an ANS revision may be justified due to a new harvest estimation method deployed retroactively by ADF&G Division of Commercial Fisheries beginning in 2008. This new method attempts to provide a more complete estimation of subsistence salmon harvests by species than previous methods. As a result, individual community estimates tend to be larger compared to estimates utilizing the previous method. The differences result from changes in the stratified sampling design and a new statistical approach that models harvest estimates from unsurveyed or underrepresented communities based on historical community-level harvest estimates.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Board assessments of subsistence salmon harvests relative to the codified ANS findings will be more challenging given methodological differences between new harvest estimates and existing ANS findings. These challenges relate to the fact that the new method tends to result in harvest estimates that are higher than the previous 1988–2007 estimates. If the ANS findings are not revised based upon this new method, then the existing ANS findings in regulation may underrepresent the amount of each salmon stock necessary for subsistence harvests.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All users of the salmon resources of the Kuskokwim Area will benefit from decisions based upon the best available information, which provides the board with an unambiguous metric for assessing reasonable opportunities for subsistence uses of Kuskokwim Area salmon populations and stocks.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? If the board chose not to revise ANS findings for Kuskokwim River salmon stocks, and the department continued to utilize the new harvest estimation method, then subsistence users may suffer because ANS findings would no longer be consistent methodologically with the annual harvest monitoring program.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? No action. However, this proposal provides the board with the opportunity to update the ANS with the best available harvest information, as well as provides the public with an opportunity to review and comment upon the proposal regarding the ANS for subsistence uses of Kuskokwim Area king, chum, sockeye, and coho salmon stocks.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F12-220)

PROPOSAL 105 – 5 AAC 07.365. Kuskokwim River Salmon Rebuilding Management Plan. Update and clarify *Kuskokwim River Salmon Rebuilding Management Plan* and strategies as follows:

5 AAC 07.365. Kuskokwim River Salmon Rebuilding Management Plan.

(a) The purpose of this management plan is to provide guidelines for the [REBUILDING AND] management of the Kuskokwim River salmon fishery that will result in the sustained yield of salmon stocks large enough to meet the escapement goals, amounts necessary for subsistence, and for nonsubsistence fisheries.

(b) It is the intent of the Board of Fisheries that the Kuskokwim River salmon stocks shall be managed [DURING JUNE AND JULY] in a conservative manner consistent with the Policy for the Management of Sustainable Salmon Fisheries (5 AAC 39.222) **to meet escapement goals** and the subsistence priority.

(c) In the subsistence fishery, in the Kuskokwim River drainage, in the waters of the mainstem of the river and other salmon spawning tributaries, unless otherwise specified by the department,

(1) the subsistence salmon net and fish wheel fisheries will be open **seven** [FOR FOUR CONSECUTIVE] days per week [IN JUNE AND JULY AS ANNOUNCED BY EMERGENCY ORDER]; however, the commissioner may alter fishing periods by emergency order **consistent with migratory timing as the salmon runs progress upstream** based on run strength [AND] to achieve escapement goals;

(2) during subsistence closures **announced by emergency order,** [OF THREE CONSECUTIVE DAYS PER WEEK IN JUNE AND JULY,] all salmon nets with a mesh size larger than four inches must be removed from the water, and fish wheels may not be operated; [HOWEVER, THE COMMISSIONER MAY ALTER FISHING PERIODS BY EMERGENCY ORDER BASED ON RUN STRENGTH AND TO ACHIEVE ESCAPEMENT GOALS;]

(3) **repealed.** [AS THE SALMON RUN PROGRESSES UPSTREAM FROM DISTRICTS 1 - 2, AND FURTHER UPSTREAM, THE PROVISIONS OF (1) OF THIS SECTION WILL BE IMPLEMENTED IN THE MAINSTEM OF THE KUSKOKWIM RIVER AND SALMON SPAWNING TRIBUTARIES;]

(d) In the commercial fishery,

(2) only those waters of District 1 [DOWNSTREAM OF THE ADF&G REGULATORY MARKERS LOCATED AT BETHEL] may be opened during the first commercial salmon fishing period;

(3) the commissioner shall open and close the Kuskokwim River commercial salmon fishery by emergency order; [IF INSEASON INDICATORS OF RUN STRENGTH INDICATE

A RUN STRENGTH THAT IS LARGE ENOUGH TO PROVIDE FOR A HARVESTABLE SURPLUS AND A REASONABLE OPPORTUNITY FOR SUBSISTENCE USES AND FOR NONSUBSISTENCE FISHERIES, THE SUBSISTENCE FISHING SHALL REVERT TO THE FISHING PERIODS AS SPECIFIED IN 5 AAC 01.260;]

(5) Districts 1 and 2 commercial fishing periods are from **12:00** [1:00] p.m. through **6:00** [7:00] p.m.; when longer fishing periods are allowed, the extra time is to be divided before **12:00** [1:00] p.m. and after **6:00** [7:00] p.m.;

(6) in June, **when** [AND UNTIL COHO SALMON RELATIVE ABUNDANCE EXCEEDS] chum salmon relative abundance **exceeds king salmon relative abundance**, the department shall manage, to the extent practicable, the commercial salmon fishery based on the chum salmon run strength;

(8) [WHEN CHUM SALMON ABUNDANCE IS SUFFICIENT TO PROVIDE FOR ESCAPEMENT AND SUBSISTENCE NEEDS, AND] when coho salmon relative abundance exceeds chum salmon relative abundance, the department shall manage, to the extent practicable, the commercial salmon fishery based on the strength of the coho salmon run;

(9) **repealed.** [WHEN THE CHUM SALMON RUN IS PROJECTED TO BE INADEQUATE TO MEET ESCAPEMENT AND SUBSISTENCE NEEDS, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL MANAGE THE COMMERCIAL COHO SALMON FISHERY TO MINIMIZE THE INCIDENTAL HARVEST OF CHUM SALMON AND TO PROVIDE FOR COHO SALMON ESCAPEMENT AND SUBSISTENCE NEEDS;]

(11) If the king salmon run is projected to be inadequate to meet escapement goals and to provide for a reasonable subsistence opportunity, and if the commissioner determines that there is a harvestable surplus of chum salmon sufficient to provide for escapement needs and a reasonable opportunity for subsistence, the commissioner may, by emergency order, open a directed chum salmon fishery and the department shall manage to the extent practical, the commercial chum salmon fishery to minimize the harvest of king salmon.

ISSUE: This proposal requests changes to the Kuskokwim River management plan to reflect current management practices, and provides greater flexibility during periods of conservation need for salmon in order to meet escapement, provide for subsistence opportunity, and manage overlapping salmon runs. The proposal would also allow for the opportunity to commercially harvest chum salmon when abundance is beyond what is necessary for escapement and subsistence.

In January 2001, the Alaska Board of Fisheries modified the *Kuskokwim River Salmon Rebuilding Management Plan* to provide guidelines for management of subsistence, commercial, and sport fisheries for Kuskokwim River salmon. Management of the Kuskokwim River salmon fishery is complex due to overlapping multi-species salmon runs, and subsistence and commercial fisheries. Salmon fishery management has been very conservative and the commercial fishery closed unless king and chum salmon run strength are clearly adequate to provide for escapement and subsistence needs. The purpose of the management plan is to provide guidelines for management of the Kuskokwim River salmon fishery that ensure the

sustained yield of salmon stocks large enough to meet escapement goals, reasonable subsistence opportunity, and harvests for fisheries other than subsistence.

A set subsistence fishing schedule was established within the original plan, but is not necessary every year. If subsistence closures are established, the department needs flexibility in the duration of the closure and the ability to progressively implement such closures upstream as salmon migrate.

Commercial fishing throughout most of the 2000s was limited by stock of concern designations for king and chum salmon, poor market conditions for chum salmon, limited processing capacity, and low effort. Market conditions for chum salmon have improved in recent years; however, the fishery is still limited by processing capacity and low effort. Given record king, chum, and sockeye salmon escapements observed from 2004 to 2006, large surpluses of these species were available for commercial harvest, but were underexploited given the conditions listed above. Returns of king salmon from these record escapements have produced poor returns in recent years. Measures taken to conserve king salmon have resulted in forgone commercial chum salmon harvest and these fish continue to be underexploited despite available harvestable surpluses beyond escapement and subsistence needs. Managing for overlapping salmon species based upon abundance, while minimizing the harvest of a less abundant species to the extent practical will benefit resource users.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The existing plan does not reflect current management practices and provides less flexibility in management of overlapping salmon runs than the proposed plan. More flexibility will ensure Kuskokwim River salmon runs are managed for sustained yield.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The resource and fishermen.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F12-223)

PROPOSAL 106 - 5 AAC 07.365. Kuskokwim River Salmon Rebuilding Management Plan. Adopt a drainagewide optimum escapement goal (OEG) for king salmon in the Kuskokwim River, adjust tributary goals accordingly, and add preseason and inseason management tools as follows:

The preferred solution is for 1) the Board to adopt a drainage-wide OEG for Kuskokwim River Chinook salmon in lieu of the ADF&G goal, 2) for any adjustments made to tributary goals to be based on the OEG rather than the ADF&G goal, and 3) for a management plan be developed that

provides pre-season and in-season guidelines for achieving the escapement goals. In-season guidelines should direct managers to take actions that target achieving the mid-point of the escapement goal range when using in-season tools to project end-of-season escapements. Currently the primary in-season tool is the Bethel Test Fishery, which has limited precision in projecting final escapements. Given this imprecision, managers would need to target the mid-point of the escapement goal in order to assure ultimately achieving escapement within the escapement goal range. The management plan should also detail how localized management actions could be taken to protect individual tributaries experiencing low returns. Finally, the Department should consider including minimum numbers of female Chinook salmon required at monitored tributary escapements.

ISSUE: The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) intends to adopt a drainage wide escapement goal for Kuskokwim River Chinook salmon, and we request the Board consider establishing an Optimal Escapement Goal (OEG) in lieu of the ADF&G goal. The ADF&G goal is to be based on a recent retrospective run reconstruction. Details about the run reconstruction have not been released, and details about the analysis for developing the escapement goal have yet to be determined by ADF&G.

Linked to this drainage wide goal, ADF&G plans to adjust existing tributary goals so that they are in proportion to each tributary's average contribution to drainage wide escapement, and we request that any such changes be proportioned based on the OEG rather than the ADF&G goal. Again, details from ADF&G are lacking, but the key risk is that under the ADF&G goal there may be inadequate numbers of females in the tributary escapements. The concern is maintaining genetic diversity throughout the drainage.

We also understand that Department is considering submitting a placeholder Management Plan for the Kuskokwim River Chinook Management. A final concern is the lack of Management Plan details that should provide guidelines to managers and the public as to how ADF&G plans to proceed in-season to achieve the escapement goal. Currently the primary in-season tool is the Bethel Test Fishery, which has limited precision in projecting final escapements.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? If the ADF&G goal is too low, as might occur if based strictly on Ricker spawner-recruit analysis, it may at times reduce densities of fish to such low levels that subsistence fishermen will need to significantly increase fishing time to catch the same amount harvested historically, which would be a substantial economic hardship. If not adopted, at risk is providing adequate subsistence harvest opportunity, and the ability of subsistence fishermen to harvest salmon within the range of Amounts Necessary for Subsistence.

At risk is assuring adequate distribution of spawners throughout the drainage, and assuring adequate numbers of spawning females. Both could have negative consequences in maintaining genetic diversity throughout the drainage. Also at risk is the long-term sustainability of the fishery should escapement distribution be inadequate and/or inadequate numbers of females Chinook salmon be allowed to spawn (i.e., inadequate egg deposition, which could lead towards perpetuating low returns).

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? This should not affect fish quality. However, the quality of escapement maybe affected. At risk is providing adequate numbers of females Chinook in the escapement; i.e, inadequate egg deposition, which could lead towards perpetuating low returns.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Those most likely to benefit are subsistence fishermen, particularly subsistence fishermen upstream of Subdistrict W1-B, who will be assured catch rates (densities of salmon available for harvest, or fish per hour) comparable to historical levels.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those most likely to suffer are also subsistence fishermen, particularly those within Subdistrict W1-B, who may be subjected to harvest restrictions in order to pass fish upstream to meet escapement goals and to provide for upriver subsistence harvest opportunity. Commercial fishermen would also suffer because in some years there may be foregone commercial harvest to achieve escapements above Maximum Sustained Yield and to provide for subsistence harvest opportunity.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Other alternatives are to 1) accept the ADF&G goal without a management plan but the details are unknown) 2) Request that ADF&G to take no action at this time; i.e., post-pone establishing the drainage-wide escapement goal and consequent modification to tributary goals until: 1) full vetting occurs of the Chinook salmon run reconstruction including review from non-ADF&G experts, 2) reasonable local outreach can occur that informs stakeholders of the intended actions and allow ADF&G opportunity to gather public input and address concerns.

Not having adequate information available about the Department’s plan leaves only the option to recommend that an OEG be established.

PROPOSED BY: Association of Village Council Presidents (HQ-F12-079)

PROPOSAL 107 - 5 AAC 01.2XX. Kuskokwim River king salmon possession limits. Allow subsistence taking of 10 or more king salmon only for drying and cold-smoke use in the Kuskokwim River Area as follows:

The taking and use of more than ten (10) subsistence caught Chinook salmon per household in June is only allowed for the seasonally dependent processing and preservation practice of outdoor drying and “old” smoking.

This is consistent with the Board’s discretion for application of subsistence criteria, and in accordance with directives in 4FA-09-1515 Civil (Ref BOF Proposal #200 of March, 2010 meeting), regarding 5AAC 99.010 (b), that “The Board can look to see that the taking and use reflects the cultural, social, spiritual and nutritional values embodied in subsistence laws.” to further the standard of protecting a subsistence way of life; and consistent with AS 16.05.258(b)(2)(A) that the Board ~~shall~~ adopt regulations that provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses of those stocks or populations;” or, (C) that the Board ~~shall~~ adopt regulations to differentiate among consumptive uses that provide for a preference for the subsistence uses, if regulations are adopted under (B) of this paragraph”.

Neither should this proposal in any way be misconstrued, interpreted or adapted to trigger the need to consider establishing a Tier II subsistence fishery in the Kuskokwim Area under A.S. 16.05.258(b)(4) or 5 AAC 99.010(c), since reasonable opportunity for ALL subsistence uses of ALL subsistence users is maintained, and this Board action would not reduce them below that level. Yet at the same time it could significantly reduce overall harvest impact on quantity and quality of related management, subsistence use and escapement objectives for the Kuskokwim Management Area.

ISSUE: 1) Harvest and processing limitations in customary and traditional subsistence use of Kuskokwim King salmon;

2) The need for the oldest and most practical methods and means of preserving sufficient quantities of King salmon for the winter, is dependent on this seasonal activity occurring during June (i.e. ~~dry fish~~), whereas those involved with more recent technological methods are not (i.e. ~~freezer/export fish~~); and

3) The increasing levels of individuals who catch large amounts of ~~freezer/export fish~~ opportunistically are largely lacking in the region's cultural background, and do not have a similarly situated level of need.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The oldest and most practical customary and traditional practice of drying and smoking enough King salmon for subsistence use throughout the winter will continue to be diminished or denied at the expense of more recent activities. In addition the cultural teachings inherent to the multi-family and multi-generational practice directly associated with summer fish camp and dry fish processing/preservation activities will continue to be increasingly disenfranchised. Ten (10) King salmon per household should be more than adequate to satisfy the ~~freezer/export fish~~ component of the harvest.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Removal of restrictions imposed at the expense of a subsistence activity for an essentially opportunistic one, could go far towards improving the full range of management objectives.

It would also reduce the amount of unavoidable and shameful waste of time, effort and resource which occurs when management actions force people to harvest and process their yearly subsistence needs for salmon later in the season: When the weather patterns deteriorate and cause loss through souring and rot, and causing much greater amounts of fly egg deposition with resulting prevalence of maggot infestation.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The vast majority of fishers throughout the drainage who depend on use of Kuskokwim King salmon for their families' primary winter supply of subsistence fish.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Individuals who would opportunistically harvest subsistence King salmon without limitation, regardless of individual need, processing/use capability or extended negative impacts to others.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? The prospect of Community Harvest Permits could be explored or incorporated for points of issue in this proposal, but uncertain as to what extent they would be effectively addressed.

PROPOSED BY: Orutsararmiut Native Council (HQ-F12-147)

PROPOSAL 108 - 5 AAC 01.280. Subsistence fishing permits. Require a permit and reporting requirements for all subsistence-caught salmon transported out of the Kuskokwim Management Area as follows:

Require a permit and reporting requirement for all subsistence caught salmon transported out of the Kuskokwim Management Area.

ISSUE: There is no existing method or means of tracking the numbers or species of salmon being shipped out of the Kuskokwim Area other than commercial harvests. Local observations from Bethel residents over the last three-four years report increasing numbers of individuals traveling back and forth throughout the season with full allocation of 150# baggage in fish boxes each time. The Kuskokwim Salmon Management Working Group requested assistance from the USFWS to pursue the matter, but were informed it was not in their area of jurisdiction. Requests were made of regional air freight, cargo and passenger airlines to provide this information voluntarily, but they declined to do so. Anecdotal reports are heard from the middle and upper river of more people coming in to fish the Kuskokwim – especially for King salmon, since so many other areas have been severely restricted or closed altogether in recent years. We may only speculate at present on how much impact this activity is having on Kuskokwim salmon stocks – or what level if any may be associated with commercial interests.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The current situation will continue and can only get worse.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Not Applicable.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Subsistence fisheries that rely on Kuskokwim salmon for primary source of sustenance. Management entities that currently have no other reliable means of data gathering or accounting for these salmon numbers in management decisions.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Anyone who may be taking advantage of, or abusing, the ability to gather large quantities of salmon from the Kuskokwim area for personal gain.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None that would adequately address scope of the issue or current anecdotal aspect.

PROPOSED BY: Orutsararmiut Native Council (HQ-F12-148)

PROPOSAL 109 - 5 AAC 01.2XX. Customary trade of subsistence-taken finfish. Allow for sale of subsistence-taken finfish in the Kuskokwim River Area as follows:

Add a new section in Article 5 as 5 AAC 01.xxx for Customary Trade of subsistence-taken finfish.

(a) In the Kuskokwim Area, the customary trade of subsistence-taken finfish is permitted as specified in this section. A person who conducts a customary trade in subsistence-taken finfish under this section must: (1) obtain a customary trade record keeping form from the department before the person conducts the customary trade, and accurately record the cash sale on the form within the 24 hours after the sale occurs; the form requires the reporting of (A) the date of each sale; (B) the buyers name and address; (C) the species and amount of finfish sold; (D) the location where the finfish were harvested; (E) the dollar amount of each sale; (F) the form of processing used; and (G) any other information the department requires for management or enforcement purposes; (2) return the customary trade record keeping form to the department as prescribed by the department on the form; (3) display the customary trade record keeping form upon request by a local representative of the department or a peace officer of the state.

(b) A person may not sell subsistence-taken finfish under this section for more than \$500 total per household in a calendar year.

(c) A person who receives subsistence-taken finfish in exchange for cash in a customary trade may not resell the fish.

(d) A sale or purchase of finfish authorized under this section, including the delivery of fish to a purchaser, may occur only in the Kuskokwim Area.

ISSUE: Escalating levels of, and concerns about, present and future individuals selling fish for significant cash income (i.e. commercial activities) under protection of customary trade.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? As the human population of the area (thru either resident or in-migration) continues to increase this problem can only get worse. If it is not addressed now, it will only be putting it off to be “solved” later.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Not Applicable

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The vast majority of subsistence fishers in the Kuskokwim area.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Individuals present and future who take advantage of the lack of limitations to essentially practice commercial activities under a protective guise of customary trade.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Status quo – Unacceptable

PROPOSED BY: Orutsararmiut Native Council

(HQ-F12-149)

PROPOSAL 110 - 5 AAC 07.331. Gillnet specifications and operations. Remove the option for gillnet mesh to be up to 8 inches in District 1 of the Kuskokwim River Area as follows:

5 AAC 07.331 (c) In Districts 1 and 2, salmon may be taken only with gillnets with six-inch or smaller mesh. [EXCEPT THAT IN DISTRICT 1, THE COMMISSIONER MAY OPEN FISHING PERIODS, DURING WHICH THE GILLNET MESH SIZE MAY BE NO GREATER THAN EIGHT INCHES.]

ISSUE: The allowance of up to 8” mesh gear in W-1 of the Kuskokwim commercial fishery remains in regulation, while the large Chinook salmon (primarily females) that would be targeted by this gear should be directed towards enhancing the quality of escapement, with any harvestable surplus of that stock component fully allocated to the subsistence fishery.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? An unnecessary regulation will remain on the books.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Adoption of this regulation is consistent with the escapement and subsistence priority management objectives in the Kuskokwim River.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? People who rely on the long-term integrity of Kuskokwim Chinook salmon stocks.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those who might attach some sentimental value to the illusory hope of returning to the directed commercial Chinook fishery of 1973-1985 (appx.).

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? We initially considered amending the regulation to remain effective only after July 1, but further discussions supported eliminating it altogether as a more realistic action.

PROPOSED BY: Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group

(HQ-F12-150)

PROPOSAL 111 - 5 AAC 71.010. Seasons and bag, possession, and size limits for the Kuskokwim – Goodnews Area. Close all sport fishing on the Eek River as follows:

Closed to Sport Fishing: All species of fish on the Eek River.

ISSUE: Sport Fishing on the Eek River.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The village of Eek has a long standing law passed down from our Elders not to play with our food.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? The Proposal will bring the use of this river to what it has always been used for by the First Peoples- A Subsistence Gathering River.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All subsistence users.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No-one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Native Village of Eek (HQ-F12-152)

PROPOSAL 112 - 5 AAC 01.270. Lawful gear and gear specifications and operations; 5 AAC 07.331 Gillnet specifications and operations; 5 AAC 71.010. Seasons and bag, possession, and size limits for the Kuskokwim - Goodnews Area. Close all sport and commercial guide fisheries in the Kwethluk River from June 1 through July 25 and limit the size of net gear used in both subsistence and commercial fisheries for the same time frame as follows:

1. Allow subsistence fishing using only 4” or less mesh size setnets (no more than 60’ in length).
2. Allow driftnets with only 4” or less mesh size nets no more than 60’ in length.

ISSUE: Close all sport fisheries and commercial guiding operation from June 1-July 25 every summer from the mouth of Kwethluk River to the headwaters.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Whenever there is subsistence closures on the river(s)- sports fisher are allowed to fish any species of fish (including salmon).

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? It will enhance the escapement of salmon spawners to their spawning grounds at the headwaters of salmon stream.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Everyone, it will enhance the biological health of the salmon species on the Kwethluk River.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Commercial guide operators from June 1-July 25 (only).

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? (1) whole mainstem closure- to will hurt subsistence fishers.

PROPOSED BY: Organized Village of Kwethluk, Kwethluk IRA Council (HQ-F12-072)

PROPOSAL 113 - 5 AAC 71.010. Seasons and bag, possession, and size limits for the Kuskokwim - Goodnews Area(c)(7) and (8). Prohibit catch and release fishing for salmon on the Kanektok and Arolik Rivers as follows:

Catch and release salmon sport fishing is prohibited on the Kanektok River Drainage and Arolik River Drainage.

Exception: (A salmon may be released only if it is observed to be too unhealthy for human consumption).

ISSUE: Catch and release salmon sport fishing is considered a violation of traditional beliefs amongst the Yup'ik People who call the Kanektok and Arolik rivers their home. Yup'ik residents have observed numerous occasions where salmon have been mishandled by sport fishermen ever since their home rivers became a popular sport fishing destination.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Yup'ik residents will continue to observe the salmon stocks on the Kanektok River Drainage and Arolik River Drainage steadily decline due to salmon being mishandled by sport fishermen. Here are some examples;

1. Salmon that are handled and released are more prone to illness due to the protective layer of mucus on their skin being removed. Knotted landing nets also cause this protective layer to be removed.
2. Salmon that are dragged up on gravel bars then kicked back into the water are injured. Sand and gravel may also get into their gills damaging these sensitive areas.
3. Oversized hooks are known to penetrate through the mouths of salmon and pierce their eyes, injuring their mouths and eyes.
4. Salmon that are removed from the water for prolonged periods of time take much longer to recover and have a reduced chance of survival when released.
5. Salmon that are fought too long become overly exhausted and when released are seen to roll over on to their bellies and float down river too weak to recover.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, by allowing more salmon to reach their spawning grounds without interference and mishandling from sport fishermen who practice catch and release fishing, thus allowing for a higher success rate of salmon completing their natural spawning cycle.

Current sport fish regulations for the Kanektok River Drainage and Arolik River Drainage allows for and provides opportunities for sport fishermen to harvest their daily bag limit of salmon for human consumption, this proposal reinforces that State of Alaska approved regulation.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All users of the salmon resource will benefit.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one will suffer.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Native Village of Kwinhagak IRA Council (HQ-F12-020)

PROPOSAL 114 - 5 AAC 5 AAC 71.010. Seasons and bag, possession, and size limits for the Kuskokwim - Goodnews Area. Prohibit sport fishing on all salmon spawning beds on the Kanektok and Arolik River drainages as follows:

Sport fishing is prohibited on all salmon spawning beds on the Kanektok River Drainage and Arolik River Drainage.

ISSUE: Sport fishermen who practice catch and release fishing on salmon spawning beds are molesting, disturbing, harassing and stressing salmon during this critical time when salmon are trying to fulfill their natural spawning cycle.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Female salmon which are caught and released from spawning beds have a higher chance of aborting their eggs prematurely due to the stress from being hooked, fought and released.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, by allowing more salmon to successfully complete their natural spawning cycle on their spawning beds without interference and mishandling from sport fishermen.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All users of the resource will benefit with this regulation change.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one will suffer.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Native Village of Kwinhagak IRA Council (HQ-F12-021)

PROPOSAL 115 - 5 AAC 01.188(b). Customary trade of subsistence-taken finfish. Increase the amount of money a household may receive from the sale of subsistence-caught fish from \$200 to \$500 as follows:

(b) Change 200 to 500.

ISSUE: Increase the sale of subsistence fish to 500.00.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Unreported sales.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? More product may be sold.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Subsistence fishermen wanting to help pay for gas.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Tom Sparks (HQ-F12-040)

PROPOSAL 116 - 5 AAC 01.190. Subdistrict 1 of the Norton Sound District Chum Salmon Management Plan; 5 AAC 04.3XX. Norton Sound Subdistrict 1 Salmon Management Plan. Create a new commercial fishery for pink or chum salmon to be opened and closed by emergency order (EO) in Subdistrict 1 of Norton Sound as follows:

Give ability of ADF&G to EO commercial fishery when subsistence needs are met. Current regulations mandate four years in a row for chum (Tier I) and do not allow for pink.

ISSUE: Lack of commercial fishery in Subdistrict 1 when high pink salmon or excess chum.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Lack of opportunity in Subdistrict 1 when high numbers of pink and chum.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Allows to harvest in high pink years and chum.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Commercial fishermen.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Change four year to two year in Tier I.

PROPOSED BY: Tom Sparks (HQ-F12-037)

PROPOSAL 117 - 5 AAC 04.350(4). Closed waters. Allow commercial fishing in Subdistrict 1 west of the longitude of Cape Nome for all species of salmon as follows:

All waters of Subdistrict 1 of the Norton Sound District are open to commercial fishing.

ISSUE: The waters of Subdistrict 1 of Norton Sound District west of the longitude of Cape Nome are closed to commercial fishing. This closure eliminates the opportunity to commercial fish for any salmon species even in times of record runs.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? There will be a waste of salmon by creating an overabundance of spawning salmon in streams. Foregone harvest opportunity.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? More opportunity for commercial fishermen to fish throughout Subdistrict 1.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? No other solutions considered.

PROPOSED BY: Howard Farley (HQ-F12-063)

PROPOSAL 118 - 5 AAC 04.390. Subdistricts 2 and 3 of the Norton Sound District Salmon Management Plan. Allow for a commercial set gillnet fishery in Golovin Bay once 4,800 coho salmon have escaped into the Niukluk River as follows:

A commercial setnet fishery opportunity will commence in the Golovin Bay Subdistrict once 4,800 cohos have escaped into the Niukluk River.

ISSUE: In years with weak coho returns, under the present management, the commercial setnet fishery is turning our coho run into a reduced opportunity for subsistence fisherman in the fresh water drainage.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Inconsistent coho salmon fishery for subsistence, sport fish, and commercial fishing will continue for years to come. Fewer and fewer coho spawners will reach the spawning grounds.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. Our proposal increases the number of coho salmon spawners in the Golovin Bay Subdistrict drainage system.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All subsistence, sport fish and commercial users of the coho salmon resource.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Short term the Golovin commercial setnet fishery, until escapement numbers increase.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Increasing the lower limit escapement goal to 4,800. We rejected this solution because we don't know enough about the capability of 2,400 coho spawners producing the return to fulfill the needs of all the users.

PROPOSED BY: Council Native Corporation (HQ-F12-026)

PROPOSAL 119 - 5 AAC 04.390. Subdistricts 2 and 3 of the Norton Sound District Salmon Management Plan. Allow for a commercial coho salmon fishery when there would be no impacts to the chum salmon escapement goals as follows:

5 AAC 04.390. Subdistricts 2 and 3 of the Norton Sound Districts Chum Salmon Management Plan.

(3) in the commercial Coho salmon fishery, the fishery may occur only [WHEN THE NORTON SOUND DISTRICT INDEX RIVERS SPECIFIED IN 5 AAC 04.358 ARE ACHIEVED OR] when the department determines that further restrictions would have no impact on achieving chum salmon escapement goals.

ISSUE: Chum escapements must be met in three Subdistricts 1 rivers before commercial Coho salmon fishing may take place in the Subdistricts 2 and 3. It is believed that this was not the intent of the regulation when written.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Commercial coho salmon fishing may be restricted in Subdistricts 2 and 3 because of poor chum returns to Subdistrict 1 rivers. Subdistrict 2 and 3 each have enumeration project on rivers within their boundaries and should be managed on escapements from those rivers.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Commercial fishermen of Subdistrict 2 and 3 will possible benefit with more fishing time.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Wes Jones (HQ-F12-168)

PROPOSAL 120 - 5 AAC 04.395. Subdistricts 5 and 6 of the Norton Sound District and the Unalakleet River King Salmon Management Plan. Allow for commercial chum and pink salmon fisheries before July 1 in the Unalakleet and Shaktoolik Subdistricts as follows:

5 AAC 04.395. Subdistricts 5 and 6 of the Norton Sound District and the Unalakleet River King Salmon Management Plan.

(c) If the projected **king salmon escapement** is below the lower end of the escapement goal range, all fishing for **king salmon** will be closed.

(h) In Subdistricts 5 and 6 the commercial pink and chum salmon fishery in Subdistricts 5 and 6, the fishery may occur only if it is determined there is a harvestable surplus of pink or chum salmon and that a directed pink or chum salmon commercial fishery will not have a significant impact on escapement or subsistence use of king salmon;[A COMMERCIAL PINK OR CHUM SALMON FISHERY MAY NOT BEGIN BEFORE JULY 1 IF EITHER THE GILLNET MESH SIZE OR SUBSISTENCE FISHING PERIODS ARE RESTRICTED IN THE KING SALMON SUBSISTENCE FISHERY.]

(1) Before July 1, a commercial pink or chum salmon fishery may not occur if either marine king salmon subsistence fishery gillnet mesh-size is restricted to 6-inches or less or marine king salmon subsistence fishing time is reduced.

(2) A commercial pink or chum salmon fishery may not occur before July 1 if the king salmon subsistence fishery is closed before July 1.

(i) King salmon may not be sold for commercial purposes in any pink or chum salmon commercial salmon fishery unless the midpoint of the North River king salmon escapement goal is reached.

ISSUE: This proposal is meant to allow for targeted commercial chum and pink salmon fishing prior to July 1 in the Unalakleet and Shaktoolik Subdistrict.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Opportunity to harvest surplus chum and pink salmon will be lost. Residents will not optimize the opportunity to engage in the targeted chum salmon commercial fishing, despite surplus.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, fresher fish earlier in the run.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Commercial fishermen will benefit with increased harvest opportunity.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Southern Norton Sound Advisory Committee (HQ-F12-154)

PROPOSAL 121 - 5 AAC 01.160. Fishing seasons and periods. Allow beach seines to harvest pink salmon for subsistence in Norton Sound Subdistricts 5 and 6 except as specified by emergency order (EO) as follows:

5 AAC 01.160 (6) **Notwithstanding (3) of this section,** in Subdistricts 5 and 6, salmon other than king salmon may be taken by beach seine **at any time, except as specified** [DURING PERIODS ESTABLISHED] by emergency order.

OR

5 AAC 01.160 (6) **Notwithstanding (3) of this section,** in Subdistricts 5 and 6, salmon other than king salmon may be taken by beach seine **from July 1 to August 10, except as specified** [DURING PERIODS ESTABLISHED] by emergency order.

ISSUE: Pink seining in Subdistricts 5 and 6. Currently pink seining is only allowed by emergency order. Pink salmon are abundant and there is harvest opportunity being missed. In the last three years the best drying weather has been missed because an EO had not been issued.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Opportunity to harvest pink salmon during good drying weather will be lost and the potential for waste is increased.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? The quality of the resource harvested will improve as fishers will be able better time harvest with good drying weather and reducing the risk of wanton waste.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Alaskan residents living in the Norton Sound.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Southern Norton Sound Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F12-156)

PROPOSAL 122 - 5 AAC 01.160. Fishing seasons and periods. Allow subsistence fishing in Norton Sound Subdistrict 1 unless restricted by emergency order (EO) as follows:

Have Subdistrict 1 the same as Port Clarence District fish anytime except by EO.

ISSUE: Restriction in Subdistrict 1.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued lack of opportunity to fish when weather is good.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? By allowing subsistence fishermen to harvest when weather is good less fish will be wasted as well as gear.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All Subdistrict 1 subsistence fishermen.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Perhaps commercial fishermen (if ever opened).

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Five days in marine waters and five days in fresh waters.

PROPOSED BY: Tom Sparks (HQ-F12-039)

PROPOSAL 123 - 5 AAC 01.170. Lawful gear and gear specifications. Allow subsistence fishing with beach seine nets in Subdistrict 1 without having to issue an emergency order (EO) as follows:

Remove section (e) to allow seine nets without an EO.

ISSUE: Lack of opportunity to effectively harvest salmon by seine net in Nome Subdistrict.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Fishermen will continue to use gillnets or rod and reel which is less effective, time consuming and with gillnets marks fish up.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Quality of fish harvested will improve as well as more effective harvest.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Subsistence fishermen with seine nets.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one, ADF&G can close as necessary.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Continue with ADF&G EO does not allow effective harvest.

PROPOSED BY: Tom Sparks (HQ-F12-042)

PROPOSAL 124 - 5 AAC 01.175(c)(2). Waters closed to subsistence fishing. Remove Sinuk River from closed waters and open a subsistence fishery for retention of sockeye salmon by beach seine in the Sinuk River up to Boulder Creek as follows:

Allow for red salmon harvest by seine up to Boulder Creek on Sinuk River.

ISSUE: Lack of opportunity to harvest red salmon above ADF&G marker with net.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Management will continue to focus on chum salmon and not allow for efficient harvest of reds.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Quality of subsistence caught fish will improve in terms of red salmon.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Those subsistence fishermen wanting to harvest red in the Sinuk River by seine.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one. Closure can take place by EO.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Keep regulation same, allow for seine below regulatory marker.

PROPOSED BY: Tom Sparks (HQ-F12-041)

PROPOSAL 125 - 5 AAC 01.170. Lawful Gear and Gear Specifications. Allow use of a dip net as a legal subsistence gear for chum salmon in the Pilgrim River subsistence fishery as follows:

5 AAC 01.170. Lawful Gear and Gear Specifications. (a) Salmon may be taken only by gillnet, beach seine, fish wheel, or as specified in (h) of this section, by a hook and line attached to a rod or pole, **or as specified in (l) of this section, by dipnet.**

(l) the commissioner may, by emergency order, open and close fishing periods and waters during and where a dipnet may be used to take salmon.

ISSUE: In years when sockeye salmon returns to the Pilgrim River are expected to meet or exceed escapement goals, the opportunities to take salmon during the subsistence fishery are limited by few locations where beach seine gear can be used effectively. During years with large returns, there is no reason not to allow the use of dipnets to take Pilgrim River sockeye salmon. Dipnet gear is inexpensive relative to good beach seine gear. The use of dipnet gear would provide opportunity to subsistence fishermen that has not been available.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Additional opportunity to harvest fish during large return years will not be available. It is unlikely that the use of dipnet gear will provide a large increase in fishing power by subsistence fishers. During periods of low clear water, dipnet fishing is not expected to be effective. However, during periods of high and discolored water following summer storms, dipnet gear may be effective in taking sockeye salmon in Pilgrim River and lower Kuzitrin River waters.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No, it only provides additional opportunity during times of abundance. While my intent is to effect change for the Pilgrim River sockeye fishery, the proposed language provides latitude for the Department to consider allowing dipnet fisheries in times of abundance by emergency order anywhere in Norton Sound - Port Clarence Area.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Fishers who have had limited opportunity to harvest Pilgrim River sockeye salmon due to the expense of gear and/or the limited number of sites where beach seine can be used effectively.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? I didn't consider any other solutions.

PROPOSED BY: Dan Reed (HQ-F12-055)

PROPOSAL 126 - 5 AAC 04.310. Fishing seasons. Allow for an extension to the commercial fishery for coho salmon in the Norton Sound Subdistricts by emergency order (EO) as follows:

5 AAC 04.310 FISHING SEASONS. Except as provided in 5AAC 01.190 and 5AAC 04.320- AAC 04.390, salmon maybe taken only as follows:

(2) in Subdistricts 2 and 3, from a date established by emergency order between June 8 to June 20, through August 31 **or extended by emergency order;**

(3) in Subdistricts 4-6, from a date established by emergency order between June 8 to June 20, through September 7 **or extended by emergency order.**

ISSUE: The Coho salmon runs are still running strong on some years when the season is closed by regulation in Norton Sound Subdistricts 2 to 6. When escapement needs have been met and there are salmon still migrating at the time of the regulatory closure the department should be given the authority to extend the season.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Harvestable salmon will be lost as the fishery is closed by regulation when there is a surplus of salmon.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Commercial fishermen of Subdistrict 2 to 6 will benefit with more fishing time on years that the runs are late or the run strong late in the season.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Wes Jones (HQ-F12-169)

PROPOSAL 127 - 5 AAC 04.331. Gillnet specifications and operations. Allow for an increase in amount of commercial gillnet gear in the Norton Sound pink salmon fishery by emergency order (EO) as follows:

5 AAC 04.331. Gillnet specifications and operations.

(f) In the Norton Sound District when mesh size is restricted to four and one-half inches or less (pink fishery) the department by emergency order may increase the amount of gear used by a permit holder to 150 or 200 fathoms.

ISSUE: Increase the harvest of pink salmon during the commercial salmon fishery in Norton Sound.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Opportunity to harvest surplus pink salmon will be lost. Small windows of opportunity to prepare fish will be lost, increasing the chance pink salmon being wasted due to poor weather conditions.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. The chance of fish spoiling are reduced due to more time to prepare during good weather.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Commercial fishermen will benefit with increased harvest opportunity.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one. Pink salmon are abundant in the areas were commercial pink fishery will take place.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Southern Norton Sound Advisory Committee (HQ-F12-155)

PROPOSAL 128 - 5 AAC 04.3XX. Use of pink salmon for bait in the Norton Sound - Port Clarence Area. Allow commercial salmon fishermen the Norton Sound - Port Clarence Area to fish for pink salmon with set gillnet gear and use it for bait in other commercial fisheries as follows:

The holder of a valid CFEC interim use or limited entry permit may take but may not sell pink salmon for use as bait in the commercial fishery which the permit is held as follows:

(1) except as provided in (3) of this section pink salmon may be taken at any time in marine waters only;

(2) pink salmon may be taken only by set gillnet as specified in 5 AAC 04.330;

(3) in the 48 hours before, during and 48 hours after an open commercial herring fishing period in the Norton Sound-Port Clarence Area, a vessel or crew member or permit holder that participates in that commercial salmon fishery opening may not take or possess salmon under this section in any subdistrict in the Norton Sound-Port Clarence Area;

(4) a person or vessel may not take more than two tons of pink salmon under this section in a calendar year unless that person or vessel first applies for and receives from the department a permit authorizing the person or vessel to do so;

(b) A permit issued under (a)(4) of this section may require a permittee to report to the department the amount of pink salmon taken under the permit.

ISSUE: Allow holders of a valid CFEC interim use or limited entry permit commercial permit holders to harvest pink salmon for bait in the Norton Sound-Port Clarence Area for use as bait in the commercial fishery for which the permit is held.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Millions of pinks will go up the river to spawn without harvest by fishermen.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Commercial permit holders needing bait.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one. Excess numbers of pink salmon going up streams to spawn.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Howard Farley (HQ-F12-064)

PROPOSAL 129 - 5 AAC 70.011. Seasons and bag, possession, and size limits for the Northwestern Area. Re-open a sport fishery for chum salmon in the Nome Subdistrict with a daily bag limit of three chum salmon as follows:

A new regulation should replace the chum salmon closure in the sport fishing regulations for the Nome Subdistrict with a daily bag limit of three chum salmon.

ISSUE: Nome Subdistrict waters were closed to sport fishing for chum salmon in 1992 in a coordinated effort to rebuild chum salmon runs because of a history of weak returns. The effort included subsistence restrictions and closures and resulted in Tier II subsistence fishing regulations for the Nome Subdistrict from 1999 - 2005. Biological escapement goals were developed for chum salmon in the Nome Subdistrict in 2001 and have been met in nine out of the 11 years they have been in effect. Subsistence fishing returned to normal regulation in 2006 and

rod and reel became a legal subsistence method in the area including the Nome Subdistrict in 2001. Currently it is not legal for a sport angler to even cast toward a chum salmon with the intent of hooking it.

With healthy chum salmon runs, escapement goals being met and the return to normal subsistence fishing regulation, there is no reason why sport anglers should not be allowed to fish for and to harvest chum salmon in the Nome Subdistrict.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Sport anglers will continue to be denied the opportunity to fish for chum salmon in the Nome Subdistrict.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Since fishing opportunity could be viewed as a "product", providing the opportunity to sport fish for chum salmon would result in improved "quality of the product" by increasing the diversity of fishing experience available to anglers in the Nome area.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Sport anglers wishing to fish for chum salmon in Nome Subdistrict waters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one would suffer. Both participation and harvest are likely to be low and the fishery could easily be constrained by Emergency Order if returns were projected not to meet escapement goals or harvests appeared to be unsustainable.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Fred DeCicco (HQ-F12-054)

PROPOSAL 130 – 5 AAC 01.236. Customary and traditional subsistence uses of fish stocks and amounts necessary for subsistence uses. Review amounts reasonably necessary (ANS) for subsistence salmon in the Yukon-Northern Area as follows:

(a) The Alaska Board of Fisheries (board) finds that the following fish stocks are customarily and traditionally taken or used for subsistence:

(1) king, summer chum, fall chum, coho, and pink salmon in the Yukon-Northern Area;

(b) The board finds that in the Yukon-Northern Area the following amounts of fish are reasonably necessary for subsistence uses:

- (1) king salmon: 45,500–66,704;
- (2) summer chum salmon: 83,500–142,192;
- (3) fall chum salmon: 89,500–167,900;
- (4) coho salmon: 20,500–51,890.

ISSUE: This proposal provides an opportunity for the Alaska Board of Fisheries (board) and public to revisit the ANS for subsistence findings) for salmon stocks in the Yukon River. The ANS for

subsistence findings in codified regulations were set by the board in 2001 based upon the harvest history on the Yukon River during the years 1990–1999. The ANS ranges were based upon the low harvest and the high harvest over the 10 years, although years when there were subsistence fishing restrictions were not included in this analysis (Table 1).

Estimated harvest of Yukon River salmon, 1990–1999.

	Minimum	Average	High	ANS
King salmon	45,669	52,519	66,704	45,500-66,704
Summer chum salmon	83,784	117,151	142,192	83,500-142,192
Fall chum salmon	89,938	123,749	167,900	89,500-167,900
Coho salmon	20,885	34,777	51,980	20,500-51,980

Yukon River subsistence salmon harvests have been estimated by ADF&G Division of Commercial Fisheries annually, and are comparable through the present day and among years utilized to establish current ANS. Subsistence salmon harvests of summer chum salmon and fall chum salmon tend to fall below the lower limit of the ANS despite adequate abundance to achieve historical subsistence salmon harvest levels. The data suggest that customary and traditional (C&T) patterns of harvest and use of Yukon River summer chum salmon and fall chum salmon stocks have changed. As a result, the board may determine that ANS should be revised due to these apparent changes in the C&T subsistence use patterns.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Board assessments of subsistence salmon harvests relative to the codified ANS findings will be more challenging given the observed pattern that subsistence harvests of summer chum and fall chum salmon tend to fall below the lower limit of the ANS.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All users of salmon resources of the Yukon River will benefit from decisions based upon the best available information, which provides the board with an unambiguous metric for assessing reasonable opportunities for subsistence uses of Yukon River salmon populations and stocks.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? The department considered no action, or waiting for next board cycle. However, the recent trend in subsistence harvests is not reflected in the current ANS, making assessments problematic. This proposal provides the board with the opportunity to update the ANS with the best available harvest and use information, as well as provides the public with an opportunity to review and comment upon the proposal regarding the ANS for subsistence uses of Yukon River summer chum salmon and fall chum salmon populations and stocks.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F12-219)

PROPOSAL 131 - 5 AAC 05.360. Yukon River King Salmon Management Plan. Require pulse protection in the king salmon management plan as follows:

This proposal would put pulse protection into the king salmon management plan.

This proposal has been developed as part of a process initiated by the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association (YRDFA) to review existing management strategies and achieve consensus among stakeholders on potential measures to improve king salmon management in the Yukon River. The stakeholder group includes representatives from the lower, middle, and upper Yukon including the three Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils, the Yukon River Panel, the Association of Village Council Presidents, the Tanana Chiefs Conference, the Council of Athabaskan Tribal Governments, YRDFA, the Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Association (CDQ group) and an upper river processor. Stakeholders identified pulse protection as a top priority and developed draft language for achieving this. The group is in the process of receiving input from other Yukon River stakeholders and will reconvene and submit specific regulatory language prior to the next Board of Fisheries Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim meeting.

ISSUE: Obligations for passage of Yukon River king salmon into Canada, as specified under the Yukon River Salmon Agreement of the Pacific Salmon Treaty, were not met in 2007, 2008, and 2010. Additionally, king salmon run sizes below projections in some years delayed management actions by ADF&G, resulting in severe and inequitable restrictions to upriver subsistence users. Pulse protection has been used by ADF&G in recent years as a management tool to bolster king salmon passage into Canada and onto Alaskan tributary spawning grounds. This tool has also provided a more equitable sharing of the conservation responsibility among all users. We believe that pulse protection should be formally added to the king salmon management plan as a tool used by ADF&G to meet treaty obligations and ensure escapement needs are met.

The Yukon River king salmon stock historically provided for adequate escapement and subsistence, commercial, personal use, and recreational harvests. However, in recent years, the number of king salmon returning to the Yukon River has declined, such that even subsistence harvests have been restricted to provide for basic escapement needs. This stock remains depressed well below historic levels with returns approaching one recruit per spawner for recent brood years. Additionally, the oldest salmon are lacking from recent runs. The cause of low returns-per-spawner is unknown, but it is prudent to ensure that adequate numbers of male, female, and large fish reach the spawning grounds to contribute to stock rebuilding when conditions improve.

The first pulse of king salmon entering the Yukon River usually contains the largest number of fish and the most Canadian-origin fish. Under the Yukon River Salmon Agreement, the U.S. must allow passage of enough Canadian-origin king salmon to meet an agreed-upon escapement goal plus additional fish for harvest sharing. The treaty obligation is a primary factor for Alaskan management. Because Canadian-origin fish usually comprise about half of the annual king salmon run to the Yukon River, ensuring the health of this stock is vitally important, not only for treaty terms, but to ensure continued returns of Canadian-origin fish for Alaskan harvest.

In years when harvests need to be restricted to provide for treaty obligations and Alaskan tributary escapements, pulse protection provides an equitable way to do so. Pulse protection also allows managers to target specific stocks which need protection and may be more or less prevalent in a particular pulse.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Currently, ADF&G manages the first pulse of fish based on the pre-season projection of run size. Subsequent pulses are managed based on in-season assessments. A lack of specific measures to protect the first pulse of fish, which includes a large component of Canadian-origin fish, could result in: (1) failing to meet treaty obligations; (2) increased difficulty in meeting Alaskan escapement goals; and (3) an inequitable distribution of the conservation responsibility. In years of poor runs, it may be necessary to curtail Alaskan harvests of the second and third pulses even more intensively to ensure adequate passage into Canada and/or onto the Alaskan tributary spawning grounds. In 2011 when pulse protection was utilized more large fish and female fish were able to escape harvest. Whether this was due to pulse protection, the first season of mesh being restricted to no larger than 7 ½ mesh, some combination of the two, or neither, is unknown. Finally, without prescriptive pulse protection in regulation there is uncertainty for salmon users about early-season management strategies for the Yukon River Chinook salmon run.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? To the extent to which pulse protections will enhance the quality of escapement and contribute to rebuilding the run this proposal will benefit all current and future users who rely on Yukon River Chinook salmon by helping to ensure adequate escapement onto Canadian and Alaskan tributary spawning grounds and, thereby, contributing to rebuilding the run when production improves. Protecting the first pulse will improve the likelihood of meeting treaty obligations with Canada. Protecting the first pulse also benefits Alaskan harvesters by reducing the need to decrease overall harvests of later run fish in order to achieve treaty-mandated passage of fish into Canada. Additionally, this management tool will provide a means for equitably distributing the conservation responsibility among all subsistence users. Finally, pulse protection will allow managers to better assess run strength prior to harvest and will reduce uncertainty for users about both early- and late-season management actions.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Under this proposal individuals that prefer to fish intensively on the first pulse may suffer. For example, some subsistence harvesters prefer the weather in June for drying fish, others prefer the flavor and quality of earlier run fish. The board will need to evaluate the effect of pulse protection on fish available to meet subsistence needs.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? The group considered cutting fishing time in half, but rejected this solution because impacts would not be equitably distributed between users in different parts of the river. The group also considered additional gear restrictions, but rejected this solution because a gear change was implemented in 2011 and a multi-year analysis of the effects of that change is warranted before implementing additional gear changes.

PROPOSED BY: Yukon River Stakeholder Group, c/o Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association (HQ-F12-108)

PROPOSAL 132 - 5 AAC 05.360. Yukon River King Salmon Management Plan. Prohibit sale of king salmon from the Yukon River drainage unless there is a directed king salmon commercial fishery as follows:

No commercial sales of Chinook salmon caught in non Chinook directed commercial fisheries in entire Yukon River drainage. Chinook salmon caught as bycatch shall go into the subsistence fishery only.

ISSUE: Chinook bycatch commercial sales. Currently there is economic incentive to take Chinook salmon bycatch in chum salmon only directed commercial openings. There is no incentive to avoid them, as all Chinook bycatch is allowed to be sold. This has the effect of increasing Chinook take at the very time when severe conservation measures may be in effect for Chinook. In 2008 during the chum salmon directed openings this was the case. Presently managers are working with processors and fishers to voluntarily not sell or buy Chinook but this needs to be put in regulation.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? During chum only directed commercial openings some fishers will continue to view Chinook as a valuable money fish and deliberately target them as their value exceeds the chum salmon. This can go contrary to the same season efforts of fishermen and managers to conserve declining Chinook stocks. It is known that chum and Chinook have different travel habits and frequent different areas. Pulse peaks of the different species are often in different areas of the river and fishers can often avoid or target a species with this knowledge. Depending on the gear used for harvest (driftnets), some fishers can take advantage of this situation all too easily.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? This proposal is attempting to improve the quality of the resource harvested by conserving the resource. In 2008 Chinook harvests were limited to subsistence only with severe restrictions on even that and Canadian border passage was still not met for second year in a row. All returning Chinook salmon and the especially important large female salmon will be provided additional opportunity to reach their spawning grounds which would help improve the quality of escapement of Chinook salmon throughout the Yukon River drainage. Passage of this proposal would address the genetic shift to smaller fish caused by over fishing and targeting the larger fish that has gone on for many years. Local subsistence users and fishery projects in the upper Yukon River area, including Canada, are reporting harvesting smaller fish. Immediate conservation actions are necessary now to protect the genetic variability, the integrity of the Yukon River Chinook salmon stocks, and the future sustainability of the resource to provide for future generations of fishermen, both subsistence and commercial.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The proposers feel all fishermen in the drainage will benefit except those whose priority is the immediate harvest and commercial sale of fish at hand. Subsistence and commercial users will benefit by helping to rebuild the genetic variability and

integrity of the Yukon River Chinook salmon stocks for future generations of fishermen across the drainage. Stabilizing the Yukon River Chinook salmon stocks and preventing a decrease in their size is the right step for the fisheries and is good for the Alaskan subsistence lifestyle and the Canadian aboriginal lifestyle in the future.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those fishermen whose priority is the immediate harvest of fish at hand for commercial sale. The proposers are keenly aware passage of the proposal would place restrictions on users but the conservation concern of the genetic impacts of continued over fishing and targeting the larger female fish needs to be addressed now in order to protect the Yukon River Chinook salmon runs for needs in the future. As of 2008 the Yukon fishermen have lost off their allowed Chinook commercial fishing time and have had severe restrictions put on basic Chinook subsistence harvests. Fish camps and the healthy lifestyle that goes along with them have continued disappearing as the Chinook fishery economics evaporate due to high fuel costs and low harvest numbers. This has all taken place simply because there are not enough fish anymore. Any seasonal suffering caused by the Board of Fish passing this proposal would be small compared to what has taken place already from inaction.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None others considered in this area.

PROPOSED BY: Fairbanks Advisory Committee (HQ-F12-093)

PROPOSAL 133 - 5 AAC 05.331. Gillnet specifications and operations; 5 AAC 05.362 Yukon River Summer Chum Salmon Management Plan. Allow for a directed chum salmon commercial fishery in Districts 1, 2, and 3 in the Yukon Area during times of king salmon conservation efforts using five and one-half inch or smaller mesh size.

Under 5 AAC 05.331. Gillnet specifications and operations, add new section between after (c) and (d) that states:

During times of king salmon conservation efforts, in Districts 1, 2, and 3, salmon may be taken only with gillnets of five and one-half-inch or smaller mesh during periods established by emergency order.

Add a new condition under (g) In Districts 1 - 3, gillnets with **(3) five and one-half-inch or smaller mesh may not be more than 30 meshes in depth.**

ISSUE: 5 AAC 05.331. Gillnet specifications and operations. In recent years, a concern for Chinook salmon has drastically curtailed, and in some years, all but eliminated the directed gillnet summer chum salmon fishery in the Lower Yukon Area. Although the fishing power of the fleet, which consists of approximately 700 commercial permit holders in the Lower Yukon Area, and the capacity of the processors are adequate to harvest and process all the commercially-available Yukon River summer chum salmon surplus, this harvestable surplus is not being taken because Chinook salmon are incidentally harvested in this fishery. The purpose of this proposed regulation is to allow a directed-summer chum salmon fishery while reducing the number and size of incidentally-caught king salmon.

A conservative estimate of the foregone harvest of commercially available summer chum salmon totals over 2.4M fish since 2008, with approximately 700,000 available summer chum salmon foregone in 2011. This translates in to over \$14.0M lost revenue to commercial fishers since 2008, with over \$4.0M lost in 2011. With the increasing numbers of summer chum salmon entering the river in recent years and the expectation that the increase will continue foregone commercial harvest and lost revenue is anticipated to increase dramatically in the future. The pre-season projection for the 2012 season indicates that 500,000 to 1,000,000 summer chum salmon maybe available for commercial harvest. This translates as up to \$6.0M direct revenue to the fishes. Large unexploited runs of summer and fall chum salmon during the mid 2000s resulted in one of the few documented cases of where over escapement caused a dramatic decline in production from those broods.

Because of the overall concern for Chinook salmon, more severe restrictions have been imposed on the Yukon Area commercial fisheries each year to bolster the number of Chinook salmon crossing the border into Canada and also arriving on the spawning grounds in Alaskan spawning tributary streams. The long-standing directed Chinook salmon fishery has not occurred since 2007. Additionally, the directed summer chum salmon gillnet fishery, which is restricted to gillnets with a maximum mesh size of 6 inches, has been severely curtailed to avoid incidental harvest of Chinook salmon. Further, the sale of incidentally-harvested Chinook salmon was prohibited in 2009 and 2011 to deter commercial fishers from targeting the more valuable Chinook salmon during fishing periods.

Approximately 4,090 incidentally-harvested, but not sold, Chinook salmon were taken in the 2011 summer chum salmon directed fishery. Most of these Chinook salmon were taken home for subsistence purposes but some were donated and transported to upriver communities for subsistence purposes. The 2011 incidentally harvested Chinook salmon consisted mainly of primarily small, young male salmon. Of the total number sampled by ADF&G, 82% were male; 79% were age-5 or younger; and 82% were less than 800mm (31.5 inches). Approximately 74% of the salmon less than 800 mm were male.

I believe that using a gillnet with a reduced mesh size, 5.5 inches, and a shallower depth, 30 meshes deep, will minimize the incidentally harvested Chinook salmon and may also result in a higher percentage of younger, smaller male salmon. The 30 meshes deep portion of the regulation will force fishers to fish closer to shore and possibly avoid the larger Chinook salmon that may travel in deeper, offshore waters.

Therefore, in order to prosecute a directed commercially for summer chum salmon while minimizing the incidental Chinook salmon, I request that the Alaska Board of Fisheries adopt a regulation designed to take salmon in Districts 1, and 2 with gillnets of five and one-half inches or smaller and with a mesh depth of no greater than 30 meshes, during periods established by emergency order. This regulation would be designed to harvest the more abundant summer chum salmon while minimizing the catch of Chinook salmon.

I also believe that the relatively small incidental harvest of primarily small, young, male Chinook salmon has little impact on the reproductive capacity of the stocks. Additionally, incidentally-

caught Chinook salmon, which are not anticipated to be sold, will, therefore, either be used for subsistence purposes by the commercial fisher or will be transferred to the fish buyer, Kwik'pak Fisheries, for processing and transport to upriver communities for subsistence use. Although many upriver subsistence users will fish for their own fish, I believe that at least some upriver subsistence users will take advantage of these donated Chinook salmon and may reduce their fishing effort accordingly. Upriver subsistence fishers on the mainstem Yukon River in some villages harvest predominantly or exclusively Canadian-origin Chinook salmon. Substituting a portion of these fish with incidentally-caught salmon from the Lower Yukon Area fisheries, which have a higher proportion of Alaskan-origin salmon, would tend to decrease the number of Canadian-origin Chinook salmon in the Alaskan harvest. Therefore, this action may also have the additional benefit of reducing the actual number of Canadian-origin fish harvested in Alaskan subsistence fisheries.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Commercially-available summer chum salmon surpluses in the Yukon Area will continue to be foregone, resulting in lost revenue to fishers and processing jobs within the Yukon Area. Additionally, large numbers of salmon on the spawning grounds in excess of spawning requirements may cause production failures associated with over-escapement.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? This proposal benefits all the commercial fishermen of the Yukon Area, particularly those that harvest and have markets for summer chum salmon. This proposal also benefits all commercial and subsistence users of the summer chum salmon stock because it harvests some fish that would have otherwise passed onto the spawning grounds that may have a detrimental effect on future production from over-escapement. Additionally, the commitment of the buyer in the Emmonak, Kwik'pak Fisheries, to process and transport donated incidentally-harvested Chinook salmon to upriver villages may benefit those who take advantage of these donated fish because it will save them the cost of fishing for themselves. Gasoline is expected to be over \$8.00/gal in some villages this summer and the direct cost of fishing is influenced by this price. Further, salmon harvested low in the river have more nutritional value than fish harvested in upriver districts. This may also benefit subsistence users who accept donated fish.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one. Harvest of an available surplus is wise management. Additionally the incidental harvest of the predominantly small, young male Chinook salmon does not affect the productive capacity of the stock. In years when the sale of incidentally-caught Chinook salmon is prohibited, these harvested fish will be used for subsistence purposes either by the commercial fisher or by upriver village recipients.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Employ the use of non-lethal gear, such as dipnets, beach seines, and fish wheels to harvest summer chum salmon and release captured Chinook salmon. I rejected these other possible solutions at this time because they are basically untried. I plan on using dipnets and possibly beach seines in 2012 to attempt to capture summer chum salmon in an efficient and cost effective manner and releasing captured Chinook salmon. However,

I believe that handling and releasing Chinook salmon unharmed may be problematic when using a beach seine. Fish wheels have not been traditionally used in the delta area of the Yukon River and I believe that they would not have a high probability of success. Additionally, there are over 700 commercial permits held for the Lower Yukon Area but there are only a very few good fish wheel sites. Therefore, only a very limited number of commercial fishers would be able to use a fish wheel successfully. Most would be disenfranchised by the inclusion of fish wheels as legal commercial gear.

PROPOSED BY: Gene J. Sandone (HQ-F12-084)

PROPOSAL 134 - 5 AAC 05.362. Yukon River Summer Chum Salmon Management Plan.
Require 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnets with a maximum depth of 30 meshes, during June to July in District 1 if king salmon are a stock of concern and revert back if king salmon are no longer a stock of concern as follows:

In the summer chum fishery, if Chinook salmon is a stock of concern, fishermen must register (same fall fishery rules apply), Y-1 setnet area, stat. #334-12. Summer chum may be taken with gillnets of 6 inch or smaller mesh size and a maximum depth of 30 meshes from June to July. When Chinook stock or run timing is no longer of concern, current max. chum mesh depth may resume and registration requirements be lifted.

ISSUE: When Chinook salmon is a stock of concern.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued incidental catch of Chinook salmon with deeper nets.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, summer chum harvested early in the season will be of better quality, especially for an in river fishery.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Fishers in the setnet area and processors will benefit as they can sell better quality fish at their markets.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Fishers in areas of the Yukon that do not adhere to lower mesh restrictions when Chinook salmon is a stock of concern.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? -none-

PROPOSED BY: Frank Alstrom (HQ-F12-112)

PROPOSAL 135 - 5 AAC 05.362. Yukon River Summer Chum Salmon Management Plan.

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 king salmon as follows:

During times when Canadian-Chinook salmon conservation efforts limit the directed summer chum salmon fishery in the Yukon Area, adopt a regulation that provides for a directed summer chum salmon gillnet fishery no later than July 1 in District 1, and no later than chronologically corresponding dates in upriver districts. This fishery would be allowed after the vast majority of Canadian-origin Chinook salmon have passed through the fishing districts.

Specifically, under 5 AAC 05.362. Yukon River Summer Chum Salmon Management Plan, add a new paragraph (h') between paragraph (h) and (i) that states:

When a commercial fishery restricted to six-inch or smaller gillnets is curtailed because of the concerns for the potential number of incidentally-harvested Chinook salmon, a directed summer chum salmon fishery, restricted to gillnets 6-inches or smaller will be allowed no later than July 1 in District 1 and no later than the chronologically corresponding dates in upriver districts

ISSUE: The foregone harvest of summer chum salmon because of the concern over the incidental harvest of Canadian-origin Chinook salmon in the directed summer chum salmon fishery throughout the entire summer season.

Because of the overall concern for Chinook salmon, and in particular, Canadian-origin Chinook salmon, more severe restrictions have been imposed on the Yukon Area commercial fisheries each year to bolster the number of Chinook salmon crossing the border into Canada and also arriving on the spawning grounds in Alaskan spawning tributary streams. The long-standing directed Yukon Area Chinook salmon fishery has not occurred since 2007. Additionally, the directed summer chum salmon gillnet fishery, which is restricted to gillnets with a maximum mesh size of 6 inches, has been severely curtailed to avoid incidental harvest of Chinook salmon. Further, the sale of incidentally-harvested Chinook salmon was prohibited in 2009 and 2011 to deter fishers from targeting the more valuable Chinook salmon.

A conservative estimate of the foregone harvest of commercially available summer chum salmon totals over 2.4M fish since 2008, with approximately 700,000 available summer chum salmon foregone in 2011. This translates in to over \$14.0M lost revenue to commercial fishers since 2008, with over \$4.0M lost in 2011. With the increasing numbers of summer chum salmon entering the river in recent years and the expectation that the increase will continue foregone commercial harvest and lost revenue is anticipated to increase dramatically in the future. The pre-season projection for the 2012 season indicates that 500,000 to 1,000,000 summer chum salmon may be available for commercial harvest. This translates as up to \$6.0M direct revenue to the fishes. Large unexploited runs of summer and fall chum salmon during the mid 2000s resulted in one of the few documented cases of where over escapement caused a dramatic decline in production from those broods.

The Yukon River Salmon Agreement (Agreement) between the U.S. and Canada is included as Annex IV, Chapter 8 in the Pacific Salmon Treaty. With regard to Canadian-origin Chinook salmon, the Agreement obligates the U.S. to deliver to the U.S./Canada border on the mainstem Yukon River the agreed spawning objective, from 42,500 to 55,000 Chinook salmon, plus the midpoint of the Canadian harvest share of the total allowable catch of this fish stock. This obligation to Canada was not met in 2007, 2008 and 2010.

In recent years, meeting the Agreement obligation has been the primary concern and focus of ADF&G Chinook salmon management on the Yukon River because of reduced run sizes caused by poor production. This production failure was not caused by poor escapements. However, this concern has drastically curtailed, and in some years, all but eliminated the directed summer chum salmon gillnet fishery in the lower and middle Yukon areas. Although the fishing power of the fleet, which consists of over 700 commercial permit holders, and the capacity of the processors are adequate to harvest and process all the commercially-available summer chum salmon surplus, this harvestable surplus is not being harvested because of the concern that too many Canadian-origin Chinook salmon would be incidentally harvested in this fishery.

Relative timing patterns of the three broadly-defined Yukon River Chinook salmon stocks have been relatively constant over the years with Canadian-origin fish dominating the first period and then substantially declining through the remaining two periods. Conversely, the Alaskan Lower River stock grouping contributes little to the first period, but dominates the final sampling period. The Middle River stock is more variable, contributing more to the first sampling period than the Lower River stock grouping but less than the Canadian. The second sampling period is usually a variable mixture of the three stock groupings. The below figure illustrates the general contribution pattern of the three major Chinook salmon stocks throughout the summer fishing season.

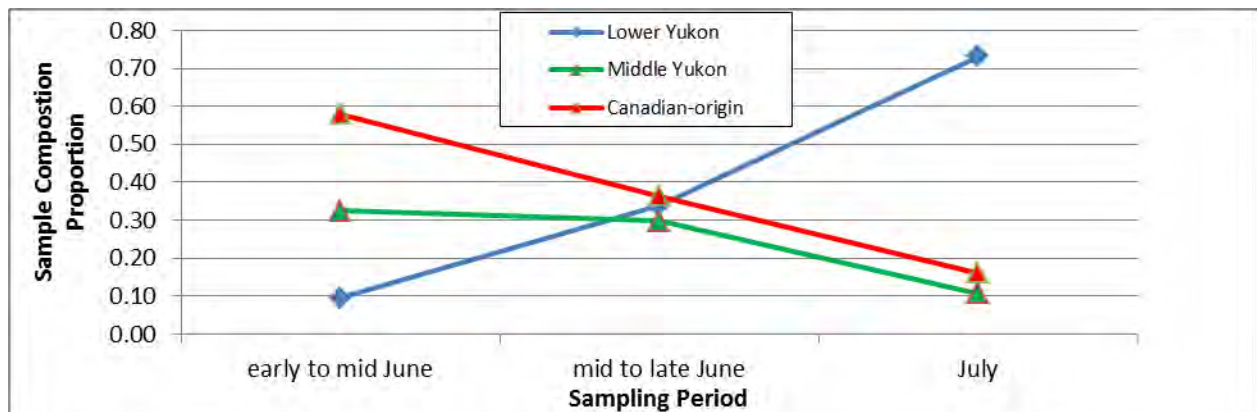


Figure 1. Generalized schematic of the contribution proportion of the three broad Yukon River Chinook salmon stock grouping relative to time of sampling.

During the 2005-2011 samples collected in association with the Pilot Station sonar operations indicate that Canadian-origin Chinook salmon comprised an average of 59% of the salmon entering the Yukon River from early to mid June; 42% during the latter half of June; and 24% during July. Conversely, Alaskan Chinook salmon stocks originating from the Middle River and

Lower River stock groupings contributed 41% to the early to mid June period, 58% in the mid to late June period and 76% of the fish sampled during the July sampling period.

During the period, 2005-2011, approximately 86% (median value) of all Chinook salmon runs had already passed through District 1 by July 1. Therefore, the relative small median percentage, 14%, of Chinook salmon entering the Yukon River in July is almost totally dominated (>76%) by Alaskan-origin fish, with the Lower River-origin fish accounting for nearly all (>87%) of the Alaskan-origin salmon.

Therefore, in order to prosecute a directed commercial fishery for summer chum salmon while minimizing the incidental Canadian-origin Chinook salmon, I request that a regulation be adopted to initiate a directed summer chum salmon fishery in District 1, no later than July 1, and no later than chronologically corresponding dates in upriver districts. This would occur after the vast majority of Canadian-origin Chinook salmon have passed through the areas.

Approximately 4,090 incidentally-harvested, but not sold, Chinook salmon were taken in the 2011 summer chum salmon directed fishery. Most of these Chinook salmon were taken home for subsistence purposes but some were transported to either upriver Alaskan communities or across the U.S/Canada border to aboriginal fishers. The 2011 incidentally harvested Chinook salmon from the directed summer chum salmon fishery consisted of primarily small, young male Chinook salmon. Of the total number sampled by ADF&G, 82% were male; 79% were age-5 or younger; and 82% were less than 800mm (31.5 inches). Approximately 74% of the salmon less than 800 mm were male.

We believe that the relatively small incidental harvest of primarily small, young, male Chinook salmon has little impact on the reproductive capacity of the stocks. Additionally, incidentally-caught Chinook salmon, which are not anticipated to be sold, will, therefore, either be used for subsistence purposes by the lower river commercial fisher or will be transferred to the fish buyer, Kwik'pak Fisheries, for processing and transport to upriver communities for subsistence use. Although many upriver subsistence users will fish for their own fish, I also believe that at least some upriver subsistence users will take advantage of these donated Chinook salmon and may reduce their fishing effort accordingly. Because the vast majority of Chinook salmon taken in the July fishery in the Lower River consists mainly of fish from Alaskan stocks and primarily from the Lower River stock grouping, the transfer and substitution of these fish to upriver subsistence users may actually reduce the overall number of Canadian-origin salmon in the total subsistence harvest. Further, the harvest of fish late in the season, July, has little effect on upriver subsistence users because the vast majority of these fish originate in the lower Yukon River tributaries and are, therefore, not available to subsistence fishers farther upriver.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Commercially-available summer chum salmon surpluses in the Yukon Area will continue to be foregone, resulting in lost revenue to fishers and processing jobs within the Yukon Area. Additionally, large numbers of salmon on the spawning grounds in excess of spawning requirements may cause production failures associated with over-escapement.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? This proposal benefits all the commercial fishermen of the Yukon Area, particularly those that harvest and have markets for summer chum salmon. This proposal also benefits all commercial and subsistence users of the summer chum salmon resource because it allows the harvests some fish that would have otherwise passed onto the spawning grounds. Salmon, excess to spawning requirements, may have a detrimental effect on future production because of over-escapement. Additionally, the commitment of the buyer in the Emmonak, Kwik'pak Fisheries, to process and transport donated incidentally-harvested Chinook salmon to upriver villages may benefit those who receive these fish and benefit management of the stock. Those receiving donated salmon may reduce their fishing efforts and thereby reduce fishing pressure on Alaskan harvest of Canadian-origin Chinook salmon. This has the potential of reducing the overall harvest of Canadian-origin salmon. Additionally, individual upriver fishers who take advantage of these donated fish will save scarce cash resources because they would reduce their fishing efforts accordingly. Further, salmon harvested low in the river have more nutritional value than fish harvested in upriver districts. This may also benefit subsistence users who accept donated fish.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one. Harvest of an available surplus of summer chum salmon is wise management. Additionally the incidental harvest of the predominantly small, young male Chinook salmon does not appreciably affect the productive capacity of the stocks. In years when the sale of incidentally-caught Chinook salmon is prohibited, these harvested fish will be used for subsistence purposes either by the commercial fisher or by upriver village recipients. Upriver subsistence users would not be affected because the vast majority of the fish present in the lower river in July originate from lower river tributaries and are, therefore, not available to harvest in most upriver areas.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Employ the use of non-lethal gear, such as dipnets, beach seines, and fish wheels to harvest summer chum salmon and release captured Chinook salmon. I rejected these other possible solutions at this time because they are basically untried. I plan on using dipnets and possibly beach seines in 2012 to attempt to capture summer chum salmon in an efficient and cost effective manner and releasing captured Chinook salmon. However, I believe that handling and releasing Chinook salmon unharmed may be problematic when using a beach seine. Fish wheels have not been traditionally used in the delta area of the Yukon River and I believe that they would not have a high probability of success. Additionally, there are over 700 commercial permits held for the Lower Yukon Area but there are only a very few good fish wheel sites. Therefore, only a very limited number of commercial fishers would be able to use a fish wheel successfully. Most would be disenfranchised by the inclusion of fish wheels as legal commercial gear.

PROPOSED BY: Gene J. Sandone

(HQ-F12-083)

PROPOSAL 136 - 5 AAC 05.362. Yukon River Summer Chum Salmon Management Plan.
Cap bycatch of king salmon in the summer chum fishery in Districts 1 and 2 at 2,000 fish as follows:

When the bycatch of Chinook in the chum directed commercial fishery in Y-1 & Y-2 reaches 2000 fish, the fishery will close until managers determine a higher cumulative proportion of Chinook passed has been met.

ISSUE: Continued low returns of Yukon river Chinook, specifically the fact that trans-boundary escapement goals have not been met three of the last five years (2007-2011). We feel the actual bycatch of Chinook is much higher than listed for 2011 (4,090) due to unreporting, drop out, and the fact that live Chinook are routinely released from gillnets.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued low returns of Chinook, continued hardship on all Chinook harvesters.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, more conservation should eventually result in Chinook stocks returning to historical levels.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? In river Chinook harvesters in the USA and Canada.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? In the short term, Y-1 & Y-2 commercial fishermen, but in the long term these same fishermen will benefit the most.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? A total moratorium on the harvest of Chinook for six years. We have not totally rejected this solution.

PROPOSED BY: Ruby Advisory Committee (HQ-F12-059)

PROPOSAL 137 - 5 AAC 05.362. Yukon River Summer Chum Salmon Management Plan.
Develop an optimum escapement or inriver goal for the Yukon River summer chum salmon stock that originates above Pilot Station as follows:

Summer chum salmon subsistence and commercial harvest data are available for the entire Yukon River drainage, by district. Additionally, sonar counts of summer chum salmon passing the sonar site are available since 1995 and can possibly be estimated prior to that date. Therefore, the data are available to develop a Biological Escapement Goal (BEG). However, since ADF&G has not recommended either a drainage-wide BEG or a BEG that corresponds to the drainage above Pilot Station, I suggest that the Board work in conjunction with ADF&G to develop an optimal escapement goal (OEG) or an in-river goal for the Yukon River summer chum salmon stock that originates above Pilot Station.

ISSUE: 5 AAC 05.362. Yukon River Summer Chum Salmon Management Plan. Unlike the Yukon River Fall Chum management plan, there is no escapement goal for summer chum

salmon. The omission of a scientifically-defensible escapement goal from the Summer Chum Salmon Management Plan may result in the optimal harvest not being taken or the possibility that not enough fish are reaching the spawning grounds during poor runs.

Implied in the Yukon River Summer Chum Salmon Management plan is a lower end of the escapement for the entire drainage of 600,000 salmon. Below this run size, the plan stipulates that all fisheries shall be closed, unless a individual escapement goal will be met, then certain allowances can be made in that district or subdistrict for a subsistence fishery. Recent summer chum salmon subsistence harvests have been well below 100,000 and have averaged approximately 77,000 salmon for the period 2005-2009.

The trigger for allowing a commercial fishery is 950,000 salmon but with a precaution that the exploitation rate up to 1,000,000 would be no more than 50%. This implies that approximately 850,000 salmon are needed on the spawning grounds before a commercial fishery could be prosecuted. Since there is an escapement goal for the Andrafsky and also because the vast majority of the summer chum salmon spawn above the Pilot Station sonar site, it makes sense to establish a scientifically-defensible escapement goal for the Yukon River drainage above Pilot Station.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Management of the summer chum salmon subsistence and commercial fisheries without a scientifically-defensible escapement goal may not allow optimal escapement and harvest.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? This proposal, if adopted, would benefit all the users of the summer chum salmon resource by allowing the appropriate harvest to occur without jeopardizing the productivity of the stock.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? No other solutions were considered.

PROPOSED BY: Gene J. Sandone (HQ-F12-199)

PROPOSAL 138 - 5 AAC 01.249. Yukon River Drainage Fall Chum Salmon Management Plan. Modify the fall chum salmon management plan trigger point from 500,000 to 400,000 as follows:

Change the trigger point in 5 AAC 01.249. Yukon River drainage Fall Chum Salmon Management Plan from 500,000 to 400,000 under section 3 as indicated below:

(3) when the projected run size is more than 300,000, but not more than [500,000] **400,000** chum salmon, the (A) targeted drainage wide minimum escapement goal is 300,000 chum

salmon; (B) commissioner shall, by emergency order, close the commercial, sport, and personal use directed chum salmon fisheries, except that if indicators suggest that an individual escapement goal and identified subsistence needs in a subdistrict, district, or portion of a subdistrict or district will be achieved, the commissioner may, by emergency order, open a sport or personal use fishery in that subdistrict, district, or portion of that subdistrict or district; and (C) department shall manage the subsistence chum salmon directed fisheries to achieve the targeted drainagewide escapement goal.

ISSUE: In recent years, a substantial portion of the harvestable surplus has been passed onto the spawning grounds because inseason sonar-based assessment of the total fall chum salmon run has consistently underestimated the actual run size. The deviation between the total run estimate based on sonar counts versus the post season estimate of the run has ranged from -20% to -53% during the most recent five-year period, 2007-2011. In 2011 the sonar-based run estimate was 25% below the post-season run estimate. The median for the 2007-2011 period is -30% (Figure 1).

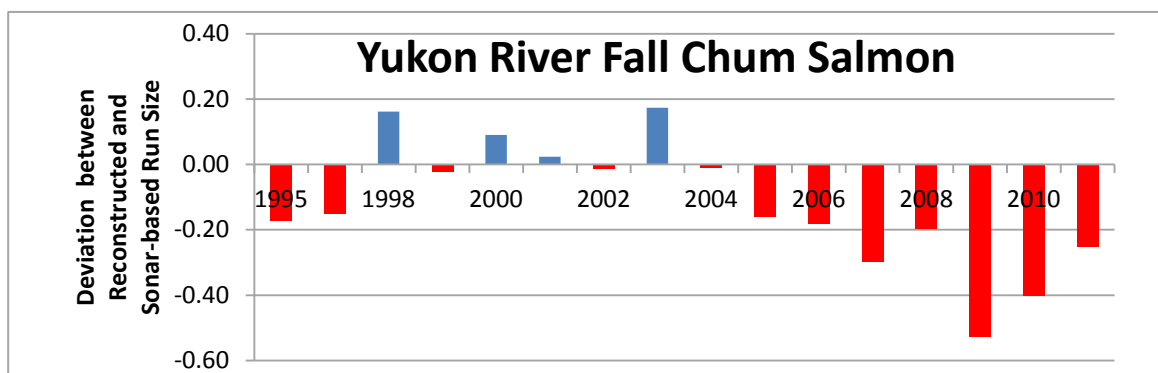


Figure 1. Deviation between the post season and the sonar-based inseason run assessment, Yukon River fall chum salmon, 1995, 1997-2011.

This inseason run size assessment error has resulted in a foregone harvest of between approximately 100,000 and 265,000 fall chum salmon during the time period 2007-2011. During 2011, the foregone harvest was approximately 265,000 fall chum salmon. The 2011 commercial harvest totaled 240,000 fall chum salmon. Associated lost revenue because of foregone harvest in 2011 was approximately \$1.7M to the fishers. Additionally, there were lost processing jobs in the communities because these fish were not available to be processed.

I believe that a change to the trigger point that allows the initiation of the commercial fishery in the Yukon Fall Chum Salmon Management Plan is warranted. Currently, commercial fishing may commence on a run size greater than 500,000. I understand that the minimum drainage-wide escapement is 300,000 fall chum salmon and that approximately 100,000 fall chum salmon are reserved for the subsistence fishery. However, there also appears to be a buffer of 100,000 fish or more, considering that the subsistence harvest has been consistently under 100,000 fish since 1996 (through 2008). I suggest that because inseason run assessment has been substantially and consistently below the post-season assessment, the buffer of 100,000 fall chum salmon in the Yukon Area Fall Chum Salmon Management Plan be eliminated. Although this

would not solve the entire problem associated with the inseason run size assessment, I believe that it is precautionary in nature and is the correct way to address the problem. Additionally, if the errors surrounding the sonar-based assessment are discovered and corrected, the management plan can remain without changes.

This provides only a partial solution to the problem. Unless ADF&G determines the reason for the underestimate of the inseason, sonar-based run estimate, there will be continued foregone harvest, especially when run sizes are large.

Additionally, large unexploited runs in 2005 and 2006 resulted in a severe production failure because of overescapement. The production rate from the 2005 brood was a record low 0.25 return per spawner. The currently returning fall chum salmon runs have just recovering from that production failure. The drainage-wide escapement goal of 300,000 to 600,000 fish is appropriate and has proved to provide good production. Additional escapement reduces productivity and results in foregone harvest, lost revenue to the fishers, and lost jobs in the community.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? ADF&G will continually underestimate the fall chum salmon run resulting in a portion of the commercially available portion of the run to pass onto the spawning grounds. Consequently, this will result in lost direct revenue to the commercial fishers and good paying jobs associated with the processing of these fish. Passing fish excess to spawning requirements is unwise and may result in production failures from overescapement.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Harvesting an available surplus is wise management. This proposal benefits all the commercial fishermen of the Yukon Area, particularly those that harvest and have markets for fall chum salmon. This proposal also benefits all commercial and subsistence users of the fall chum salmon resource because it harvests some fish that would have otherwise passed onto the spawning grounds. Fish in excess of the spawning escapement not only results in foregone harvests, resulting in lost direct revenue and jobs from the community, but may also have a detrimental effect on future production from overescapement.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Direct ADF&G to increase the sonar counts by a minimum of 20% to compensate for the continued deviation between the inseason run assessment based on sonar counts and the post season assessment based on escapement and harvests. This was rejected because I have no authority over ADF&G.

PROPOSED BY: Gene J. Sandone (HQ-F12-086)

PROPOSAL 139 – 5 AAC 01.210. Fishing seasons and periods. 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 (EO) as follows:

(e)(1)

(A) after the opening of the commercial salmon fishing season through July 15, salmon may not be taken for subsistence for 18 hours immediately before, during, and 12 hours after each commercial salmon fishing period **except by emergency order;**

(B) after July 15, salmon may not be taken for subsistence for 12 hours immediately before, during, and for 12 hours after each commercial salmon fishing period **except by emergency order;**

(C) Notwithstanding (A) and (B) of this section, the commissioner may allow salmon to be taken for subsistence during commercial fishing periods by emergency order.

ISSUE: In 1993, regulations were adopted to close subsistence fishing before, during, and after commercial fishing periods in Districts 1–3 of the Yukon Area. The primary purpose of this regulation was to reduce the opportunity for subsistence-caught fish to illegally enter the commercial market. The primary species of concern was king salmon because of the high price paid to fishermen.

King and summer chum salmon run timings overlap. In recent years, king salmon runs have been below average to poor, while summer chum salmon runs have been strong, providing surpluses for commercial harvest. During the summer season (king and summer chum salmon fisheries), the department has taken conservation measures, such as subsistence closures on pulses and gear mesh size restrictions, in the last several years to protect king salmon runs in the Yukon River to equitably distribute the available subsistence harvest and to meet escapement goals in Alaska and escapement and harvest-sharing goals in Canada. Measures taken in the commercial fisheries include no king salmon directed commercial openings, delaying the opening of the summer chum salmon commercial fishery, and prohibiting sale of incidentally-caught king salmon during the summer chum salmon directed commercial openings. When commercial sale is prohibited, incidentally-caught king salmon may be retained by fishermen for personal use.

Under current regulations, salmon may not be taken for subsistence 18 hours before, during, and 12 hours after, commercial salmon fishing periods in Districts 1–3 through July 15. In 2009 and 2011, the department established some concurrent subsistence and commercial fishing periods during the summer season to further protect king salmon by reducing overall fishing time. When sale of king salmon is prohibited by emergency order (EO), any incidentally-caught king salmon may be retained for subsistence uses, reducing the need for fishing again during subsistence fishing periods. In effect, this reduces the amount of overall fishing time and may reduce king salmon harvest during weak runs.

In addition, establishing concurrent openings will provide subsistence opportunity during times of increased commercial fishing periods for summer chum, fall chum, and coho salmon. The department has decreased the time closed to subsistence fishing before and after commercial periods when there has been an increase in the frequency of commercial fishing periods.

Subsistence-caught summer chum, fall chum, and coho salmon illegally entering the commercial market is not thought to be a significant issue.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? When providing opportunity to harvest summer chum salmon commercially and the sale of king salmon is prohibited, the harvest of king salmon may be higher overall than expected. Additionally, when several commercial fishing periods are allowed close together, there will be a reduction in subsistence fishing opportunity.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The king salmon resource, and subsistence and commercial fishermen. If this proposal were adopted, it would provide more flexibility in managing the subsistence and commercial fisheries.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Overall, no group suffers, although there may be a perceived advantage or disadvantage between commercial and subsistence fishermen if they view the proposal as allocative between user groups.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F12-221)

PROPOSAL 140 - 5 AAC 05.360(e). Yukon River King Salmon Management Plan. Revert back to a windows-only fishing schedule in the Yukon River as follows:

Repeal 5 AAC 05.360(e) (Managers must stick to the window schedule).

ISSUE: When the BOF established 5 AAC 05.360(d) it did not intend for it to be circumvented. The Department had this put in regulation in January 2004. As soon as there is a commercial opening the Department throws the windows out the window.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? We will continue to have seven days a week fishing in the Lower Yukon.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The salmon will have closures so they can travel up the river unmolested. The Board determined in January 2001 what reasonable opportunity was.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Fairbanks Advisory Committee

(HQ-F12-092)

PROPOSAL 141 - 5 AAC 01.210. Fishing seasons and periods. Allow for concurrent subsistence and commercial fishing periods in Districts 1-3 of the Yukon River Area as follows:

The entire river would be managed in the same manner; concurrent subsistence and commercial periods already exist in Districts 4, 5, & 6.

ISSUE: Delete 5 AAC 01.210(d)(1)(A), which requires the waiting period between subsistence and commercial fishing periods in Districts 1, 2, & 3.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Unmolested fish will be able to reach the spawning ground and quality escapement can occur.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All users will benefit if quality escapement can occur and populations increase.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? This proposal will have no effect on other users.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Eastern Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council(HQ-F12-158)

PROPOSAL 142 - 5 AAC 01.210. Fishing seasons and periods. Open Yukon River District 5-D from July 4-18 for subsistence fishing as follows:

In District 5D, from below Stevens Village to Circle, there will be no closures on subsistence fishing from July 4 to 18.

ISSUE: Yukon Flats area would like to fish on the first pulse of Chinook salmon from July 4 until July 18 (2 weeks) with no closures. With the current closure schedule, the people of the Yukon Flats have a hard time getting the fish that we require. With high fuel prices added into this, this makes it even harder to cost effectively harvest the fish that we need.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? There is a good chance that our subsistence needs will not be met.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The people of the Yukon Flats.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Yukon Flats Advisory Committee

(HQ-F12-135)

PROPOSAL 143 - 5 AAC 01.210. Fishing seasons and periods. Remove restrictions during the subsistence fall chum season in Districts 1, 2, and 3 of the Yukon Area as follows:

Insert the following underlined language within 5 AAC 01.210. Fishing seasons ad periods

Under (b) (2) Districts 1 - 3: two 36-hour fishing periods per week **during the summer season only;**

ISSUE: Unnecessary restriction to the fall season subsistence fishery in Districts 1, 2 and 3.

The total most recent, 2005-2009 published fall chum salmon subsistence average harvest for the Yukon Area is 85,789 salmon. Although the Coastal District harvests some fall chum salmon, the harvest in that district is extremely low. The Lower Yukon Area, Districts 1, 2, and 3, fall chum salmon subsistence harvests have remained stable and relatively low during all years of record (Figure 1). During the period, 2005-2009, Lower Yukon Area subsistence fishers have harvested an average of 7,443 fall chum salmon. This accounts for approximately 8.7% of the average (2005-2009) Yukon Area harvest. The average (2005-2009) number of and percent fall chum salmon harvested by Lower Yukon Area Districts is: District 1: 3,184 salmon, 3.7%; District 2: 3,166 salmon, 3.7%; and District 3: 1,093, 1.3%.

The Upper Yukon Area harvests the vast majority of fall chum for subsistence purposes. Subsistence harvests of fall chum salmon by Upper Yukon Area fishers average (2005-2009) 78,138 fall chum salmon, or 91.1% of the total Yukon River subsistence harvest. Average (2005-2009) harvest by district is: District 4: 7,822 salmon or 9.1%; District 5: 50,121 salmon or 58.4%; and District 6: 20,196 salmon or 23.5%.

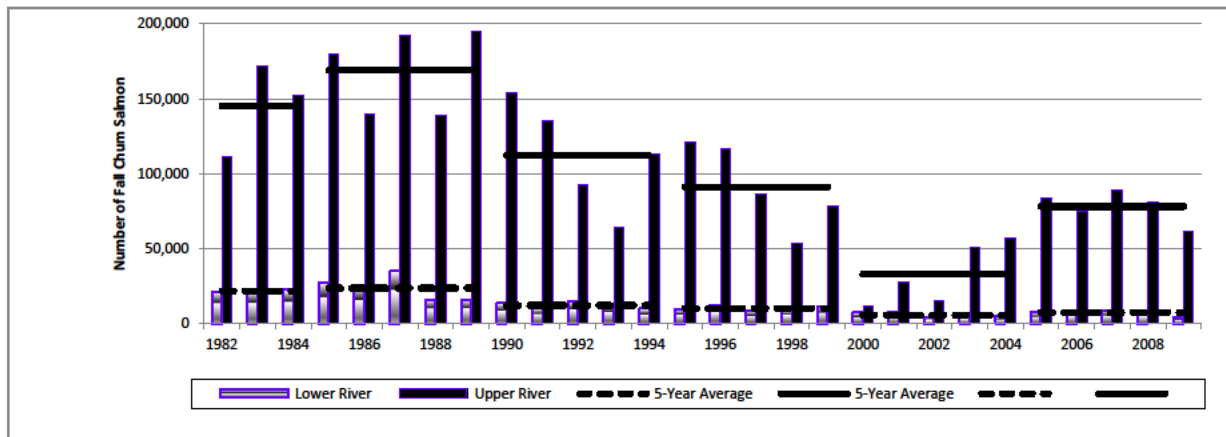
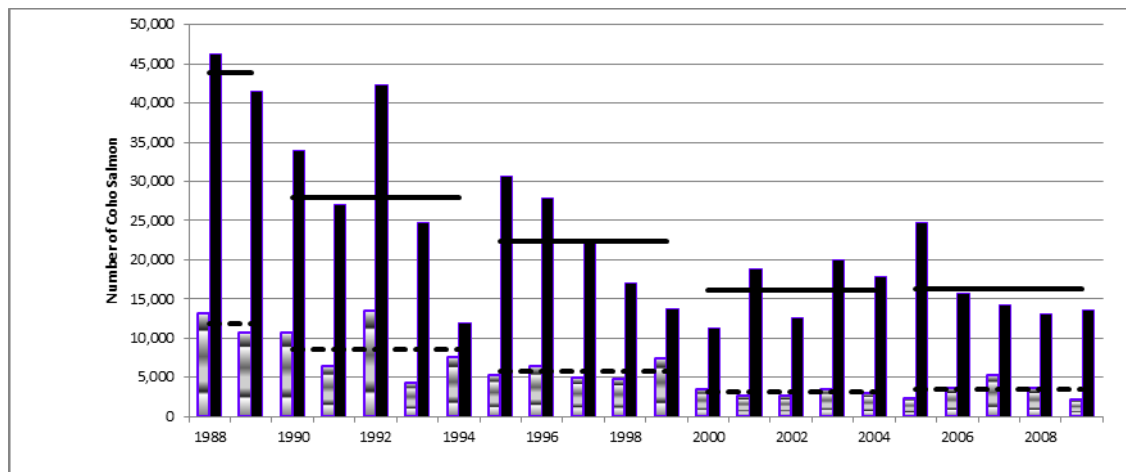


Figure 1. Number (bars) and 5-year average (lines) of fall chum salmon subsistence harvests in the Lower and Upper Yukon Areas, 1982-2009.

Although much fewer coho salmon were taken for subsistence purposes, Coho subsistence harvest patterns were similar with the Upper Yukon Area harvesting the vast majority of the coho salmon for subsistence (Figure 2). During the period, 2005-2009, the Lower Yukon Area harvested an average of 17.3% of the total Yukon Area coho salmon subsistence harvest, while the Upper Yukon Area harvested an average of 81.6%. The 2005-2009 average coho salmon subsistence harvest for the Yukon Area is 19,888. Average harvest distribution among districts was similar in the Lower Yukon Area, with District 1, 2, and 3, harvesting an average of 6.7%, 9.4%, and 1.9%. However, average harvest distribution in the Upper Yukon Area were dissimilar to the fall chum salmon harvest pattern with District 5 taking an average of only 15.8% of the total Yukon Area coho salmon harvest, with District 6 harvesting an average of 51.9%.



When subsistence windows are necessary to reduce harvests for escapement and/or to spread the harvest out over the entire run, I believe that restrictions are not necessary in the Lower Yukon Area and do not effectively reduce or distribute harvests throughout the run because the harvests are so small. This is also true of coho salmon. Consequently, there is no need for subsistence fishing windows in the Lower Yukon Area.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? During times of conservation for fall chum salmon, restrictions in the Lower Yukon Area are not needed because of the small numbers harvested by District 1, 2, and 3 subsistence fishers. Also, because of the very small harvest, window fishing schedules are ineffective at reducing the already very small harvest. Distribution of the Lower Yukon Area’s small subsistence salmon harvest is not necessary.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? This proposal benefits the subsistence fishers of District 1, 2, and 3 because it lifts unnecessary subsistence restrictions of subsistence fishing for fall chum salmon. The current restrictions are unnecessary because of the very small harvest of fall season

salmon and also because window are ineffective at reducing and already very small harvest which does not need to be distributed over the entire duration of the run.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one. Fall season salmon harvested in the Lower River are inconsequential to Agreement obligations to Canada, escapement requirements with the Alaskan portion of the drainage, and upriver subsistence harvests.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? No other alternative were considered.

PROPOSED BY: Gene J. Sandone (HQ-F12-087)

PROPOSAL 144 - 5 AAC 01.220. Lawful gear and gear specifications; 5 AAC 05.331. Gillnet specifications and operations. Restrict gillnets to 35 meshes in depth in the Yukon River drainage as follows:

Gillnet depth limit. No commercial or subsistence gillnets with a hung depth of more than 15' or 35 meshes shall be allowed in entire Yukon River drainage.

ISSUE: Deeper nets are having a detrimental effect on the stock composition and quality of escapement for Yukon River Chinook salmon and tend to target the larger and female Chinook salmon which most fishermen claim swim deeper. This knowledge is commonly accepted along the river. Limiting the depth of nets would clearly allow more fish to pass through a fishery unmolested. There have been continued poor returns of Yukon River Salmon in the majority of the years since 1998. This has led to conservation concerns on the quality of escapement on the spawning grounds. These poorer returns are also not allowing subsistence users to have a reasonable opportunity to meet their subsistence salmon needs. The use of the larger gillnets has changed, and will continue to change the composition of the Chinook stocks harvested. Subsistence fishermen in the middle and upper Yukon Rivers have repeatedly noted that the returning Chinook salmon are getting smaller and conservation measures are needed to protect the larger fish that in turn protects the genetic variability and loss of the older age classes of the Yukon River Chinook salmon stocks.

Chinook salmon harvested in Y5 and Y6 with fish wheels is over 70% precocious males less than 10 pounds. In the Taku River in Southeast Alaska the directed commercial fishery was closed for 30 years when this happened. The Tozitna River fishery monitoring project (BLM) is one example showing that the composition of Chinook salmon escapement is heavily skewed toward smaller, male fish or jacks. The Rapids Student Data Collection Project at Yukon River mile 730 has randomly sampled over 5000 Chinook (in fish wheels) from 2004 to 2008 with an average weight of a little more than 11 ½ lbs. In 2008 out of 1137 Chinook only 2.1% (24 fish) were over 25 lbs, and .5% (6 fish) were over 30 lbs. Even smaller average weights of under 10 lbs were seen at Eagle by the Canadian border in a 2006 sampling effort.

In 2008 the Canadian government Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) test fishing showed female Chinook salmon having represented only 23% of the seasons fish wheel catch with females representing only 13% in the early part of the run. The early period is recognized

as the hardest hit and most fished in the U.S. portion of the river. The number of female Chinook salmon caught in the DFO net test fishery (used nets with an 8 inch mesh size) represented only 28% of the total catch.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? If management actions are not taken now the genetic shift to smaller fish, the reduction in genetic variability and the loss of the older age classes of the Yukon River Chinook salmon stocks will continue and a complete closure of even basic household subsistence use could be necessary.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? This proposal is attempting to improve the quality of the resource harvested by conserving the resource. In 2008 Chinook harvests were limited to subsistence only with severe restrictions on even that and Canadian border passage was still not met for second year in a row. All returning Chinook salmon and the especially important large female salmon will be provided additional opportunity to reach their spawning grounds which would help improve the quality of escapement of Chinook salmon throughout the Yukon River drainage. Passage of this proposal would address the genetic shift to smaller fish caused by over fishing and targeting the larger fish that has gone on for many years. Local subsistence users and fishery projects in the upper Yukon River area, including Canada, are presorting harvesting smaller fish. Conservation actions are necessary now to protect the genetic variability, the integrity of the Yukon River Chinook salmon stocks.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The proposers felt all fishers in the drainage will benefit except those whose priority is the immediate harvest of all fish at hand. Subsistence and commercial users will benefit by helping to rebuild the genetic variability and integrity of the Yukon River Chinook salmon stocks for future generations of fishers across the drainage. Stabilizing the Yukon River Chinook salmon stocks and preventing a decrease in their size is the right step for the fisheries and is good for the subsistence lifestyle in the future.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those fishermen whose priority is the immediate harvest of fish at hand. The proposers are keenly aware passage of this proposal would place restrictions of users but the conservation concern of the genetic impacts of continued overfishing and targeting the larger female fish needs to be addressed now in order to protect the Yukon River Chinook salmon runs for needs in the future. Had some smaller steps been taken many board cycles ago when similar proposals and concerns started appearing we may not be in the severe situation we find ourselves faced with today where fishermen are being asked to give up so much of their fishing livelihood.

As of 2008 Yukon Fishermen have lost all their allowed Chinook commercial fishing time and have severe restrictions being put on basic Chinook subsistence harvests. Fish camps and the healthy lifestyle that goes along with them have continued disappearing as the Chinook fishery economics evaporate due to high fuel costs and low harvest numbers. This has all taken place, not by virtue of proposals proposed and passed by the Board of Fish, but simply because there are not enough fish anymore. Any seasonal suffering caused by the Board of Fish passing of this proposal would be small compared to what has taken place already from inaction.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None others considered in this area.

PROPOSED BY: Fairbanks Advisory Committee (HQ-F12-097)

PROPOSAL 145 - 5 AAC 01.220. Lawful gear and gear specifications; 5 AAC 05.331. Gillnet specifications and operations. Restrict depth of subsistence and commercial nets in Districts Y1-5 to 35 meshes as follows:

Districts Y-1 through Y-5-all gillnets drift and setnets shall be restricted to 35 meshes deep.

ISSUE: Limit Chinook salmon nets river-wide to 35 meshes deep. Drift and setnets in all districts.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The quality of escapement i.e. large fecund Female will continue to be removed from the run, resulting in fewer eggs to the spawning grounds. This has reduce productivity, and produced smaller offspring which are more susceptible to the effects of climate change on the spawning ground (shallow redds)

Resent fecundity studies confirm that the relationship of egg to length is proportional to size. We do not see large 40 lbs + females in the run any more (They were common pre 2000). We average 20 lbs or less now at the border. The escapement numbers have not been increased to account for the decline in eggs across the border and to escapement ground. We feel this has been a significant factor in the reduced productivity of the Chinook run in the past 10 years.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes by making the nets shallower the ability of larger fecund females and large male which tend to swim in deeper water will have a great chance of avoiding net and make it to the spawning ground to produce more salmon and genetics for larger fish, this will increase the productivity of the rebuilding effort once the current low productivity regime shifts to higher productivity.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All fisher using nets will be treated equal. Fish wheel fisher will not be affected.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Fishers with nets greater than 35 meshes deep will have to rehang gear.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Smaller mesh size, we need a few years of using 7.5 mesh to get a good analysis of the effect, also further reduction in fishing time, but this will have a greater negative effect on fishers already being restricted by time.

PROPOSED BY: Eagle Advisory Committee (HQ-F12-211)

PROPOSAL 146 - 5 AAC 01.220. Lawful gear and gear specifications; 5 AAC 05.331. Gillnet specifications and operations. Allow only 6-inch stretched mesh gillnet gear in the Yukon River drainage as follows:

No commercial or subsistence gillnets with a stretched mesh larger than 6” shall be allowed in entire Yukon River drainage.

ISSUE: Larger mesh size nets have had a detrimental effect on the stock composition and quality of escapements for Yukon River Chinook salmon and target the larger female Chinook salmon. There have been continued poor returns of Yukon River Chinook salmon in the majority of years since 1998. This has led to concerns on the spawning grounds on the quality of the escapement. These poorer returns are also not allowing subsistence users to have a reasonable opportunity to meet their subsistence salmon needs. The use of the larger gillnets has changed, and will continue to change, the composition of the Chinook stocks harvested. Subsistence fishermen in the middle and upper Yukon Rivers have repeatedly noted that the returning Chinook salmon are getting smaller and conservation measures are needed to protect the larger fish that in turn protects the genetic variability and loss of the older age classes of the Yukon River Chinook salmon stocks. Chinook salmon harvested in Y5 and Y6 with fish wheels is over 70% precocious males less than 10 pounds. In the Taku River in Southeast Alaska the directed commercial fishery was closed for 30 years when this happened. The Tozitna River fishery monitoring project (BLM) is one example showing that the composition of Chinook salmon escapement is heavily skewed toward smaller, male fish or jacks. The Rapids Student Data Collection Project at Yukon River mile 730 has randomly sampled over 5000 Chinook (in fish wheels) from 2004 to 2008 with an average weight of a little more than 11 ½ lbs. In 2008 out of 1137 Chinook only 2.1% (24 fish) were over 25 lbs, and .5% (6 fish) were over 30 lbs. Even smaller average weights of under 10 lbs were seen at Eagle by the Canadian border in a 2006 sampling effort. In 2008 the Canadian government Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) test fishing showed female Chinook salmon having represented only 23% of the seasons fish wheel catch with females representing only 13% in the early part of the run. The early period is recognized as the hardest hit and most fished in the U.S. portion of the river. The number of female Chinook salmon caught in the DFO net test fishery (used nets with an 8 inch mesh size) represented only 28% of the total catch.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? If management actions are not taken now the genetic shift to smaller fish, the reduction in genetic variability and the loss of the older age classes of the Yukon River Chinook salmon stocks will continue and a complete closure of even basic household subsistence use could be necessary.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? This proposal is attempting to improve the quality of the resource harvested by conserving the resource. In 2008 Chinook harvests were limited to subsistence only with severe restrictions on even that and Canadian border passage was still not met for second year in a row. All returning Chinook salmon and the especially important large female salmon will be provided additional opportunity to reach their spawning grounds which would help improve the quality of escapement of Chinook salmon throughout the Yukon River drainage. Passage of this proposal would address the genetic shift to smaller fish caused by over

fishing and targeting the larger fish that has gone on for many years. Local subsistence users and fishery projects in the upper Yukon River area, including Canada, are presorting harvesting smaller fish. Conservation actions are necessary now to protect the genetic variability, the integrity of the Yukon River Chinook salmon stocks.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All fishermen, subsistence and commercial, will benefit by helping to rebuild the genetic variability and integrity of the Yukon River Chinook salmon stocks for future generations of fishermen across the drainage. Stabilizing the Yukon River Chinook salmon stocks and preventing a decrease in their size is the right step for the fisheries and is good for the Alaskan subsistence lifestyle and the Canadian aboriginal lifestyle in the future.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those fishermen whose priority is the immediate harvest of the largest fish at hand. The proposers are keenly aware passage of the proposal would place restrictions on users but the conservation concern of the genetic impacts of continued over fishing and targeting the larger female fish needs to be addressed now in order to protect the Yukon River Chinook salmon runs for needs in the future. As of 2008 the Yukon fishermen have lost off their allowed Chinook commercial fishing time and have had severe restrictions put on basic Chinook subsistence harvests. Fish camps and the healthy lifestyle that goes along with them have continued disappearing as the Chinook fishery economics evaporate due to high fuel costs and low harvest numbers. This has all taken place simply because there are not enough fish anymore. Any seasonal suffering caused by the Board of Fish passing this proposal would be small compared to what has taken place already from inaction.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Nets in the 7” range were considered in past Board cycles however a number of reasons were discovered why they were not suitable. 1) A ASFWS study (An Investigation of the Potential Effects of Selective Exploitation on the Demography and Productivity of Yukon River Chinook Salmon, Bromaghin, Nielson, and Hard) showed 7.5” mesh to be ineffective at reversing declining size trends and can actually contribute to the problem. 2) Current ongoing mesh size studies by ADF&G and anecdotal info from fishermen river wide show nets of the 7” range actually catching more fish and more lbs of Chinook than the more normally used 8-9” nets and the smaller 6” range nets. Fishermen in the upper river commonly are reporting most Chinook going through the larger nets. This is clearly because of the lack of the larger fish at present. Targeting the next available largest Chinook age class with 7” range nets will only further damage the run.

PROPOSED BY: Fairbanks Advisory Committee (HQ-F12-094)

PROPOSAL 147 - 5 AAC 01.220. Lawful gear and gear specifications. Allow drift gillnets as legal gear in the subsistence fishery in District 4-A of the Yukon River, upriver to the community of Ruby as follows:

Driftnets will be allowed in Y-4 upriver to Ruby, AK.

ISSUE: There is congestion of drift fishers at the upriver boundary of Y4-a. Drifting is illegal in 4b & c except in federal waters. Fishers from Galena travel 30 miles to Y-4a where fishers from Koyukuk also fish, resulting in an unnecessary concentration of fishers.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued conflict at upper boundary of Y-4a. Continued high consumption of gasoline by Galena fishers traveling to Y-4a.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. Galena fishers will spend less time & money to fish. Fish will be harvested closer to home, resulting in better quality.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Fishers in both Galena and Koyukuk as fishing pressure will be spread out over a larger area.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one, time and again the consensus of fishers on the entire river has been that harvest should be controlled by openings and not gear type.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Other solutions would be to open drifting only to Yuki River mouth. Rejected because there is no biological or social reason to exclude fishers living upriver from Yuki river or in Ruby.

PROPOSED BY: Ruby Advisory Committee (HQ-F12-058)

PROPOSAL 148 - 5 AAC 01.220. Lawful gear and gear specifications. Extend Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C drift gillnet area downstream from the mouth of the Yuki River for king salmon as follows:

To reduce fishing pressure, Middle Yukon AC recommends extending the drift gillnetting area upriver into state waters of Subdistrict 4-B and 4-C to the mouth of Yuki River. This would require amending 5 AAC 01.220(e)(2) to include drifting for Chinook salmon in portions of Yukon Area Subdistrict 4-B and 4-C to as follows:

(e)(2) In Subdistrict 4-A downstream from the mouth of Stink Creek **and in Subdistrict 4-B and 4-C downstream from the mouth of Yuki River**, king salmon may be taken by drift gillnets from June 10 through July 14.

ISSUE: To reduce fishing pressure off of Chinook salmon subsistence harvest in one popular Yukon River drift gillnet fishing location near Koyukuk village. Currently, this area is highly desirable drifting location by fishers that travel from considerable distance to get there, primarily from Koyukuk and Galena communities; however, fishers from Huslia, Nulato, Ruby and other communities also travel there to harvest fish in this location. Additionally, the drifting area near Koyukuk village is a desirable fishing location that creates congestion among fishers which can render the area as hazardous when fishers compete with one another especially during reduced fishing schedules. Often time fishers wait to be able to drift once then wait again for their turn.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? If nothing is changed, there will be continued concentrated drift gillnetting fishing pressure targeting same stocks of fish during each subsistence opening. Fishing congestion in this one popular fish location will continue which will increase chances of conflict between subsistence users. During years of subsistence reduced fishing time, conflicts will increase.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, by extending the drift gillnet fishing into Subdistrict 4-B and 4-C it will reduce fishing pressure on Chinook salmon harvested in one constricted and highly desirable fishing area (Koyukuk area) and distribute harvest over a broader area. Yes, by allowing drift gillnetting in Subdistrict 4-B and 4-C, this will spread the Chinook salmon harvest over a larger area and reduce harvest on any one concentrated stock of Chinook salmon. Additionally, quality of harvest by fishers from Galena to Ruby will increase because of the shorter distances needed to travel from fishing grounds to their home communities of fish camps to process fish. With less travel time, fuel costs will also be less.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The resource will benefit because drift gillnet fishing pressure will be spread out over a larger area. All subsistence user that currently drift for Chinook salmon in the Koyukuk area will benefit because there will be less competition for the desirable fishing locations resulting in more time available to subsistence fish while costing less for fuel and oil because of shorter travel distances.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one. Fishers that fail to find or lose drift gillnet gear in attempting to locate a comparable drift gillnetting site in Subdistrict 4-B and 4-C? Possibly the escapement and fishers drainage-wide if this regulation change alters the salmon stocks composition that are harvested in Subdistrict 4-B and 4-C drift fisheries.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None

PROPOSED BY: Middle Yukon Advisory Committee (HQ-F12-075)

PROPOSAL 149 - 5 AAC 01.240. Marking and use of subsistence-taken salmon. Create a harvest reporting system subsistence-taken salmon in the Yukon River drainage as follows:

All subsistence users must have a catch calendar and shall record all harvested fish on the catch calendar in ink, before concealing the fish from plain view, transported from the fishing site or off loaded from a vessel. Fishing site means the location where the fish is removed from the water. If fish are shared outside the household of the catch calendar holder, the number of fish shared and the name of the person(s) shared with must also be recorded in the catch calendar. The catch calendar must be available for inspection by the Department or any law enforcement officer at any fish camp, fishing location, or primary residence of the catch calendar holder.

ISSUE: Commercial use of subsistence caught fish in the Yukon.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued commercialization of subsistence caught fish.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. A harvest and transfer record kept in a catch calendar will provide accountability and allow fish to be tracked and accounted for.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All subsistence users who wish to preserve their access to this resource.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those who commercialize their subsistence catch. It is known that certain individuals on the Yukon catch many more kings than their subsistence needs require. They sell or barter these excess fish and end up for sale in Fairbanks or Anchorage, often as smoked strips.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Other forms of recording and reporting were considered, because the catch calendar is delivered to all known fishers every season, this method was determined to be the most efficient and easiest to implement and enforce, with little burden on the department or subsistence users.

PROPOSED BY: Fairbanks Advisory Committee (HQ-F12-100)

PROPOSAL 150 - 5 AAC 01.240. Marking and use of subsistence-taken salmon. Create a harvest reporting system for subsistence-taken salmon in the Yukon River as follows:

Establish subsistence salmon harvest reporting methodology that provides accurate and timely information for the ADF&G, while minimizing the burden to harvesters.

This proposal was developed as part of a process initiated by the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association (YRDFA) to review existing management strategies and achieve consensus among stakeholders on potential measures to improve Chinook salmon management in the Yukon River. Stakeholders identified harvest reporting as a priority and developed draft language for achieving this. The group is in the process of receiving input from other Yukon River stakeholders and will reconvene and submit specific regulatory language prior to the Board of Fisheries AYK meeting.

ISSUE: Accurate determination of harvest removals is critical to management of Yukon River Chinook salmon. However, most subsistence users within the Alaskan portion of the Yukon River drainage are not required to record or report their harvests. Currently, the primary method of estimating harvest from these subsistence users is voluntary post-season subsistence harvest surveys conducted annually in the fall by ADF&G. Because the current reporting system is voluntary, there is public concern over accuracy and timeliness of data reporting. In-season monitoring might provide additional management tools for monitoring and managing harvest throughout the season while also minimizing the need for post-season surveys.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Mandatory harvest reporting may result in data in which we have greater confidence. Without in-season harvest data we will not have harvest information during the season with which to make management decisions.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Better harvest reporting improves management to the benefit of all stakeholders.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Improved harvest reporting may increase the amount of time individuals have to spend on tracking and reporting their harvest.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? We considered requiring a harvest permit for all Yukon River subsistence harvesters as a means of collecting reporting information. However, some stakeholders felt that this would impede on subsistence rights and pose a barrier for people who have historically relied on subsistence caught salmon to do so.

PROPOSED BY: Yukon River Stakeholder Group, c/o Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association (HQ-F12-145)

PROPOSAL 151 - 5 AAC 01.240. Marking and use of subsistence-taken salmon. Require primary use of subsistence-caught salmon within the Yukon Area be for direct personal or family consumption as food as follows:

Under 5 AAC 01.240. Marking and use of subsistence-taken salmon:

(d) In the Yukon River drainage, the primary subsistence use of king salmon is for the direct personal or family consumption as food; all other subsistence uses are secondary with no prioritization.

(e) In the Yukon River drainage, king salmon [MUST BE USED PRIMARILY FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION AND] may not be targeted for dog food. Dried king salmon may not be used for dog food throughout the Yukon River drainage, except that whole fish that are unfit for human consumption, scraps, and fish under 16 inches in length may be fed to dogs...

ISSUE: Subsistence uses of salmon are not prioritized. In years when salmon runs are low, other subsistence uses are tending to preclude the taking of king salmon for direct personal or family consumption as food.

Alaska State Statute 16.05.940 (33), below, defines subsistence uses as a list of accepted uses for wild renewable resources taken for subsistence purposes. However, no priority is provided for these uses. It is not clear if all uses are equal or if they are listed in order of priority in the state statute. For salmon, I believe that the highest priority for salmon caught under subsistence regulations is direct personal or family consumption as food. Therefore, I request that the Alaska

Board of Fisheries make it abundantly clear that the primary subsistence use of salmon harvested for subsistence purposes within the Yukon Area is specifically for direct personal or family consumption as food. This proposed regulation can be used as a management tool to restrict subsistence uses in years when salmon runs are insufficient to satisfy U.S./Canada Yukon River Salmon Agreement obligations or escapement or for a full subsistence fishery. Accordingly, ADF&G can limit the harvest of salmon for other uses thereby allowing people who depend on the resource for sustenance to have priority over fishers that use the resource for other uses or a combination of uses.

16.05.940 (33) "subsistence uses" means the noncommercial, customary and traditional uses of wild, renewable resources by a resident domiciled in a rural area of the state for direct personal or family consumption as food, shelter, fuel, clothing, tools, or transportation, for the making and selling of handicraft articles out of nonedible by-products of fish and wildlife resources taken for personal or family consumption, and for the customary trade, barter, or sharing for personal or family consumption; in this paragraph, "family" means persons related by blood, marriage, or adoption, and a person living in the household on a permanent basis;

Under 5 AAC 01.240. Marking and use of subsistence-taken salmon, the Alaska Board of fisheries (BOF) has previously prioritized the subsistence use of king salmon by prohibiting feeding king salmon to dogs, with certain exceptions. Additionally, the BOF stated that subsistence-caught king salmon must be used primarily for human consumption. The latter statement is somewhat ambiguous because it does not stipulate personal or family human consumption as food.

(d) In the Yukon River drainage, king salmon must be used primarily for human consumption and may not be targeted for dog food. Dried king salmon may not be used for dog food throughout the Yukon River drainage, except that whole fish that are unfit for human consumption, scraps, and fish under 16 inches in length may be fed to dogs...

A similar proposal will be before the Federal Subsistence Board in 2012 that was designed specifically to suspend the federal subsistence user of customary trade in years when king salmon runs are insufficient to meet Agreement obligations to Canada and allow a full subsistence fishery. In the past, some residents have complained that they were not meeting their personal king salmon needs for food met while they observed boxes of fish leaving their village to be sold at large events. In order to have this regulation enforceable throughout the Alaskan portion of the Yukon River drainage, the entire drainage, that is, both state managed and state and federally managed waters must have the same priority subsistence use for king salmon.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Fishing families might not get the food they need for sustenance in years of low king salmon runs because a portion of the harvestable surplus above spawning escapement and treaty requirements is sold off the river. Management actions may fall short because they are geared toward reducing the subsistence harvest but the impacts of non-personal consumptive uses in terms of number of fish is difficult to manage for, thus Agreement obligations to Canada and spawning requirements may not be met.

This proposed regulation addresses only part of the problem associated with subsistence uses. If solutions to the problems associated with the federal customary trade regulations are not addressed at the Federal Subsistence Board, continued abuse of customary trade and large-scale sales of subsistence-caught fish from state waters when the king salmon runs are not poor will continue. However, this proposed regulation, if passed by the state and federal fish boards, could be used as a tool by managers to suspend all subsistence uses of king salmon except for the use of king salmon as direct personal and family consumption as food during very low king runs. A coordinated set of regulations between the federal and state agencies would facilitate enforcement actions.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Subsistence users who primarily use Yukon king salmon for direct personal or family consumption as food during very low king salmon runs.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Fishers that harvest king salmon primarily for uses other than for personal or family consumption as food.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? No other alternatives were considered.

PROPOSED BY: Gene J. Sandone (HQ-F12-085)

PROPOSAL 152 - 5 AAC 05.200. Fishing districts and subdistricts; 5 AAC 05.350. Closed waters. Open Acharon Channel in the Yukon River drainage to salmon fishing as follows:

1. Repeal 5 AAC 05.350. Closed waters (1) and in **5 AAC 05.200. Fishing districts and subdistricts** make the following changes to (a) District 1 consists of that portion of the Yukon River drainage from its terminus upstream to the northern edge of the mouth of the Anuk River and all waters **south from Chris Point to Black River and** [OF THE] Black River, including waters within one nautical mile of its terminus. Also designate Acharon Channel, the area from Chris Point, south to the Black River, as a separate statistical area so that the specific harvest from this area could be accounted and evaluated.

ISSUE: 5 AAC 05.350. Closed waters AND 5 AAC 05.200. Fishing districts and subdistricts.

- Unnecessary closure of an area that could provide harvest of Yukon River summer chum salmon and minimize Chinook salmon harvest in the summer chum salmon directed fishery.
- Congestion of commercial fishers in the South Mouth of the Yukon River if the area open to commercial fishing for summer chum salmon is similar to 2011.

In 2011, the concern that the Yukon Chinook salmon run size was not sufficient to provide for Agreement obligations to Canada and a full subsistence fishery severely restricted the summer chum salmon directed fishery in time and area. Because the bulk of the Chinook salmon run

entered the Yukon River primarily by the North Mouth and Middle Mouths of the Yukon River, the directed summer chum salmon was restricted, for most openings, only to the South Mouth. Although this surgical management action provided a limited fishery for summer chum, crowding was a potential problem since only a fraction of District 1 was open to commercial fishing. Additionally, I believe that since this area is tidally influenced and relatively shallow, it would be an area where summer chum salmon are abundant with few Chinook salmon present, especially if the bulk of the Chinook salmon enters the North and Middle Mouths, as occurred in 2011.

According to local knowledge Acharon Channel, or that area between Black River and Chris Point in the South Mouth area, was closed to commercial fishing in the early 1900s to protect local fishers from highly efficient drift fishers that were brought in from Oregon to fish for the fish buying and processing company. That protection is no longer needed or warranted.

Therefore, I request that the Board repeal 5 AAC 05.350. Closed waters (1) and alter 5 AAC 05.200. Fishing districts and subdistricts (a) to include the area from Chris Point south to Black River as a portion of District 1 that is open to commercial salmon fishing. Also, I request that Board designate Acharon Channel as a separate statistical area so that this area may be open to commercial fishing and that the specific harvest evaluated.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued poor Yukon River Chinook salmon runs along with the North and Middle Mouth entry pattern for Chinook salmon may require ADF&G to allow commercial fishing for summer chum salmon only in the South Mouth area. Because the area open to fishing would be only a relatively small portion of the District 1 area, many fishers will be forced into the open area. This congestion may be somewhat alleviated by the opening of the Acharon Channel, or the coastline between Chris Point and Black River. Additionally, there is no reason for this area to be closed. Because of the proximity to the mouth of the Yukon along with the 1 nautical mile seaward boundary, there is little chance that mixed stocks returning to other drainages would be harvested. Therefore, because it would benefit the commercial fishers of District 1 and provide additional fishing area to the congested South Mouth area, there are few valid arguments for maintaining the closure of this area.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? This proposal, if adopted, would benefit the commercial fishers in District 1 by alleviating congestion when the summer chum salmon fishery is restricted to the South Mouth area as it was done in 2011. I would also generally more area to fish and possibly result in the harvest of more summer chum salmon with less of an impact on the Chinook salmon.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? No other solutions were considered.

PROPOSED BY: Gene J. Sandone

(HQ-F12-159)

PROPOSAL 153 – 5 AAC 74.010. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Tanana River Area. Repeal the regulation that closes Fielding Lake to salmon fishing as follows:

(c)(9) in Fielding Lake

(A) **repealed.** [SPORT FISHING FOR SALMON IS CLOSED;]

ISSUE: Salmon are not present in Fielding Lake. Fielding Lake is linked, via an outlet to Phelan Creek, to the Delta River. The first two miles of the Delta River are cataloged as important for the spawning of chum salmon and the spawning and rearing of coho salmon in the *Atlas to the Catalog of Waters Important for Spawning, Rearing, or Migration of Anadromous Fishes*. However, salmon have not been cataloged in the Delta River upstream of the lower two river miles (approximately 70 river miles) or in Fielding Lake. Only twice since 1996 (2003, 2005) have salmon (chum) been reported caught in the Delta River, according to the Statewide Harvest Survey, but exact location of catch and species verification are not available. The current regulation imposes unnecessary language for a species that is not present in Fielding Lake.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Unnecessary regulations will remain in place, implying that salmon are present in Fielding Lake when they are not.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The public, enforcement staff, and ADF&G personnel all benefit from clear regulations.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F12-225)

PROPOSAL 154 - 5 AAC 73.010. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Yukon River Area. Close the Black River and its tributaries to sport fishing for king salmon as follows:

The drainage of Black River and all its tributaries are closed to sport fishing for Chinook salmon.

ISSUE: The stock of Yukon Chinook salmon which spawns in Salmon Fork Black River is subjected to sport fishing on the spawning grounds. This population is of high concern since it is already reduced due to previous overfishing. Numbers are so low that the local subsistence fishery has been voluntarily suspended.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? If sport fishing for this stock on the spawning grounds continues, the recovery of this population will be slowed or halted all together.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? This proposal has no effect on the quality of the resource harvested.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? If a spawning closure helps this population recover, then in the future a subsistence fishery downriver in the vicinity of Chalkyitsik and Fort Yukon may become possible. This stock contributes to the overall Yukon Chinook population, so users river-wide would benefit.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Recreational users who float Salmon Fork Black River in July would not be allowed to sport fish for spawning Chinook salmon.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? No other solutions have been considered.

PROPOSED BY: Black River Working Group & Yukon Flats Advisory Committee (HQ-F12-136)

**ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES
FEBRUARY 26 – MARCH 3, 2013
ALASKA PENINSULA / ALEUTIAN ISLANDS FINFISH**

PROPOSAL 155 - 5 AAC 28.647. Aleutian Islands District Pacific Cod Management Plan. Increase Aleutian Islands District state-waters Pacific cod guideline harvest level (GHL) to 4.5 percent of the federal Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands acceptable biological catch (ABC) as follows:

Increase the state water GHL by 50%. Change 5 AAC 28.647 section (d)(1) to read: —.the guideline harvest level for Pacific cod in the Aleutian Islands District west of 170°W. long is **four and one half** [THREE] percent of the estimated total allowable harvest of Pacific cod for the federal Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands Area; to be larger on average than Bering Sea cod, they tend to enter the high end of the H&G salt cod market.

ISSUE: The ratio of Pacific cod biomass between the Aleutians and the Bering Sea based on the survey biomasses ranges from 9% to 16% of the biomass being in the Aleutians. Currently the federal regulations make no distinction between cod harvested in the Aleutians or in the Bering. Cod caught in either area count against one overall quota. Given the restrictions imposed by the federal Sea Lion RPAs, the fishing areas in the Aleutians are very limited and are a disincentive to fishing in the Aleutians. Additionally, cod aggregate later in the Aleutian area, so traditionally, the cod harvest peaks in the Aleutians about a month later than the Bering Sea. Until there is a separate federal Pacific cod quota for the Aleutian Island management area, the current structure of the federal regulations is resulting in a disproportionately low harvest rate on the Aleutian Island portion of the BSAI cod biomass.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The CV trawl fleet fishing in the Bering Sea area will continue to harvest the combined Bering Sea/Aleutian Island quota in the Bering Sea early in the year, pre-empting a fishery in federal waters in the Aleutians. This reduces landings in the Aleutian management area and undermines the economic viability of processing operations in the community of Adak.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? To the extent that Aleutian Island cod tend to be larger on average than Bering Sea cod, they tend to enter the high end of the H&G salt cod market.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The community of Adak will benefit from increased landings. Vessels that qualify to fish under the state's Aleutian Islands District Pacific Cod Management Plan will have increased opportunity. An increased state water GHL will enhance the viability of participating in the state water fishery for both harvesters and processors.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? The federal fishery participants could see a 1.5% reduction in quota in years where the TAC was set equal to ABC.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Adak Community Development Corporation

(HQ-F12-209)

PROPOSAL 156 – 5 AAC 28.647(d)(B). Aleutian Islands District Pacific Cod Management Plan. Clarify Aleutian Islands District state-waters Pacific cod guideline harvest level (GHL) rollover provision from A to B season as follows:

(d) During a state-waters season,

(B) a total of 30 percent of the guideline harvest level plus any unharvested amount from the state-waters A season under (1)(A) of this subsection, up to a maximum of 70 percent **of the combined A and B seasons’ guideline harvest level**, will be rolled over on June 10 and available for harvest in the state-waters B season; the guideline harvest level will be available as follows:

ISSUE: The current regulation does not adequately describe how much unharvested A-season guideline harvest level (GHL) may be rolled over into the B season. As written, it is unclear whether the maximum amount rolled over could be 70 percent of the A-season GHL or 70 percent of the combined A and B season GHLs. In 2011, department staff implemented a combined A and B season GHL rollover provision.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The regulation will continue to create confusion and potentially be misinterpreted.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Department staff and fishery participants.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Unknown.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game. (HQ-F12-233)

PROPOSAL 157 – 5 AAC 28.647(f). Aleutian Islands District Pacific Cod Management Plan. Clarify Aleutian Islands District state-waters Pacific cod fishery bycatch provisions with respect to state-federal jurisdiction as follows:

(f) The commissioner may, by emergency order, impose bycatch limitations and retention requirements based on conservation of the resource, to avoid waste of a bycatch species, to prevent over harvest of bycatch species, or to facilitate consistency of [THE REGULATIONS IN AN AREA WHERE] state and federal **regulations for a species** [JURISDICTIONS OVERLAP].

ISSUE: The regulation as currently written indicates state and federal jurisdictions overlap. State and federal jurisdictions are separate. This change would not change bycatch management in this fishery.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The department will continue to implement management measures and regulations within state waters which facilitate consistency for species managed in both federal and state jurisdictions.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Clear and concise regulations will benefit fishery participants, management agencies, and law enforcement.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Unknown.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game. (HQ-F12-234)

PROPOSAL 158 – 5 AAC 28.647. Aleutian Islands District Pacific Cod Management Plan. Amend Aleutian Islands District state-waters Pacific cod fishery management plan to address concurrent state-waters and federal Pacific cod seasons as follows:

(h) When state waters and federal Pacific cod seasons are open concurrently for the same gear type,

(1) vessels may not simultaneously participate in a state-waters season and any other concurrent Pacific cod season;

(2) vessels must deliver all unprocessed Pacific cod onboard prior to participating in a state-waters Pacific cod fishery and when exiting a state-waters fishery;

(3) prior to entering or exiting a state-waters fishery, vessels must check in and check out by notifying the department;

(4) the commissioner may, by emergency order, modify landing requirements and check in and check out requirements based on effort, harvest rate, or remaining quota.

(i) For the purposes of this section,

(1) "overall length" means the straight line length between the extremities of the vessel, excluding anchor rollers;

(2) "state waters 'A' season" means the state waters season conducted from January 1 through June 9;

(3) "state waters 'B' season" means the state waters season conducted from June 10 through December 31.

(i) The board intends that a vessel operator generally harvest less than the vessel's allowable harvest limit, possess less than the vessel's allowable possession limit, and limit the vessel's fishing activities if there is a possibility of exceeding those limits. A vessel operator of a vessel harvesting more than an allowable harvest limit or that is in possession of more than the

allowable possession limit is considered to have engaged in improper operation of gear. Nothing in this section is intended to preclude or discourage additional enforcement action under AS 16.05.722, AS 16.05.723, or any other applicable law for any violation of this section.

ISSUE: Recent changes to the *Aleutian Islands District Pacific Cod Management Plan* increase the likelihood of concurrent state and federal seasons for the same gear type. Currently, the *Aleutian Islands District Pacific Cod Management Plan* does not provide guidance on how to address concurrent state and federal Pacific cod seasons for the same gear type.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Without a mechanism in place for vessels to efficiently participate in and/or transition between state and federal seasons for Pacific cod, misreporting of catch may occur. As a result, catch accounting during the state-waters Pacific cod fishery would be less accurate. Lacking timely and accurate inseason harvest information, the department would manage the state-waters fishery more conservatively.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Unknown.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Department staff and fishery participants. Requiring vessels to check in, check out, and notify the department prior to entering or exiting the state-waters fishery will allow department staff to make timely and informed management decisions.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Requiring vessels to deliver prior to participating in, and exiting, the state-waters fishery could potentially be burdensome to fishery participants.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game. (HQ-F12-235)

PROPOSAL 159 – 5 AAC 28.647(g). Aleutian Islands District Pacific Cod Management Plan. Update Aleutian Islands District state-waters Pacific cod fishery management plan for closure areas as follows:

(g) During the state waters season **the following closures shall apply,**

(1) **The Seguam Foraging Area for Steller sea lions as specified** [ALL CLOSURE AREAS SPECIFIED IN THE PARALLEL SEASON SHALL APPLY AS SPECIFIED BY GEAR GROUP] in 50 C.F.R. **679.22(a)(8)(i), and groundfish closures within three nautical miles of Steller sea lion sites of the Aleutian Islands District west of 170° W. long. found in 50 C.F.R. 679.22(a)(8)(iii),** [679, REVISED AS OF OCTOBER 1, 2005, AS MODIFIED BY 71 FEDERAL REGISTER 36,694 - 36,714 (JULY 28, 2006); AND]

(2) **all Steller sea lion protection measures for Pacific cod found in Table 5 of 50 C.F.R. 679, as defined in 69 Federal Register 75865, December 20, 2004; and** [ALL WATERS WITHIN THREE NAUTICAL MILES OF THE STELLER SEA LION SITE ON KANAGA ISLAND/SHIP ROCK AT 51° 46.70' N. LAT., 177° 20.72' W. LONG. ARE CLOSED TO THE TAKING OF PACIFIC COD].

(3) all habitat closures specified in 5 AAC 39.167 that are located in the Aleutian Islands District west of 170° long.

ISSUE: As currently written closure references are confusing. As a result, it is unclear which closures apply during the state-waters Pacific cod season. The proposed regulation seeks to clarify the closures during a state-waters Pacific cod season and does not intend to change closures presently implemented.

The regulation indicates the closures are located in 50 C.F.R. 679, which contains all federal commercial fishing regulations in Alaska. Attempting to locate the applicable closures during a state-waters season with such a vague reference is not a reasonable expectation. Furthermore, the referenced Federal Register specifies habitat closures (already in statewide regulation 5 AAC 39.167), and does not explicitly include other closures; specifically, Steller sea lion (SSL) protection measures.

When the Aleutian Islands District state-waters Pacific cod fishery was created, the SSL closures implemented for the state-waters season were the same closures implemented during a parallel season. While not directly referenced, all closures were found within 50 C.F.R. 679.22(a)(8) *Steller sea lion protection areas, Aleutian Islands subarea*. In recent years, regulatory changes to SSL protection measures and the state-waters season has resulted in the some differing state-waters and parallel season closures.

The SSL protection measures the department implements during a state-waters season are found in Table 5 of 50 C.F.R. 679 in 69 Federal Register 75865 (December 20, 2004) and Table 12 of 50 C.F.R. 679 in 73 Federal Register 76136 (December 15, 2008). Table 5 of 50 C.F.R. refers to gear-specific closures around SSL haulouts in Alaska, and Table 12 of 50 C.F.R. 679 are SSL rookeries in Alaska closed to groundfish fishing within 3 nautical miles.

Table 12 from 2008 did not include the SSL site at Kanaga Island/Ship Rock. However, 50 C.F.R. 679.22(a)(8)(iii) does. By referencing the current C.F.R., there would no longer be a need to include a separate reference to the SSL site at Kanaga Island/Ship Rock.

Beginning January 1, 2011, National Marine Fisheries Service implemented new “Reasonable and Prudent” SSL protection measures. The new protection measures, which the State of Alaska did not adopt, changed the gear-specific closures found in Table 5. Therefore, the closures specified in Table 5 must be referenced separately in state regulation, since they no longer match those referenced in 50 C.F.R. 679.22.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? There will be continued uncertainty regarding closures during the Aleutian Islands District state-waters Pacific cod season.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Unknown.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Fishermen, fishery managers, and law enforcement will benefit from clear and consistent regulations.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Unknown.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game. (HQ-F12-236)

PROPOSAL 160 - 5 AAC 28.6XX. Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands Pacific Cod Management Plan. Establish a state-waters Pacific cod fishery in the Bering Sea portion of Area O as follows:

Regulation would mirror 5 AAC 28.577 South Peninsula Area Pacific Cod Management Plan, page 55.

ISSUE: Establish a state water fishery in Bering Sea State Waters (Area O). As Pacific Cod State Water Fisheries in GOA waters are being addressed, it is the time to look at a state water Pacific cod fishery in Bering Sea to mirror other Pacific cod state water fisheries.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? There will continue to be very little opportunity for small vessels (under 60') in waters of Bering Sea. Pressure will continue to increase in already established state water Pacific cod fisheries.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, small vessels under 60' make short trips with high quality product.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Small Alaskan vessels and Alaskan coastal communities.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Unknown.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Status quo. It provides very limited fishing opportunity for small vessels under 60' in the Bering Sea. Less than 1/2 percent of ground fish in Bering Sea is harvested by vessels under 60'.

PROPOSED BY: Matt Hegge (HQ-F12-001)

PROPOSAL 161 - 5 AAC 28.6XX. Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands Area Pacific Cod Management Plan. Establish a state-waters Pacific cod fishery in the Bering Sea portion of Area O as follows:

The state of Alaska will develop a state Pacific cod fishery in Area O. It will take a graduated percent of the BSAI TAC similar to other state Pacific cod areas until the state's share is 2-3% of the BSAI TAC. Area O will be an exclusive registration area for Pacific cod, pot and jig only, and a 58' vessel limit size.

ISSUE: The large quotas and sector splits in the federal BSAI and parallel state Area O cod fishery has created an economic niche for 58' pot vessels that are increasingly harvesting more Pacific cod in the open access and adjacent state fishery of Area M. Area O does not have a state Pacific cod fishery. The state Pacific cod fisheries were developed to benefit small vessels and local coastal communities of the area.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The local fishermen and coastal communities of Area M will continue to see a decrease in their historic share of the Area M state harvest. The federal trend in privatizing the fisheries it manages with sector splits and rationalization has already had harsh economic effects on pot only vessels fishing in the WGOA Pacific cod 2012 season.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hopefully it will benefit local fishermen and communities by reducing the harvest in Area M by vessels from Area O. Hopefully it will benefit Area O fishermen by having a state fishery limited by pot numbers and vessel size.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: King Cove Advisory Committee (HQ-F12-019)

PROPOSAL 162 - 5 AAC 28.650. Closed waters in Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands Area.
Close all waters of Unalaska Bay to groundfish fishing with pelagic trawl gear as follows:

5 AAC 28.650. Closed waters in Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands Area (a) All waters of Alaska surrounding St. Matthew, Hall, and Pinnacle Islands are closed to commercial groundfish fishing.

(b) The waters of Unalaska Bay are closed to groundfish fishing with pelagic trawl gear, ~~as follows:~~ **south of a line from Cape Kalekta at 54° 00.50' N. lat., 166° 22.50' W. long. to Cape Cheerful at 54° 01' N. lat., 166° 40' W. long.**

[(1) FROM JUNE 10 THROUGH JULY 31, SOUTH OF A LINE FROM CAPE KALEKTA AT 54° 00.50' N. LAT., 166° 22.50' W. LONG. TO CAPE CHEERFUL AT 54° 01' N. LAT., 166° 40' W. LONG.];

[(2) BEGINNING AUGUST 1 UNTIL THE CLOSURE OF THE PARALLEL BERING SEA WALLEYE POLLOCK 'B' SEASON, SOUTH OF A LINE FROM CAPE KALEKTA AT 54° 00.50' N. LAT., 166° 22.50' W. LONG. TO A POINT NEAR HOG ISLAND AT 53° 55.42' N. LAT., 166° 34.25' W. LONG. TO A POINT IN BROAD BAY AT 53° 55.42' N. LAT., 166° 38.80' W. LONG.; FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS PARAGRAPH, "PARALLEL BERING

SEA WALLEYE POLLOCK 'B' SEASON" MEANS THE PARALLEL SEASON CONDUCTED FROM JUNE 10 THROUGH NOVEMBER 1].

ISSUE: Since 2002, large-scale trawling in Unalaska Bay has unacceptably impacted an area traditionally used by subsistence, sport, and non-trawl commercial fishers and hunters. Reacting to rising fuel costs and a lack of pollock where they historically fish, conditions not likely to change in the near future, trawlers have harvested an average of 4.2 million pounds of pollock from Unalaska Bay each of the last ten years. The State of Alaska opens these waters to trawling from Aug. 1 to Nov. 1 as a parallel fishery to the eastern Bering Sea catcher vessel pollock fishery that is managed by the National Marine Fishery Service. There is no cap on what percentage of the B season catcher vessel trawl quota can come out of Unalaska Bay. Just under 12 million pounds of pollock were harvested inside the bay in 2004. No research has been done to understand the local pollock biomass. It is not known how many pollock typically inhabit these waters, or what level of harvest, if any, the ecosystem can sustain. The huge trawl nets that are used to prosecute the fishery are putting excessive pressure on a sensitive area already fully utilized by local fishers and hunters. Based on observations made by local people it appears fish and game are being scattered and/or driven out of the bay, coincidentally as this trawl season is occurring. It has become difficult for local subsistence fishermen and hunters to feed their families and small commercial vessels are increasingly required to leave the safety of Unalaska Bay in order to be successful. The subsistence salmon fishery in Unalaska Bay has been poor in the last few years. Commercial herring and halibut catches have been poor in recent years and the local commercial tanner crab fishery has remained closed since 2010. Most of the trawling occurs when other user groups are using the bay to harvest salmon and halibut. Fishermen are often unable to fish their traditional spots because doing so would result in almost certain gear loss/conflicts. Getting in the path of trawlers and tangled with a trawl is possible in the fall months that are typically foggy. Trawlers are large vessels that are built to handle the stormy weather of the Bering Sea. They did not historically fish in Unalaska Bay and restricting them from these waters would alleviate many problems.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Trawlers will continue to displace the traditional users of Unalaska Bay and negatively impacting the marine resources upon which they rely, moving smaller boats out into the Bering Sea potentially endangering lives. Habitat destruction will occur where trawl gear touches the bottom.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? This proposal will allow fish and game to recover and return to areas closer to our community thereby enabling local small boat fleet to harvest and process their catch timely increasing quality. More community members will be able to participate in harvesting and producing more and better products.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Those who subsistence fish and hunt, sportsmen, and non-trawl commercial fishing in Unalaska Bay. Wildlife will benefit with less vessel and gear traffic.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? A few commercial trawl vessels that fish pollock inside of Unalaska Bay, but the Bering Sea just outside the bay offers a lot of area for these larger vessels equipped to go there.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? We considered limiting all commercial fishing vessels under 35 feet and 60 feet lengths, but so few of these type vessels fish in the bay and their impact is not nearly that of the trawl vessels.

PROPOSED BY: Unalaska Native Fishermen’s Association (HQ-F12-090)

PROPOSAL 163 - 5 AAC 28.640. Aleutian Islands District and Western District of the South Alaska Peninsula Area Sablefish Management Plan. Modify state-waters sablefish season to coincide with federal sablefish season as follows:

Black cod season in State water will begin and end on the same dates as the federal season, unless the quota gets caught.

ISSUE: The State water Black cod season currently opens May 15. We would like to see the opening date returned to run concurrently with the Federal season. The way it was originally.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? We’ll continue to have to wait two months after the IFQ season opens to fish in State water for Black cod.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The people who live and fish out of Dutch Harbor and Akutan as well as others who come out early to begin their fishing.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? N/A.

PROPOSED BY: Unalaska Native Fisherman Association (HQ-F12-205)

PROPOSAL 164 – 5 AAC 28.560. Fishing seasons for South Alaska Peninsula Area; and 5 AAC 28.610. Fishing seasons for Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands Area. Specify regulatory fishing seasons for black rockfish as follows:

5 AAC 28.560. Fishing Seasons for South Alaska Peninsula Area.

(d) In the Eastern District, black rockfish may be taken from January 1 through December 31, unless closed by emergency order.

(e) In the Western District, black rockfish may be taken from January 1 through December 31, unless closed by emergency order.

5 AAC 28.610. Fishing Seasons for Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands Area.

(d) In the Aleutian Islands District, black rockfish may be taken from January 1 through December 31, unless closed by emergency order.

ISSUE: Open season dates for black rockfish in the South Alaska Peninsula Area and the Aleutian Islands District are not specified in regulation. In practice, black rockfish may be taken from January 1 to December 31, unless the season is closed by emergency order when guideline harvest levels are achieved.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Uncertainty regarding open season dates for black rockfish in the South Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The public and agencies will benefit from clear and consistent regulatory language.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Unknown.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game. (HQ-F12-237)

PROPOSAL 165 - 5 AAC 28.577. South Alaska Peninsula Area Pacific Cod Management Plan. Increase state-waters Pacific cod guideline harvest level (GHL) to 50 percent of the Western Gulf of Alaska acceptable biological catch (ABC) as follows:

The guideline harvest level for Pacific cod in the South Alaska Peninsula Area M is 50% of the federal WGOA TAC.

ISSUE: 2012 sector splits in the Western Gulf of Alaska parallel cod season have reduced the opportunity for pot only vessels to harvest cod. Pot only boats have previously participated in the federal parallel season until the entire TAC was caught. In the two years prior to sector splits pots harvested over 50% of the WGOA TAC and 50% of those were harvested in state waters. Sideboard crabbers were taking 15% of the pot harvest in recent years and in 2012 their limit was 21% of the 38% pot sector.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Pot only vessels will continue to see the pot sector harvest of cod end early and watch as other vessels move on to other sectors, other rationalized areas, and other CDQs. The economic impacts the pot only vessels experienced under the sector splits will continue. The local communities will continue to have high levels of animosity between local user groups.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Pot only vessels will have a higher percent of access to the WGOA TAC.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Trawlers and hook and line vessels will have a lower percent of WGOA TAC. Most of the trawlers can and do participate in the existing state fishery. The sideboard crabbers will have lower limits during the federal season.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: King Cove Advisory Committee (HQ-F12-018)

PROPOSAL 166 - 5 AAC 28.577. South Alaska Peninsula Area Pacific Cod Management Plan. Increase state-waters Pacific cod guideline harvest level (GHL) to 50 percent of the Western Gulf of Alaska acceptable biological catch (ABC) as follows:

The guideline harvest level for Pacific cod in the South Alaska Peninsula Area is 50 percent of the estimated total allowable harvest of the Pacific cod for the federal Western Gulf of Alaska Area.

ISSUE: Increase state water Pacific cod quota by 25%.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? With increased fishing effort from the fleet and higher expenses to fishermen, a lot of fisher families will be forced out of business.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. A slower rate of harvest is anticipated, with less bycatch of prohibited species.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All participants in the fishery and communities will benefit.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? No action will result in less opportunity for local fishermen.

PROPOSED BY: Raymond E. Nutt (HQ-F12-070)

PROPOSAL 167 - 5 AAC 28.577. South Alaska Peninsula Area Pacific Cod Management Plan. Increase state-waters Pacific cod guideline harvest level (GHL) to 50 percent of the Western Gulf of Alaska acceptable biological catch (ABC) as follows:

The guideline harvest level for Pacific cod in the South Alaska Peninsula Area is 50 percent of the estimated total allowable harvest of the Pacific cod for the federal Western Gulf of Alaska Area.

ISSUE: Increase state water Pacific cod quota by 25%

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? With increased fishing effort from the fleet and higher expenses to fishermen, a lot of fisher families will be forced out of business.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. A slower rate of harvest is anticipated, with less bycatch of prohibited species.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All participants in the fishery, and communities will benefit.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? No action will result in less opportunity for local fishermen.

PROPOSED BY: Charles Jackson, Jack D. Berntsen, William Dushkin Sr., Wilber McGlachan, Jack Foster Jr., George P. Gundersen, Paul Gundersen III, Anthony Gundersen, Amber Karlsen, Paul K. Gundersen, David D. Osterback, George D. Karlsen (HQ-F12-111)

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PROPOSAL 168 - 5 AAC 28.577(e). South Alaska Peninsula Area Pacific Cod Management Plan. Increase state-waters Pacific cod guideline harvest level (GHL) to 55 percent of the Western Gulf of Alaska acceptable biological catch (ABC) as follows:

The guideline harvest level for state water Pacific cod in the South Alaska Peninsula Area is 55 percent of Western Gulf of Alaska (WGOA) Area total allowable catch (TAC).

ISSUE: The 25 percent allocation from the WGOA TAC to the state water Pacific cod fishery is not sufficient.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Communities and individuals will continue to suffer financial losses as in the 2012 federal Pacific cod “A” season.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All pot and jig vessels.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Federal fishery only vessels.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: False Pass Fish & Game Advisory Committee (SC-F12-002)

PROPOSAL 169 - 5 AAC 39.164. Non-pelagic trawl gear restrictions. Close state waters surrounding Caton and Sanak Islands to nonpelagic trawl gear as follows:

All state waters around Caton Island and Sanak Island are closed to hard on bottom trawl gear.

ISSUE: Close all state waters around Caton Island and Sanak Island to hard on bottom trawl gear.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The bycatch of Tanner crab in the area will hamper and stop the rebuilding of these stocks.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. This will help the Tanner crab stocks to rebuild faster.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Everyone who fishes for Tanner crab in the area.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? There are very few vessels that trawl in this area.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? No other solutions.

PROPOSED BY: Association of Western Gulf Pot Sector Fishermen Inc., Kenneth Mack Sr. (HQ-F12-171)

PROPOSAL 170 - 5 AAC 28.571. Groundfish pot storage requirements for South Alaska Peninsula. Modify preseason pot storage regulation for state-waters Pacific cod fishery as follows:

(c) During the seven days before the opening of the state-waters season for Pacific cod in the South Alaska Peninsula Area, rectangular groundfish posts with all bait and bait containers removed and with all doors secured fully open, and cone or pyramid groundfish pots with all bait and bait containers removed and all doors not secured closed may be stored in waters more than 25 fathoms deep; however, pots may be stored longer than seven days if the season opening is delayed due to weather as described in 5 AAC 28.577(1).

ISSUE: Prior to 2012, fishermen could store open and unbaited cod pots on the fishing grounds (deeper than 25 fathoms) for seven days before the start of the state-waters cod season. When state-waters regulations were changed to coordinate with federal cod sector splits in 2011, the

regulation that allowed boats to store gear on the fishing grounds before start of the state-waters season was eliminated.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Smaller sized boats are at a disadvantage because it takes them longer to get all their gear to the fishing grounds once the season starts resulting in lost fishing time. During years when the weather is bad at the start of the season it is unsafe for all boats to be moving deck loads of gear out to the fishing grounds.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No, but it improves safety and efficiency for pot boats that fish in the South Alaska Peninsula state-waters cod fishery.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? South Alaska Peninsula state-waters Pacific cod pot fishermen.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None. Fishermen have historically been able to store gear on the fishing grounds for seven days before the start of the season.

PROPOSED BY: Corey Wilson (HQ-F12-044)

PROPOSAL 171 - 5 AAC 28.550. Description of South Alaska Peninsula Area. Modify boundary description of the South Alaska Peninsula Groundfish Area as follows:

State water Western Gulf Pacific cod fishery area boundaries should parallel the South Alaska Peninsula Salmon Management Area. The Western Gulf of Alaska State water Pacific cod fishery area will be from Kupreanof Point to Scotch Cap. Area west of Scotch Cap will be identified as Aleutian Island District, and will be managed as part of the Bering Sea Pacific cod quota.

ISSUE: Boundary lines of the Western Gulf of Alaska Pacific cod fishery need to be adjusted. Fish caught in the area west of Scotch cap negatively affects the local fleet and communities economic base; fish caught in the area west of Scotch Cap reduces the Western Gulf quota but is generally not caught by local fleet or processed in local communities.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Local fishing fleet and communities will suffer.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. Fish harvested in the area from Kupreanof Point to Scotch Cap are near to local processors, and quality is maintained.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Local fishermen and communities will benefit from improved economic conditions.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? NONE.

PROPOSED BY: Raymond E. Nutt (HQ-F12-069)

PROPOSAL 172 - 5 AAC 28.550. Description of South Alaska Peninsula Area. Modify boundary description of the South Alaska Peninsula Groundfish Area as follows:

State water Western Gulf Pacific cod fishery area boundaries should parallel the South Alaska Peninsula Salmon Management Area. The Western Gulf of Alaska State water Pacific cod fishery area will be from Kupreanof Point to Scotch Cap. Area west of Scotch Cap will be identified as Aleutian Island District, and will be managed as part of the Bering Sea Pacific cod quota.

ISSUE: Boundary lines of the Western Gulf of Alaska Pacific cod fishery need to be adjusted. Fish caught in the area west of Scotch cap negatively affects the local fleet and communities economic base; fish caught in the area west of Scotch Cap reduces the Western Gulf quota but is generally not caught by local fleet or processed in local communities.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Local fishing fleet and communities will suffer.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. Fish harvested in the area from Kupreanof Point to Scotch Cap are near to local processors, and quality is maintained.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Local fishermen and communities will benefit from improved economic conditions.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? NONE

PROPOSED BY: Charles Jackson, Jack D. Berntsen, William Dushkin Sr., Wilber McGlachan, Jack Foster Jr., George D. Karlsen, Paul Gunderson III, Anthony Gundersen, Amber Karlsen, Paul K. Gundersen (HQ-F12-110)

PROPOSAL 173 - 5 AAC 09.360. Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan. Allow for concurrent fishing times between Chignik and Southeastern District Mainland (SEDM) and increase SEDM allocation to 20% as follows:

We would like to see the elimination of "the harvest of 300,000 by Chignik fishermen" and instead be allowed to fish concurrently with Chignik fishermen, if we are to be managed under their fishery. Also, we would like the allocation to be increased from 7.6% to 20%, if we are treating 20% of the fish as local.

ISSUE: The Southeastern District Mainland (SEDM) Salmon Management plan is based on the assumption that 20% of the fish caught in the SEDM are local stocks, while the other 80% are Chignik bound. Yet we are only allowed 7.6% of what Chignik harvests, notwithstanding they reach minimum harvest levels of 300,000 fish before we can begin harvesting our local stocks. We think the 7.6% is rather meager allowance for a historical fishery dating before statehood. We are managed on the Chignik fishery, yet we are not Chignik fishermen.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Fishers will not be able to harvest local stocks which are indisputably present.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Area M fishermen.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? In 2011, Chignik fishers saw record returns resulting in the SEDM being opened for an extended period, of which Area M fishers could barely reach the 7.6% allocation, strongly indicating that SEDM fishers were not catching salmon returning to Area L.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Total abolition of the SEDM management plan. Further research will give insight into the validity of the SEDM management plan as a whole.

PROPOSED BY: Patrick Brown (HQ-F12-198)

PROPOSAL 174 - 5 AAC 09.360. Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan. Modify the Southeastern District Mainland (SEDM) management plan to establish weekly fishing periods from June 10 thru July 10 to gillnet gear, and from July 11 thru July 25, establish 48-hour periods followed by 48-hour closures to both setnet and seine gear as follows:

From June 10 thru July 10 the SEDM Fishery will be open 5 days followed by 2 day closures for the set gillnet fleet. From July 11-July 25 the SEDM Fishery will be open for set gillnet and seine gear for 48 hour followed by 48 hour closures.

ISSUE: SE District mainland fishing opportunities.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Area M fishermen will continue to lose fishing time & opportunity.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Area M set gillnetters, seiners, processors & communities.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Dwain A. Foster Sr. & John A. Foster (HQ-F12-207)

PROPOSAL 175 - 5 AAC 09.360. Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan. Modify the Southeastern District Mainland (SEDM) management plan to establish fishing periods for set gillnet gear from June 6 through July 25 as follows:

Reestablish the SEDM setnet fishery to be 88 hours fishing and 32 hours off continuously starting June 6th at 6:00 am until June 9th at 10:00 p.m. for 88 hours open and 32 hours closed then opened again June 11th for 88 hours and closed 32 hours continuously until July 25th managed under its own system, for the setnetters, which shall more closely mirror the Shumagin Island June fishery, allowing the setnetters to again realize and obtain the fishery they bought into because recent 2011 Chignik record runs didn't appear to cycle through the SEDM.

ISSUE: Establish a schedule in SEDM area, which would open of June 6th through July 25th with 88 hour fishing periods for the setnet fleet. Form a new plan for the SEDM similar to the historic and traditional one, which was in place when the permit system was implemented. Open the salmon season on June 6th at 6:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. June 9th for 88 hours open and 32 hours closed then opened again on June 11th for 88 hours and closed 32 hours continuously until July 25th.

While Chignik fishermen realized historic returns in 2011 despite continuous fishing in the SEDM by the setnet fleet only we realized moderate returns with no obvious effect on Chignik. Due to political pressures from outside the area the setnet fleet has been squeezed off the mainland onto less productive sites on the islands overcrowding and reducing catches to a point where viability is uncertain at best. The need to take in to consideration the fact that many setnetters pay the State of Alaska for the right to fish on the shore leased sites. Permit value has dropped 30% since throwing out Arnie Shauls management plan. We need out area manager having the best interests of this area maximizing returns and production who remains in the area during the entire season.

This board should address the science or lack thereof in their deliberation rather than the political pressures by outside influences. The Board needs to address the blatant catch 22 that was devised by past boards which forces the fishermen who take the time and effort to submit a

proposal to the board into joint meetings with other areas and compromises their proposal by dealing down in order to come to the consensus, in essence getting other stakeholders equal time on our proposals.

Because of the recent bonanza catch at Chignik during 2011 and the less than impressive SEDM catches you now have some new information that should be calculated into SEDM management plan and considering that this proposal only asks for what has been in place before in this area, fishing time this area originally had, it should not be too hard to simplify the plan into its own, minus the political distractions. This would be very similar to the reinstatement of the June Shumagin Island fishery.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The local setnetters will continue to be denied access to historical fishery areas, which is affecting the viability of setnetting in the region and continues to overcrowd in the islands. The value of the permits will continue to drop along with the viability of the setnet fishery as the islands have a few good producing sites to be shared by too many.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? It will increase the quality of the fish, stabilizing the fishery so the fish processors can logistically plan when tenders will be needed in the area. Under the current plan unless Chignik attains a large return, fishermen never know anymore if we will even fish on the mainland until the area is under the local management plan late in July.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The SEDM setnetter will again benefit from the traditional and historic fishery we invested in and realize some return for the money we pay the state to lease these setnet sites in order to fish there.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one. After the 2011 season which the Chignik area realized massive returns, the SEDM didn't see any spectacular fish runs in the area proving beyond a doubt the management plan for SEDM is seriously compromised and needs an overhaul in order for the once profitable historic fishery to be returned to the setnet fishermen.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? I considered asking the board to put an L on my permit card right alongside the M, if you are going to manage me under the area L regulations then maybe you should let me fish over in area L. I rejected the idea because I wanted the board to give my proposal more than cursory examination and to take serious the fact that the SEDM setnetters have had undo hardships put upon them, from previous boards and have in effect been squeezed out of a historic and traditional fishery, which has resulted in the de valuation of the permits and sites that have been fished for over 60 years.

PROPOSED BY: Jack Foster Jr. & Amy M. Foster (HQ-F12-076)

PROPOSAL 176 - 5 AAC 09.366. Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula. Open and close the Northwest Stepovak Section, including Orzinski Bay, by emergency order (EO), between July 1 and July 25 as follows:

Between July 1 through July 25, Northwest Stepovak (including Orzinski Bay) will be regulated by emergency order. ADF&G will be allowed to exercise the option of opening all waters within Northwest Stepovak if weekly escapement levels are met or are exceeded within Orzinski Lake. ADF&G will be allowed to use discretion with unrestrictive fishing within NW Stepovak as long as weekly escapement levels are satisfied. (Abolish the 48 hour maximum restrictive limits (about 16 Set Netters) who fish outside Orzinski Bay but still fish within NW Stepovak. Manage Orzinski Bay and NW Stepovak under the same guidelines.)

ISSUE: NW Stepovak July Management Plan. From July 1 until July 26 ADF&G can only exclusively keep Orzinski Bay open if daily escapement levels are met. If escapement exceed weekly goals, ADF&G opens the river to the mouth which exclusively favors only 1 or 2 setnetters and a couple of beach seiners. The rest NW Stepovak is regulated with no more than 48 hours of continual fishing and the ADF&G can't or won't open the rest of NW Stepovak until at least 48 hours later.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Harvest imbalances will continue for about 15 setnetters who have sites outside of Orzinski Bay, but still within Northwest Stepovak. ADF&G will be forced to over-regulate the harvest, relying on three or four boats of managing escapement levels. While the rest of the fleet is unable to fish their sites. (What if the Chignik Fleet were restricted to harvest Salmon for no more than 48 hours outside of the Lagoon if escapement levels are met, and had to wait for 48 hours before they could fish again outside of the Lagoon? I would call that over-regulation.)

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Salmon quality will continue to be very good under this proposed plan.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Setnetters who fish within NW Stepovak from July 1 through July 26, that have been under 48 hour restriction.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Nobody suffers, ADF&G assured the Fleet they can manage Fisheries, under set Board guidelines.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Open my one site (Clarke Bay) closest to Orzinski Bay and manage it under Orzinski rules. I showed three Chignik seiners how my net is angled for fish going into Orzinski, they O.K.'d that idea. That's a selfish solution, not helping the other 15 or so NW Stepovak setnetters.

PROPOSED BY: David M. Adams (HQ-F12-192)

PROPOSAL 177 - 5 AAC 09.3XX. Southeastern District Post-July Salmon Management Plan. Create a *Southeastern District Post-July Salmon Management Plan* in regulation as follows:

Under a new plan which could be called "Southeastern District Post-July Salmon Management Plan", setnetters would be allowed to fish Monday through Friday, from 9 am Monday morning until 9 pm Friday evening.

ISSUE: Establishment of a setnet schedule post-July in the Southeastern District.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Setnet fishermen are not allowed sufficient time to fish in August, September, and October. Department presence becomes limited at this time and openings are often limited by lack of Department involvement in the area. The establishment of a post-July schedule for setnet fishers would guarantee that sufficient time is available for harvest in historical fishing sites where fishing has been all but eliminated. Setnet fishing is characterized during this time by lack of effort, inclement weather, and much smaller catches than seining.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, because under the current plan, fishing not generally allowed until a full escapement is reached, which means that when fishing is allowed, most fish stocks are terminal and quality of fish is degrading.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Setnet fishermen. Catches can be used to indicate presence of local stocks, allowing the Department to make openers for seiners if possible.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Seiners will still be able to harvest under the current management plan according to Department discretion.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Increasing Department presence at this time of the year in order to gain insight into the local fishery would be a good idea. As it stands, openings are extremely limited by lack of Department involvement.

PROPOSED BY: Patrick Brown (HQ-F12-174)

PROPOSAL 178 - 5 AAC 09.360. Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan. Modify the Southeastern District Mainland (SEDM) management plan to open weekly fishing periods in the Southeastern District to set gillnet gear in September and October as follows:

In the months of September and October the SEDM will be open Monday thru Friday with weekend closures.

ISSUE: Lack of fishing time in the SEDM September and October fisheries.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Set gillnetters will continue to lose fishing opportunities.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Area M set gillnetters, processors & communities.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Dwain A. Foster Sr. & John A. Foster (HQ-F12-208)

PROPOSAL 179 - 5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan. Reinstate the chum salmon cap and limit fishing time in the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands salmon fisheries as follows:

(d.) Beginning June 7, the commissioner may open, by emergency order, commercial fishing periods for purse seine, drift gillnet, and set gillnet gear in the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands fisheries as follows:

(1) Commercial fishing periods will begin at 6:00 am and run 70 hours until 10:00 pm three days later, commercial fishing will be closed for 74 hours and reopen 6:00 am three days later.

(1a.) At no time during the June fishery shall the sockeye catch exceed 8.3% of the Bristol Bay pre-season sockeye forecast and/or 400,000 total chums.

(2) Notwithstanding (1) of this subsection, the final commercial fishing period will end at 10:00 pm on June 29th.

ISSUE: The South Unimak and Shumagin June Salmon Management Plan currently operates without biological constraints or best science practices. The South Unimak and Shumagin June Salmon Management Plan is not consistent with State of Alaska Policy for Management of Sustainable Salmon Fisheries (5ACC 39.222) and Policy for the Management of Mixed Stock Salmon Fisheries (5 ACC 39.220).

There is no management tools in-place in the plan to protect “stocks of concern” for Western Alaska sockeye, Chinook, coho or chum salmon stocks.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Stocks of origin will continue to be exposed to potential over exploited in the South Unimak and Shumagin June mixed stock salmon fishery. Current “stocks of concern” are most of the North Peninsula sockeye rivers, Ugashik Chinook and coho, Egegik Chinook and coho, Naknek/Kvichak Chinook and coho, Nushagak

Chinook, pink and coho, Togiak Chinook and coho, Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Chinook and coho.

Minimum escapement levels for the sustainability of these above mentioned stocks are not being met on a consistent year-to-year basis.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? 4,000 commercial fishermen and all local subsistence users of Chinook and coho that reside in Western Alaska.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Approximately 200 predominately Seattle based fishermen.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Lower Bristol Bay Advisory Committee (HQ-F12-117)

PROPOSAL 180 - 5 AAC 09.365(x). South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan. Incorporate a chum salmon catch cap of 350,000 salmon in the South Alaska Peninsula Area (Area M) salmon fisheries as follows:

There is a chum cap of 350,000 in the Area M, June fishery to allow for escapement of chum bound for AYK.

ISSUE: I would like the Board of Fisheries to reinstate a chum cap at Area M/AK Peninsula to 350,000 chum cap.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Norton Sound Area will continue to have reduced subsistence fishing opportunity and there are three rivers here in Norton Sound that have –stocks of concern for chum” which not be resolved unless more chum are allowed to escape in the June Area M Fishery.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, all users would benefit by having the chum resource spawn in increased numbers. Subsistence fishers would catch more fish and maybe have a commercial fishery for chum.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The State of Alaska because there would be an increased number of chum reaching the spawning areas in AYK.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one since all users of the same resource will be sharing the burden of conservation of chum.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Maybe a higher chum cap of 400,000 to 450,000.

PROPOSAL 181 - 5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak & Shumagin Island June Management Plan. Modify the *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan* to base management on the Bristol Bay forecast, reduce time and area, and implement a harvest cap of 400,000 chum salmon as follows:

The solution may be a suite of regulations to include but not limited to: 1. Reduce the length of openings in June to 70 hours beginning 6:00 AM to 10:00 PM three days later then closed 74 hours; 2. Restore the 8.3% allocation of the forecasted Bristol Bay red salmon catch to the South Unimak, Shumagin Island June Fishery; 3. Restore the S. Unimak June fishery to pre 2004 boundaries; 4. Restore a total cap of 400,000 chum salmon caught in this fishery; 5. Reduce the depth of drift gillnets to 70 meshes; 5. Use newest WASSIP genetic data to adjust regulations while stocks of concern or known weak stocks are transiting this fishery.

ISSUE: The South Unimak & Shumagin Island June Salmon Management Plan does not clearly state the tools to be used and in what manner to protect “stocks of concern” and does not appear to comply with 5 AAC 39.220 Management of Mixed Stock Salmon Fisheries or with 5 AAC 39.222 SOA Policy for Management. of Sustainable Salmon Fisheries. No tools or methods, beyond the regular fishing schedule, are stated in this plan to afford protection to Western Alaskan stocks of concern including Kvichak sockeye, some Norton Sound Chinook, Yukon Chinook. Excessive interceptions may be occurring on Western Alaska chum stocks, Nushagak, Egegik and Ugashik Chinook stocks, Nushagak coho stocks that are recently showing poor returns and which have required extensive fishery restrictions at terminal harvest areas.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Stocks of concern named above as well as poor returns of Chinook, coho, & chum salmon in some areas of Western Alaska and Bristol Bay may be exposed to excessive intercept harvest in the June mixed stock fisheries of South Unimak and Shumagin Island. Additional restrictions may be imposed on terminal fisheries resulting in an uneven burden of conservation, disruption of associated terminal fisheries on healthy stocks, & insufficient escapements.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? This is designed to benefit the spawning escapements of stocks of concern in Western Alaska and Bristol Bay. It will benefit terminal subsistence, commercial and sport fisheries in these areas by spreading the burden of conservation more widely among all commercial harvesters. All commercial fishers of all areas will benefit from having a plan that clearly lays out the conservation measures to take for the recovery of stocks of concern and/or expected weak returns of Western Alaska/Bristol Bay salmon stocks.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Fishers in the June South Unimak and Shumagin Island mixed stock intercept fishery may share more of the burden of conservation by reduced fishing time or areas when returns are low or stocks of concern need protection in Western Alaska.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? We recognized that no single regulation adjustment is likely to effectively protect stocks of concern while allowing some fishing in the June intercept fishery.

PROPOSED BY: Nushagak Advisory Committee (HQ-F12-132)

PROPOSAL 182 - 5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan; 5 AAC 09.369. Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.

Modify the *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands Management Plan* and the *Northern District Salmon Management Plan* to include a cap of allowable sockeye salmon harvest based on the Bristol Bay forecast and create terminal harvest areas around the mouth of each river system in the Northern District as follows:

The combined sockeye salmon catch in the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fishery and the Northern Peninsula District salmon fishery before July 15th is not to exceed 8.3 percent of the total predicted Bristol Bay harvest. Create terminal areas around the mouth of each North Peninsula river to manage escapement.

ISSUE: Limit the intercept of Bristol Bay Sockeye Salmon and the expansion of the Northern Peninsula District mixed stock intercept fishery by reinstating the 8.3 percent allocation of Bristol Bay sockeye guideline in the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan and the Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Over harvesting of Bristol Bay Sockeye Salmon Stocks resulting in escapement goals not being met.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Bristol Bay specific stocks that may be over harvested.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Kurt Johnson (HQ-F12-143)

PROPOSAL 183 - 5 AAC 09.310. Fishing seasons. Change the season opening date from June 1 to June 15 in the Northwestern, Unimak, Southwestern, Southcentral, and Southeastern Districts as follows:

(b) In the Northwestern District, salmon may be taken only from June 15 [1] through September 30, except that in the Dublin Bay Section, salmon may be taken only from July 10 through September 30.

(c) In the Unimak District, salmon may be taken only from June 15 [1] through October 31.

(d) In the Southwestern District, salmon may be taken only from June 15 [1] through October 31.

(e) In the South Central District, salmon may be taken only from June 15 [1] through October 31.

(f) In the Southeastern District, salmon may be taken only from June 15 [1] through October 31.

ISSUE: Start date of Area M June commercial fishing. The Delay in the start date until June 15 will reduce incidental take of chum salmon destined for the AYK. This proposal will reduce incidental take of chum salmon.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Intercept of Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim chum salmon will continue in Area M June fishery which will make reaching A-Y-K escapement goals difficult and further burden commercial, subsistence and sport users.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The chum salmon stocks in the AYK will benefit, as well as the residents in the AYK that target chum for commercial, sport and subsistence uses.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one. Area M fishermen will continue to take the targeted take of sockeye at a later date.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Southern Norton Sound Advisory Committee (HQ-F12-153)

PROPOSAL 184 – 5 AAC 09.366(g)(1) and (2). Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula. Amend the *Post June Salmon Management Plan* for the South Peninsula and clarify regulation language conflicting with the regulatory language within the *Southeastern District Mainland (SEDM) Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 09.360(1)) as follows:

(1) **repealed** [THE NORTHWEST STEPOVAK SECTION OF THE SOUTHEASTERN DISTRICT MAINLAND (NEAR SUZY CREEK), AFTER JULY 25, THE WATERS EAST OF 160° 19.00' W. LONG. (IN DORENOI BAY), WEST OF THE CAPE SEPARATING CHICHAGOF BAY AND WEST COVE (160° 14.57' W. LONG.) AND NORTH OF 55° 37.33' N. LAT.; FISHING PERIODS SHALL BE ESTABLISHED BASED ON THE ABUNDANCE OF LOCAL PINK SALMON STOCKS];

(2) **repealed** [THE STEPOVAK FLATS SECTION OF THE SOUTHEASTERN DISTRICT MAINLAND, FROM JULY 26 THROUGH JULY 28; FISHING PERIODS SHALL BE ESTABLISHED BASED ON THE ABUNDANCE OF LOCAL CHUM SALMON STOCKS];

ISSUE: In 2007, the board extended the *Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan* from July 26 through September 30 and again in 2010 from July 26 through October 31 (5 AAC 09.360(l)). Prior to the 2007 board meeting, the Northwest Stepovak Section of the Southeastern District Mainland (near Suzy Creek) and the Stepovak Flats Section of the Southeastern District Mainland were managed under the *Post-June Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 09.366(g)(1) and (2)). Modifying the *Post-June Salmon Management Plan* will clarify conflicting management plans so that the Northwest Stepovak Section of the Southeastern District Mainland (near Suzy Creek) and the Stepovak Flats Section of the Southeastern District Mainland are appropriately managed under the *Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan* instead of under the *Post-June Salmon Management Plan*.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Management plans will continue to conflict.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Unknown.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Unknown.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game. (HQ-F12-231)

PROPOSAL 185 - 5 AAC 09.366. Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula. Provide the department more flexibility when conducting the Shumagin Islands Section test fisheries as follows:

5 AAC 09.366(i) the department **may** [SHALL] conduct a seine test fishery in the Shumagin Islands Section to assess the presence of immature salmon. If 100 or more immature salmon, per set, are present, the commissioner **may** [SHALL] close, by emergency order, the seine fishery in an area to be determined by the department. If the seine fishery is closed in an area under this subsection, the set gillnet fishery shall remain open in that area. **The commissioner may allow for additional fishing time to offset any closures due to immature salmon.**

ISSUE: Closures of the Shumagin Island seine fishery due to small amounts of immature salmon in test fisheries tend to exclude seiners even during times of salmon abundance. By regulation, if 100 small fish are observed to be gilled during a set no matter the catch size, the seine fishery automatically closes. Lost fishing time cannot be recovered but could be avoided with a more refined regulation.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Fishing time could be lost to Shumagin Island section seine fishermen during peak harvest periods.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. This proposal allows the commissioner and department the ability to exercise common sense in seasons of abundance when a relatively small amount of small salmon are observed, and threaten to close down a highly productive harvest of targeted fully grown salmon.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The Shumagin Island section seiners, the local processors and community will benefit from an ability to reasonable prosecute the fishery.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one is likely to suffer.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? The status quo is unacceptable. During peak salmon fishing times, a few immature salmon could close the fishery.

PROPOSED BY: Melvin Larsen (HQ-F12-071)

PROPOSAL 186 - 5 AAC 09.366(g)(1). Post-June Salmon Management Plan for South Alaska Peninsula. Allow a pink salmon fishery within waters of Ramsey Bay in the Stepovak Flats Section as follows:

The new regulation would say, ~~a~~ line extending from a point at 55 48.200 N Lat., 159 50.839 W long., to a point at ~~Louies Corner~~ 55 51.034 N lat., 159 47.050 W long., would be used to allow for the harvest of pink salmon in Ramsey Bay at any point north and west of this line.

ISSUE: Presently the entire ~~Stepovak Flats~~ is managed by the local biologist with only one strategy in mind and that is to secure chum salmon escapement. In reality what the ~~Stepovak Flats~~ section encompasses are both pink salmon streams and chum salmon streams. The majority of the chum runs go into salmon streams numbered as streams ~~04~~, ~~05~~ and ~~06~~. These three streams are along the six mile beach that starts in the west, at what is charted as ~~Louies Corner~~ and runs for six miles to the east. To the west of ~~Louies Corner~~ is the bay charted as ~~Ramsey Bay~~ which includes three streams numbered as ~~01~~, ~~02~~ and ~~03~~. During the last seven years large numbers of pink salmon, more than the amount needed for escapement, have gone unharvested due to the fact that there was no boundary established that would allow local biologists to separate the management of the ~~Stepovak Flats~~ section for the purpose of harvesting the available pink salmon and still protect the chum salmon going into streams ~~04~~, ~~05~~ and ~~06~~.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? If this problem is not solved the ~~Stepovak Flats~~ section will not be managed in such a way as to allow for the harvest of pink salmon when the opportunity presents itself. The biologists are not given the tool they need, which is a boundary line that allows for a directed harvest of available pink salmon while

preventing a direct harvest on chum salmon. Fishermen and others depending on their production will not benefit from a pink salmon harvest from —Ramsay Bay” salmon streams.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, since the Ramsey Bay pink salmon run is not harvested to its potential due to the need to protect —Stepovak Flat” chum salmon runs may of the pink salmon have turned black and are not saleable to processors by the time the chum salmon escapement needs have been realized. If and when an opening is allowed the pink salmon can be sold.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Processors, fishermen, local commercial retailers and City and Borough tax collectors.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: John Mitchell (HQ-F12-105)

PROPOSAL 187- 5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan. Amend fishing periods in the *Post-June South Peninsula Management Plan*, consolidating fishing periods as follows:

- Open for 33/hrs July 6 @6:00 am through 3:00 pm July 7 (close for 63 hrs)
- Open for 36/hrs July 10 @6:00 am through 6:00 pm July 11 (close for 60 hrs)
- Open for 36/hrs July 14 @6:00 am through 6:00 pm July 15 (close for 60 hrs)
- Open for 36/hrs July 18 @6:00 am through 6:00 pm July 19 (close for 60 hrs)
- Open for 36/hrs July 22 @6:00 am through 6:00 pm July 23 (close for 60 hrs)
- Open for 36/hrs July 26 @6:00 am through 6:00 pm July 27 (close for 66 hrs)
- Open for 36/hrs July 30 @12:00 noon through 12 midnight July 31

ISSUE: July management plan in the Post June Fishery in the Unimak and Shumagin Islands short openings and the frequency of traveling to our sites combined with the rising cost of fuel and expenses.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Rising fuel and expenses combined with very short opening will continue to create economic hardships to the fleet and their crew.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Salmon quality will continue to be very good under this planned proposal.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Benefits the Fleet because by lowering fuel and expenses, in particular it will benefit the Setnet fleet that historically catch less volume, stay in set location

and don't have the same capacity of resetting gear in multiple places and multiple times in a day. (compared to drifters and seiners)

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Nobody suffers, ADF&G assured the fleet they manage fisheries under set Board guidelines.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Consolidate 249/hrs with 3-72/h and 1-39/hr starting July 6 at 12:00 noon with 72 hour openings followed by 72 hour closures. Install 39/hr opener on July 24 at noon through July 25 at 9:00 pm after July 25 open by emergency order.

PROPOSED BY: Ben Mobeck Sr. and David M. Adams (HQ-F12-193)

PROPOSAL 188 - 5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan. Amend fishing periods in the *Post-June South Peninsula Management Plan*, consolidating fishing periods as follows:

Open for 48/hrs July 6 @ 12:00 noon through 12:00 noon July 8, close for 48 hrs
Open for 48/hrs July 10 @ 12:00 noon through 12:00 noon July 12, close for 48 hrs
Open for 48/hrs July 14 @ 12:00 noon through 12:00 noon July 16, close for 48 hrs
Open for 48/hrs July 18 @ 12:00 noon through 12:00 noon July 20, close for 48 hrs
Open for 57/hrs July 22 @ 12:00 noon through 9:00 pm July 24, after July 24 manage fishery for pink salmon under emergency order.

ISSUE: July management plan in the Post June Fishery in the Unimak and Shumagin Islands short openings combined with the rising cost of fuel and expenses is economically becoming unfeasible.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Rising Fuel and expenses combined with very short opening will continue to create economic hardships to the fleet and their crew.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Salmon quality will continue to be very good under this proposed plan.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Benefits the fleet fuel cost, in particular it will benefit the Setnet fleet that historically catch less volume, stay in set locations and don't have the same capacity of resetting gear multiple times in a day.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Nobody suffers, ADF&G assured the Fleet they manage Fisheries under set Board guidelines.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Consolidate 249/hrs with 3-72/h and 1-39/hr starting July 6 at 12:00 noon with 72 hr openings and 72 hr closures. Install 39/hr opener on July 24 at noon through July 25 at 9:00 pm (after July 25 open by emergency order).

PROPOSED BY: Marcus Adams

(HQ-F12-194)

PROPOSAL 189 - 5 AAC 09.366(d). Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula. Amend fishing periods in the *Post-June South Peninsula Management Plan* to increase fishing time as follows:

(d) The commissioner may establish, by emergency order, nine 48-hour fishing periods interspersed by 24-hour closures from July 6 through July 31.

ISSUE: The Post-June South Peninsula Management plan allows for 10 days of fishing for the month of July. Considering weather days, timing of tides, and daylight hours, this often is less than adequate time to allow the harvest opportunity of salmon that have been a part of the fishery in the past.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? There will continue to be lost opportunity to harvest salmon in July.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, salmon harvested outside the terminal areas are typically higher quality.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All Area M fishermen.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? There are migrating and local stocks in the South Peninsula during July. The harvest of mixed stocks is allowed throughout the state. Area M has historically harvested mixed stocks in July. Measurable impacts to a particular stock is unlikely.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Different times for openings and closures.

PROPOSED BY: King Cove Advisory Committee

(HQ-F12-016)

PROPOSAL 190 - 5 AAC 09.366. Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula Area. Amend fishing periods in the *Post-June South Peninsula Management Plan* as follows:

The Post-June season should start at noon of July 6, and openers should be 48 hours interspersed by 48-hour closures. There would be four 48-hour openers, and one 60-hour opener for a total of 252 hours. The final opener would end at 11:59 PM of July 24. Afterward, the Department would manage the season of the abundance of local stocks.

ISSUE: "The Post-June salmon management plan currently consists of six 24-hour fishing periods interspersed by 48-hour closures from July 6 through July 21, and three 36-hour fishing periods interspersed by 48-hour closures from July 22 through July 31."

Under this plan, the relatively small openers are not economical for vessel operators. Additionally, the first opener begins at 12:01 am on July 6. The time between 12:01 am and daylight goes relatively wasted. Set gillnetters can set nets at this time, but practice can result in unsafe circumstances. A total of 252 hours should be allowed, but because of a time discrepancy requiring an opener to start as early as possible on July 6, and ending at 9 pm of that day to balance the start and finish at 9 pm thereafter, those three hours go wasted. Therefore, actually 249 hours are allowed.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Fishing openers which start at midnight are neither practical nor safe. Fuel is wasted by making boats go in and out of town every day, instead of at least two days for an opener. Boats do not have time to search other grounds, so if a day is unsuccessful, the whole opener is wasted. If weather is bad, and boats cannot leave port, the whole opener is wasted all together.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? I don't think so.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All fishermen would benefit from reduced fuel bills and opportunity to explore different fishing grounds if the need arose.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? If the Post-June plan contained 48-hour openers interspersed by 48-hour closures from July 6 until July 31, that would be optimal, but in the past, the Board refused to allow any more fishing time than the allotted 252 hours.

At the last BOF meeting, no groups were able to reach a consensus about what exactly would be the best alternative for the current management plan. However, all groups were in consensus that the current management plan was not an optimal plan. I think this plan would be better for all fishers, and would allow the Department to manage the fishery more locally based on available stocks.

PROPOSED BY: Patrick Brown (HQ-F12-160)

PROPOSAL 191 - 5 AAC 09.320(b)(2). Fishing periods in the Northwestern District. Limit fishing periods in Bechevin Bay Section to four days in seven as follows:

Bechevin Bay Section, only during fishing periods established by emergency order **not to exceed four days in a seven day period.**

ISSUE: Bechevin Bay management plan.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Over-fishing and lack of escapement will decimate fall and coho chum runs as in the 2011 salmon season when there was unlimited fishing time.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Commercial and subsistence fishermen.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? None.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: False Pass Fish & Game Advisory Committee (SC-F12-001)

PROPOSAL 192 – 5 AAC 09.350(18)(A). Closed waters. Amend the closed water definition at Christianson Lagoon to better define closed waters as determined by the current lagoon exit channel as follows:

(18)(A) **Christianson** [CHRISTIANSON’S] Lagoon: waters **within 500 yards of the Christianson Lagoon** [OF THE LAGOON AND ITS EXIT CHANNEL UPSTREAM FROM A POINT LOCATED ABOVE THE] exit channel terminus at the ocean shoreline.

ISSUE: This proposal addresses the Christianson Lagoon closed waters definition and corrects the spelling in regulation. In 2008, the Christianson Lagoon exit channel was diverted, blocking off the channel referenced in regulation (5 AAC 09.350(18)(A)). The current closed water definition no longer provides protection to the resource as originally intended.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? If the definition is not addressed, the protection that the closed waters regulation is intended to provide will no longer be afforded to salmon returning to Christianson Lagoon. Adjusting the closed waters will codify actions taken by the department annually since 2008 and provide a definition of closed waters for Christianson Lagoon that is consistent with other closed water regulations on the Alaska Peninsula.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Unknown.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Unknown.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Unknown.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Since the exit channel was redefined in 2008, a 500 yard closure around the Christianson Lagoon exit channel terminus with the ocean shoreline has been established annually by emergency order.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game. (HQ-F12-232)

PROPOSAL 193 - 5 AAC 09.350(35). Closed waters. Reduce the closed water area in Grub Gulch as follows:

If the Board were to adopt this proposal the new regulation would say, "All waters in Grub Gulch would be closed to fishing north and east of a line from 55 degrees 46'18" N lat., 159 degrees 56'06" W. long. to 55 degrees 49'00" N lat., 159 degrees 58'12" W. long.

ISSUE: I would like the Board to change the closed waters fishing boundary in Grub Gulch. I would proposal the Board use the original and traditional latitude and longitude marks as described in the 1992-1994 Alaska Peninsula Salmon Regulation Book (5 AAC 09.350(22)) on page 39.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Commercial harvest of pink salmon from Grub Gulch would be severely limited.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, the quality of the pink salmon harvested in Grub Gulch would improve. With the present boundary so far out the bay large schools of fish, more than what is needed for adequate escapement into the Grub Gulch stream turn black and are not saleable to the companies buying pink salmon.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Those that would benefit are salmon processing plants, fishermen, commercial retail and city/borough tax collection.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one will suffer.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: John Mitchell (HQ-F12-137)

PROPOSAL 194 - 5 AAC 09.335. Minimum distance between units of gear. Change the distance between set gillnets from 900 to 1,800 feet in the Southeastern District Mainland (SEDM) of Area M set gillnet fishery as follows:

In the South Eastern District Mainland of Area M, no setnetter can set a net within 1800 feet of another setnetter. The only exception would be grandfathering existing setnet leases and Orzinski Bay. The 900 feet regulation in the Orzinski Bay should be kept to prevent over escapement to the Orzinski sockeye system. The 900 feet distance required between a setnetter's own two nets would not change.

ISSUE: The minimum distance a setnetter can set their net to another setnetter in the South Eastern District Mainland of Area M. The current regulation requires a distance of 900 feet between nets. In the past, most fishermen wouldn't set a net within 1800 feet of a fellow fisherman. Today, the traditional way of fishing out of a skiff is changing to bow and stern pickers that can easily pick up gear and move nets to 900 feet in front of another fisherman. As

you can imagine, this has a major impact on their catch. I'm asking the Board to change the distance from 900 feet to 1800 feet in the South Eastern District Mainland of Area M to prevent further conflicts.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Increase conflict between setnetters.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The majority of Sand Point setnetters who fish in the South Eastern District Mainland.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? The fishermen who set their nets 900 feet in front of another setnetter.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? This is the only solution that I felt adequately addresses the problem. I've spoken with fishermen from Nelson Lagoon who have 1800 feet between nets requirement. They believe it has helped the fishermen to avoid gear conflicts while allowing everyone to make a living.

PROPOSED BY: Mark Wagner (HQ-F12-013)

PROPOSAL 195 - 5 AAC 09.330(d)(1)(B). Gear. Allow drift gillnet gear to operate in the Southwestern District of Area M from June 1-August 31 as follows:

In the Southwestern District of Area M salmon may be taken with drift gillnets (B) from June 1 through August 31, in the waters allowed in the June fishery in 5 AAC 09.330(d)(1)(B)(i) and (ii).

ISSUE: Salmon regulation allows drift gillnets in certain waters of the Southwestern District of Area M during June, but not for July and August. This area is closer to King Cove and Sand Point which would save running time/fuel coast to participate in the short openings of the Post-June South Peninsula Management plan.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The drift gillnet fishermen will continue to fish the Unimak District and Ikatán Bay Section which are the western most Districts of the South Peninsula.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? There are times when tender service is not offered by the processors in the Unimak District causing fishermen to hold their fish and run them to the processor.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Drift gillnet fishermen that choose to fish the new area.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? There is the possibility of gear conflicts with seiners and set gillnets, but has not been a problem when drift gillnets are allowed in the same area during June.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: King Cove Advisory Committee (HQ-F12-017)

PROPOSAL 196 - 5 AAC 09.331. Gillnet specifications and operations and 5 AAC 39.250. Gillnet specifications and operations. Allow for the use of monofilament gillnet gear in the Alaska Peninsula Area as follows:

5 AAC 39.250 (c) (2) the requirements contained in (1) (A) and (B) of this subsection apply in the Kodiak, Chignik, (remove Alaska Peninsula), Aleutian Islands, Bristol Bay, Kuskokwim, Yukon-Northern, Norton Sound-Port Clarence, and Kotzebue Areas.

Remove Alaska Peninsula from current regulations.

ISSUE: Section (c), the use of web with multiple filament. We would like to be able to use monofilament gillnets.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Algae blooms in recent years have affected fish catches because algae sticks to meshes rendering nets unfishable. The fishermen of Area M think that having monofilament nets will cut down on algae that gets stuck on the meshes. Many gillnet fisheries in the state have already been excluded from the filament requirements pertaining to this section.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? I don't think so.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Gillnet fishermen who choose to adopt the new gear type will benefit not only from cleaner nets, but lower gear costs associated with the price of monofilament web.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Pressure washers are often used to scrub/ wash nets which accumulate large amounts of growth in just a day's time. This has been the only solution, and takes up a lot of off time in between openers.

PROPOSED BY: Patrick Brown (HQ-F12-157)

PROPOSAL 197 - 5 AAC 09.331(a)(4) and (b)(4). Gillnet specifications and operations. Modify the allowable set gillnet and drift gillnet gear depth from 70 meshes to 45 meshes in the Northern District of the Alaska Peninsula Area salmon fishery as follows:

Change the gear depth from 70 mesh depth to 45 mesh depth in the Northern District of the Alaska Peninsula Area salmon fishery.

ISSUE: The Advisory Committee would like the Board to address the declining return of salmon to the Bear River and Nelson Lagoon, due to over-harvest.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Inaction could result in failure of the Nelson Lagoon salmon fishery.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. Around 1990 the depth size went to 70 mesh depth. There was really no depth size because everyone was using shallow gear. At the time, the Department would open the Three Hills area on or around July 4th, and then alternating between Three Hills and Bear River. In 1998, the fleet started fishing further north. This is when we started to see significant changes in the Nelson Lagoon fishery. In 2006, when the north line opened above Pt. Heiden, our fishery began to rapidly decline.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Bear River and Nelson Lagoon systems will benefit. This action will improve the quality of the resource. The salmon size has dropped because of the pressure on the harvest.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Doing nothing may result in collapse of the Nelson Lagoon and Bear River salmon fisheries.

PROPOSED BY: Nelson Lagoon Advisory Committee (HQ-F12-067)

PROPOSAL 198 - 5 AAC 09.310(8). Fishing Seasons. Close the north side of Cape Seniavin and Nelson Lagoon on August 15 instead of September 30 as follows:

5 ACC 09.310 North side of Cape Seniavin will close on August 15th.

ISSUE: The Nelson Lagoon Silver salmon resource is being depleted due to over-harvest and over-fishing on the north line.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Inaction could result in complete depletion of this renewable resource and collapse of the Nelson Lagoon local economy.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. The resource is depleted and we have no silver salmon

season anymore. Closing on August 15th would allow the silver salmon migration to their home streams.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? This would benefit Nelson Lagoon, a terminal fishery

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Doing nothing could result in collapse of the Nelson Lagoon Sliver salmon fishery.

PROPOSED BY: Nelson Lagoon Advisory Committee (HQ-F12-062)

PROPOSAL 199 - 5 AAC 09.369(e). Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan. Close the north side of Cape Seniavin until July 15th as follows:

Close the north side of Cape Senivin until July 15th – open it on July 15th.

ISSUE: The Nelson Lagoon Sockeye salmon resource is being depleted due to over-harvest and over-fishing on the north line.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Could result in complete depletion of this renewable resource; collapse of the Nelson Lagoon local economy.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. The resource is depleted and we have few sockeye salmon anymore. Staying closed on the north side of Seniavin until July 15th would allow the Sockeye salmon migration to their home streams.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? This would benefit Nelson Lagoon, a terminal fishery.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Doing nothing will result in collapse of the Nelson Lagoon sockeye salmon fishery.

PROPOSED BY: Nelson Lagoon Committee (HQ-F12-065)

PROPOSAL 200 - 5 AAC 09.310. Fishing seasons; 5 AAC 09.320. Fishing Periods; 5 AAC 09.330. Fishing Gear; 5 AAC 09.369. Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan; 5 AAC 39.120. Registration of commercial fishing vessels. Establish a sockeye salmon fishery from June 20 through September 30 in the Cinder River Section as follows:

Reference Chapter 9

5AAC 09.310 Fishing seasons:

(a) Northern District

(1) Cinder River Section

(A) Inside Cinder River Lagoon- May 1-September 30

(B) Remainder of the Cinder River Section June 20-September 30.

5 AAC 09.320 Fishing Periods:

(a) (3) in the Cinder River Section, salmon may be taken from 6:00 a.m. Monday to 6:00 p.m. Tuesday from June 20 to July 31, and from 6:00 a.m. Thursday until 6:00 p.m. Saturday after July 31

5 AAC 09.330 Fishing Gear:

(a) Northern District

(1) Cinder River Section

(x) June 20- July 31 Outside of Cinder River Lagoon into which Cinder River drains: drift gillnets only

5 AAC 09.369 (m) In the Cinder River Section, from June 20 to July 31 if the commissioner closes that portion of the Egegik District specified in 5 AAC 06.359(c) for conservation of Ugashik River sockeye salmon stocks, the commissioner may, by emergency order, close the outer portion of the Cinder River Section and immediately reopen the Cinder River Section, with additional fishing restrictions that the commissioner determines necessary.

5 ACC 39.120 Registration of Commercial Fishing Vessels (d) Salmon net gear registration areas are as follows:

T Bristol Bay Area (5 AAC 06.100) and January 1 through June 19, the Cinder River,

ISSUE: The foregone harvest opportunity of Cinder River sockeye by the Area M drift gillnet fleet. Cinder River sockeye salmon have been above the escapement goal 10 of the last 11 years.

See ~~Success in Achieving Salmon Escapement Goals in Monitored Systems-Prepared at the request of the House Fisheries Committee" RIR 5JO8-01 (edited by Geron Bruce), and North Alaska Peninsula Fishery Management Report No. 11-07.~~

From RIR 5J08-01 figure 5 p. 12 The Westward Region has the highest percentage of escapements above goals in the State of Alaska.....and from Appendix D.2.

~~Cinder River surplus escapements were primarily due to lack of industry interest and minimal fishing effort (*inside*) rather than any specific management action."~~

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued foregone harvest of Cinder River sockeye salmon.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Area M drift gillnet fleet.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? There could be minor impacts to Ugashik River sockeye salmon but with the language available and already in regulation for other areas of the Northern District the department will have the means to protect Ugashik River stocks.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

1) Allow Area T boats to fish inside of Cinder River from June 20-30.

2) Making Outer Cinder River an exclusive Area T registration area June 20- June 30.

Why we rejected them: We rejected because Area T permit holders have never fished for sockeye salmon in the Cinder River Section and it was not the intent of the Area M and T overlap area when it was established in the 1970's.

PROPOSED BY: Concerned Area M Fishermen (CAMF) (HQ-F12-102)

PROPOSAL 201 - 5 AAC 09.310. Fishing Seasons. Close the Outer Port Heiden Section to commercial salmon fishing for Area M drift gillnet permit holders as follows:

5 AAC 09.310. Fishing Seasons:

(2) Port Heiden:

(B) Outer Port Heiden Section from June 20-July 31

Should Read:

5 AAC 09.310. Fishing Seasons:

(2) Port Heiden:

(B) Outer Port Heiden Section Closed June 1 to July 31

ISSUE: Close Outer Port Heiden Section to commercial salmon fishing for Area M drift permit holders. No reason to need additional biological control mechanisms for the very small sockeye runs in the Meshik and Cinder Rivers. Local Port Heiden residents have experienced very low availability of Chinook, sockeye, and coho salmon for subsistence usage in the Inner Port Heiden Section since the Outer Port Heiden Section was re-opened.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Sockeye, Chinook and coho runs in the Inner Port Heiden and Inner Cinder River will be over-harvested and the only reason for this additional area is to improve the efficiency of the fleet to caught Bristol Bay bound salmon.

Subsistence users from the community of Port Heiden will continue to encounter historically low salmon runs.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Residents of Port Heiden, Ugashik and Pilot Point.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? A few Area M drift fishermen.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Lower Bristol Bay Advisory Committee (HQ-F12-115)

PROPOSAL 202 - 5 AAC 09.310(a)(2)(B). Fishing seasons. Close the Outer Port Heiden Section to commercial fishing from June 1 to July 31 as follows:

Close the Outer Port Heiden Section to commercial fishing from June 1 to July 31. Use WASSIP data to determine impacts of Outer Port Heiden fishery on Meshik, Cinder and other river stocks.

ISSUE: Subsistence and commercial salmon users in the community of Port Heiden are encountering historically low Chinook, sockeye and coho salmon availability since the Outer Port Heiden Section was opened to area M fishers in 2007. Fishers especially subsistence, using the Inner Port Heiden fisheries are concerned about overharvest on the small stocks in Meshik and Cinder Rivers by the Outer Port Heiden fleet. The current Outer Port Heiden was a new fishery in 2007, effort and catch has grown to 112 permits, ~790,000 sockeye harvested- far in excess of the fishing power needed to harvest the small runs returning to the Meshik and Cinder Rivers.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Inner Port Heiden subsistence and commercial fishers will continue to struggle with low salmon runs.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Local Port Heiden subsistence users, possibly a few commercial fishers who use Inner Port Heiden section, & the local salmon stocks that are less likely to be overharvested.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? The area M drift fleet using this area.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Nushagak Advisory Committee (HQ-F12-133)

PROPOSAL 203 - 5 AAC 09.369. Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.

Close the Outer Port Heiden Section, amend the Inner Port Heiden Section boundary, and create a new superexclusive fishery in Area T as follows:

Close the Outer Port Heiden Section:

Amend the Inner Port Heiden Section to include the area of the Inner Port Heiden Section plus the area using the Strogonof Point line as the southern boundary to a point one mile offshore and extending northeast eight miles to a point one mile off the beach near the mouth of Reindeer Creek with a northern boundary line that intersects the beach at 90 degrees. This section will be open to both area T and area M permit holders from January 1 to December 31.

Area T registration to be super exclusive similar to Togiak.

ISSUE: The Northern Peninsula District is a mixed stock fishery that intercepts Bristol Bay salmon. At the 2007 Alaska Peninsula Board of Fish Meeting the Northern Peninsula District’s opportunity to intercept Bristol Bay fish was increased by opening the outer Port Heiden Section. State Fisheries policy is to not allow the expansion of mixed stock fisheries.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Bristol Bay Bound Salmon will be intercepted.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Port Heiden’s watershed residents. The conservation of Bristol Bay Sockeye Salmon during years where minimum escapement goals cannot be met, specifically the Ugashik and Kvichak runs.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Kurt Johnson (HQ-F12-142)

PROPOSAL 204 - 5 AAC 09.369. Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.

Allow Area T CFEC permit holders to fish both the Inner and Outer Port Heiden Sections as follows:

1. The department may open the Outer Port Heiden Section from June 20 through July 31 based on the Meshik River sockeye salmon stocks if harvest levels or effort is not sufficient in the Inner Port Heiden Sections.
2. Amend the Inner Port Heiden Section to include the area of the Inner Port Heiden Section plus the area using the Strogonof Point line as the southern boundary to a point one mile offshore

and extending northeast eight Miles to a point one mile off the beach near the mouth of Reindeer Creek with a northern boundary line that intersects the beach at 90 degrees. This section will be open to both area T and area M permit holders from January 1 to December 31.

3. Registration:

- a. Notwithstanding 5AAC 06.370(b) an Area T CFEC permit holder registered before 9:00 a.m. June 25 to fish in the Inner Port Heiden Section may not take salmon in the Togiak, Nushagak, Naknek-Kvichak, Egegik, or Ugashik District from 9:00 a.m. June 25 to 9 a.m. July 31;*
- b. Togiak, Nushagak, Naknek-Kvichak, Egegik, or Ugashik District may not take salmon in the Inner Port Heiden:Section from 9:00 a.m. June 25 to 9 a.m. July 31.

4. Existing Northern Peninsula gear and vessel regulations will apply to the Inner Port Heiden Section.

ISSUE: This Proposal is intended to create an economic opportunity for the residents of Port Heiden. There has been a long history of locals harvesting and processing inside Port Heiden. The Village of Port Heiden, known traditionally as Meshik, has been in existence for more than 10,000 years, during which time our people have made their living on the fisheries resources of the coastline from the Ilnik River to Ugashik. With the coming of limited entry, we were provided Area T permits, and for many years we fished both Port Heiden and Ugashik Bays. By its actions the Board of Fisheries in 2006 created an Outer Port Heiden Section, from which we are excluded from fishing. This new area has impacted our subsistence and commercial king and coho catches. And the fact that we are excluded from fishing the new area at all prevents us from making a living in our traditional fishing areas.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Our community will not have a meaningful opportunity to develop a small local processing plant that could serve as an important addition to the local economy that would help stabilize and develop our community. Additionally, traditional opportunities to harvest local salmon stocks (including subsistence) will continue to be reduced and negatively impacted.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, locally processed salmon will allow significant improvement in quality.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Port Heiden residents will benefit.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? There will be a small to modest reduction in fishing opportunity for Area M fishermen.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Jaclyn Christensen (HQ-F12-176)

PROPOSAL 205 - 5 AAC 09.200. Fishing districts and sections. Create terminal harvest areas in the Sandy, Ilnik, and Bear rivers for the drift gillnet fishery in Area M as follows:

Like in Bristol Bay all fishing areas in and around Sandy, Ilnik and Bear Rivers will have a terminal fishing area in which to harvest excessive returning stocks. The established Stroganoff (north line) line will extend two miles off-shore and the terminal area will extend south to two miles off shore to a perpendicular line located south of “Frank’s Lagoon” (56°02’ 19.28” N and 160° 32’ 00.42” W).

ISSUE: Prevent excessive interception of Bristol Bay and Port Moller bound salmon stocks on the North Peninsula salmon fishery. There is no need to fish further north and south of their rivers of origin mouth in order to control escapement in these rivers. It is a shame that every Fish Board cycle regarding this intercept salmon fishery that this expanding intercept fishery has been given more time and area to these permit holders.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Bristol Bay and Port Moller salmon stocks of concern will continue to be exposed to excessive interception without any biological consideration to their sustainability.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All salmon stocks of concern in the Bristol Bay and Port Moller watersheds.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Most North Peninsula drift fishermen will see a dramatic decline in the amount of Bristol Bay and Port Moller salmon they are harvesting.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Lower Bristol Bay Advisory Committee (HQ-F12-116)

PROPOSAL 206 - 5 AAC 09.369. Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan. Modify *Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan* time and area management as follows:

The purpose of this management plan is to provide guidelines to the department for the management of the interception of Nelson Lagoon and Bear River sockeye salmon caught in the North Peninsula fishery conducted in Outer Port Heiden, Outer Ilnik and Three Hill Sections.

(a) There shall be at least one concurrent closure of 96-hr within a seven-day period in the Outer Port Heiden, Outer Ilnik and Three Hills sections combined.

(b) If the Port Heiden Local run is in abundance and it is determined that additional harvest is needed and cannot be done by harvesting in inter Port Heiden and there is a build-up of fish in

inter Port Heiden the department may open an area to target specifically the Port Heiden run using time and area restrictions. The Seaward boundary of the area shall not extend past one mile for shore during these targeted openings.

(c) If Ilnik Local run is in abundance and it is determined that additional harvest is needed and cannot be done by harvesting in inter Ilnik and there is a build-up of fish in inter Ilnik the department may open an area to target specifically the Ilnik run using time and area restrictions. The Seaward boundary of the area shall not extend past one mile for shore during these targeted openings.

(d) If Nelson Lagoon or Bear River is behind the expected escapement curve then the Outer Port Heiden, Outer Ilnik and Threes Hills Sections shall be closed.

ISSUE: Escapement in Nelson Lagoon and Bear River, female to male ratio from 1970 to 2012. Where the fish are being harvest, Miles away from home rivers. The way the fisheries has change in the past thirty years, lack of escapement in Nelson Lagoon and Bear River when harvesting those terminal stocks hundreds of miles away from the home river. The economic impact it has on Nelson Lagoon, it's culture and the way of life.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Right now in the Nelson Lagoon section it is not a sustainable fishery and is getting worse? Too much time fishing in the Outer Port Heiden, Ilnik Three Hills sections. We will not have a fishery on the north side if something is not done.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, tendered fish transported from these remote areas suffer greater abuse in physical quality and appearance.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The state of Alaska will have the biggest benefit. Insurance that the state salmon stocks are sustainable, under sustainable salmon fisheries.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Concern Area M Fisherman will suffer the most. They are the ones that changed the fisheries on the north side of the peninsula to further and further north, early opening, unlimited mess size, deeper nets, etc. to make this problem possible.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? An another alternative is to make the Northside Area M a terminal fishery like Bristol Bay.

PROPOSED BY: Brian Harman (HQ-F12-197)

PROPOSAL 207 - 5 AAC 09.369. Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan. Modify *Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan* time and area management as follows:

The purpose of this management plan is to provide guidelines to the department for the management of the interception of Nelson Lagoon Coho Salmon caught in the North Peninsula fishery conducted in Outer Port Heiden, Outer Ilnik and Three Hill Sections.

(a) There shall be at least one concurrent closed of 96-hr within a seven-day period in the Outer Port Heiden, Outer Ilnik and Three Hills sections.

(b) If the Port Heiden Local run is in abundance and it is determined that additional harvest is needed and cannot be done by harvesting in inter Port Heiden and there is a build up of fish in inter Port Heiden the department may open an area to target specifically the Port Heiden run using time and area restrictions. The Seaward boundary of the area shall not extend past one mile for shore during these targeted openings.

(c) If Ilnik Local run is in abundance and it is determined that additional harvest is needed and cannot be done by harvesting in inter Ilnik and there is a build up of fish in inter Ilnik the department may open an area to target specifically the Ilnik run using time and area restrictions. The Seaward boundary of the area shall not extend past one mile for shore during these targeted openings.

(d) If Nelson Lagoon is behind the expected escapement curve then the Outer Port Heiden, Outer Ilnik and Three Hills Sections shall be closed.

(e) Close all fishing in the Outer Port Heiden, Outer Ilnik and Three Hills sections after Aug 10th.

ISSUE: Historical Coho Salmon escapement in Nelson Lagoon, where the fish are being harvest, Miles away from home rivers. The way the fisheries has change in the past thirty years, lack of escapement in Nelson Lagoon when harvesting hundreds of miles away from the home river. The economic impact it has on Nelson Lagoon, it's culture and the way of life.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Right now in the Nelson Lagoon section it is not a sustainable fishery and it getting worse? Too much time fishing in the Outer Port Heiden, Ilnik Three Hills? We will not have a Coho Salmon fishery in Nelson Lagoon if nothing is done.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes it does, when you are fishing in Outer Port Heiden, Ilnik, Three Hills it takes longer to get fish to Peter Pan, Port Moller. When you're fishing from Seniavin south you well get a better quality fish, it's a short run for the tenders to get to Port Moller.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The state of Alaska will have the biggest benefit. To insure the state stocks are sustainable, under sustainable salmon fisheries.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Concern Area M Fisherman will suffer the most. They are the ones that changed the fisheries on the north side of the peninsula to farther and farther north, early opening, unlimited mess size, etc. making this problem possible.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Make the Northside Area M a terminal fishery like Bristol Bay.

PROPOSED BY: Brian Hartman (HQ-F12-200)

PROPOSAL 208 - 5 AAC 09.200. Fishing districts and sections. Modify boundary description of the Northern District and create terminal fisheries as follows:

Reduce the boundaries of Northern District fishing sections to more closely surround the productive Northern Peninsula salmon streams and provide more focused terminal fisheries while minimizing the potential for intercepting Bristol Bay stocks. Adjust opening & closing dates to reduce interception. Use WASSIP data if possible to design terminal fishing sections while minimizing interceptions of non-local salmon.

ISSUE: The Area M Northern District drift fishery fishing areas northeast of Port Moller are too big and allow the interception of substantial numbers of nonlocal, Bristol Bay salmon. This interception may be hampering the recovery of the Kvichak Sockeye stock of concern. The Outer Port Heiden section became a new fishery in 2007, effort and catch grew to 112 permits, ~790,000 sockeye harvested in 2010 and it out of proportion to the production likely from the small local stocks. The Ilnik section provides sockeye catches some seasons far above what is likely from the drainages flowing into it. Recent sockeye catches in the Three Hills section are biologically unlikely from the local escapements of 0-2000 sockeye.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The Kvichak sockeye run may remain in stock of concern status much longer. In years of low sockeye returns to Bristol Bay, interception may confound proper terminal management of harvest and escapement.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Bristol Bay fishermen depending on Bristol Bay stocks of concern, and other Bristol Bay stocks that may be returning in low numbers.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? The area M drift fleet fishing the current section.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Nushagak Advisory Committee (HQ-F12-134)

PROPOSAL 209 - 5 AAC 09.200. Fishing districts and sections. Using genetic data, create terminal harvest areas in Area M as follows:

Use regulation change for a peer review process to be included for Bristol Bay Biologists from the five major districts for conservation concerns. Use WASSIP data if possible to design terminal fishing sections while minimizing interceptions of non-local salmon.

ISSUE: Sockeye harvested in Area M is out of proportion to the production from the small local stocks. This interception may be hampering the recovery of the Kvichak Sockeye stock of concern. The Area M drift fishery is too big to allow interception of substantial numbers of Bristol Bay salmon.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? In years of low sockeye returns to Bristol Bay, interception may confound proper terminal management of harvest and escapement.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Area M biologists that will get support for helping stocks of concern. Bristol Bay Biologist that have to manage for low returns in Bristol Bay, Board of Fish for using section 16.251 of the board policy and the fishermen depending on Bristol Bay stocks of concern, and other Bristol Bay stocks that may be returning in low numbers.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? The Area M drift fleet fishing the current sections.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Franks Woods (HQ-F12-188)

PROPOSAL 210 - 5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Shumagin Island June Salmon Management Plan; 5 AAC 09.366. Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula. Placeholder for possible regulatory changes based on results from Western Alaska Salmon Stock Identification Project (WASSIP) as follows:

This proposal is a placeholder. We cannot make informed recommendations until the full results from the Western Alaska Salmon Stock Identification Program (WASSIP) become available, later in 2012. Previous management measures to address conservation or allocative issues have included chum caps and sockeye allocations (8.3%), closure windows, south Peninsula June fishery start date, time and area restrictions and many others.

ISSUE: Harvest of chum and sockeye salmon bound for western Alaska in the fisheries of the Alaska Peninsula (Area M).

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Conservation and allocative problems will persist.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Unknown.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? To whatever extend regulatory changes may reallocate fish, western Alaska fishermen may benefit.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Area M fishermen may suffer.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Not applicable.

PROPOSED BY: Bering Sea Fishermen's Association (HQ-F12-163)

PROPOSAL 211 – 5 AAC 09.XXX. Area M fishery regulatory changes and/or management plans pertaining to chum and sockeye salmon. Placeholder for possible regulatory changes based on results from Western Alaska Salmon Stock Identification Project (WASSIP) as follows:

ISSUE: This is a placeholder proposal to allow fishery stakeholders, the board, and the department an opportunity to discuss proposed regulatory changes in Area M based upon results of the Western Alaska Salmon Stock Identification Project, which will not be available until late summer 2012.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Potentially important information regarding fisheries management will not be utilized until the next Alaska Board of Fisheries cycle for Area M in 2015/2016.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Unknown.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Unknown.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Unknown.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game. (HQ-F12-230)

PROPOSAL 212 - 5 AAC 65.022. Special provisions for methods and means in the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Area. Restrict the Sapsuk River king salmon fishery to flyfishing only, single-hook, artificial fly, no retention as follows:

5 ACC 65.022 (d) **Only in the Sapsuk River, King salmon fishing is open only for catch and release, fly fishing using single hook artificial lures or artificial flies only.**

ISSUE: We would like the Board to address recent low escapement of Chinook salmon in Nelson Lagoon. Escapement goals were not achieved last year.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Inaction could result in complete depletion of this renewable resource and collapse of the Nelson Lagoon local economy.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. This will give the Chinook salmon a chance to rebuild the population.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Giving the Chinook salmon a chance to rebuild is a benefit to all stakeholders.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Doing nothing will result in collapse of the Nelson Lagoon Chinook salmon fishery.

PROPOSED BY: Nelson Lagoon Advisory Committee (HQ-F12-052)

PROPOSAL 213 - 5 AAC 65.020. Bag limits, possession limits, and size limits for Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Area; 5 AAC 67.022. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means in the Bristol Bay Area. Decrease coho salmon bag limit to one in the Ugashik, Dog Salmon, and King Salmon rivers as follows: (*This proposal will be addressed in both the Bristol Bay and AK Pen/Aleutian Island meetings.*)

On page 7 of the Bristol Bay Waters Sport Fishing Regulations an added note would read:

On the Ugashik, Dog Salmon, King Salmon and Cinder River drainages the daily and possession limit for coho salmon is 1.

ISSUE: The recent decline in coho salmon populations on the Ugashik, Dog Salmon, King Salmon and Cinder River drainages. This decline is substantiated by 2011 Bristol Bay wide coho run being 1/3 of historical average and the total lack of commercial harvest on the proposed drainages other than incidental catches from the sockeye run. This problem is also magnified by the increased sport fishing pressure on the spawning grounds of these drainages.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Without restrictions on the resource both the sport and commercial users will be exposed to long term declines.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All sport, commercial, and subsistence fishermen in the mentioned watersheds.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Short term effects may impact the commercial sport fishing enterprises who do not practice catch and release.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Considered catch and release but no provision for a damaged fish.

PROPOSED BY: Lower Bristol Bay Advisory Committee (HQ-F12-114a)

PROPOSAL 214 - 5 AAC 01.425. Waters closed to subsistence fishing; 5 AAC 65.051(4). Waters closed to sport fishing in the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Area; 5 AAC 77.3XX. Waters closed to personal use fishing in the Alaska Peninsula Area. Close the Iliuliuk River upstream of the Church Hole to subsistence, sport, and personal use fishing for coho salmon as follows:

The entire Iliuliuk River upstream of the Church Hole is closed to sport, subsistence and personal use coho salmon fishing all year.

ISSUE: Currently sport fishing for salmon is allowed in Iliuliuk River upstream of the Iliuliuk (automobile) Bridge to the outlet of Iliuliuk Lake year round. This stretch of water is part of the Iliuliuk River and contains absolutely critical coho spawning habitat. Coho salmon are actively spawning in the Iliuliuk River and are found in their greatest numbers between the Iliuliuk Bridge and the outlet of Iliuliuk Lake during this time until December. Habitat damage and increasing annual catch of coho salmon in Iliuliuk River has made this area necessary to the maximum production of returning fish and should be off limits to sport, subsistence and personal use fishing.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Spawning coho salmon will be removed from spawning grounds critical to the good health of the Iliuliuk River coho salmon population. A few individuals will remove viable spawning salmon at the expense of many returning ocean to spawning phase salmon. The current health of the Iliuliuk River population of coho salmon could be compromised.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. The salmon harvested in this part of the river are in their spawning phase and their meat is not as good as found in those harvested in non-spawning habitat downstream or in saltwater. By protecting spawning salmon, their numbers would be more likely remain at their current levels or improve if necessary.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Sport and subsistence fishermen who fish downstream in non-spawning habitat and in saltwater.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Sport and subsistence fishermen who take spawning salmon from the outlet of Iliuliuk Lake to the Iliuliuk Bridge.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Steven J. Gregory

(HQ-F12-081)

**ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES
MARCH 19- 24, 2013
STATEWIDE FINFISH AND SUPPLEMENTAL ISSUES**

PROPOSAL 215 - 5 AAC 39.205. Criteria for the allocation of fishery resources among personal use, sport, and commercial fisheries. Address allocations by percentages as follows:

The regulations would clearly follow the state laws and would clearly state that no user group ever is to receive 100% rights to harvest all fish in any area. No aquaculture association should be allowed to fund their entire operations from a single commercial fishing area thereby excluding the traditional commercial fishing fleet in that area.

ISSUE: The unconstitutional allocation to a single user group of a natural resource. Specifically, the allocation to Cook Inlet Aquaculture the entire catch of sockeye in Resurrection Bay for funding their entire operations.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Other user groups might seek to also eliminate commercial fishermen statewide and completely eliminate commercial fishing, bankrupting the commercial fleet.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Not applicable.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? My proposal would stop hurting the commercial fishermen in Lower Cook Inlet and it would require Cook Inlet Aquaculture to pursue funding for their operations through all of their projects. Further, my proposal would prevent future conflicts if any other aquaculture association attempts to eliminate commercial fishermen in a specific area.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one will suffer, this is an attempt to re-balance allocation of the natural traditional fishery of Resurrection Bay to all user groups.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? My proposed solution is in response to an emergency solution that allotted all the sockeye in Resurrection Bay to Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association for two years in a row and after which time the Department of Fish and Game made it permanent. This should never have been allowed to happen in the first place. My proposal seeks to correct the wrongs that have been done and continue to be done by the Board and the Department.

PROPOSED BY: Marguerita McManus (HQ-F12-178)

PROPOSAL 216 - 5 AAC 39.2XX. Application of fishery management plans. Require statewide adherence to salmon fishery management plans as follows:

Notwithstanding any other provision found within the Chapters of Title 5, it is the intent of the board that, while in most circumstances the department will adhere to the management

plans and utilize, to the extent practicable, all prescriptive elements found in the codified plans, no provision within a specific management plan is intended to limit the commissioner's use of emergency order authority under AS 16.05.060; to achieve established escapement goals for the management plans as the primary management objective. For the purpose of the subsection, "escapement goals" includes biological escapement goal, sustainable escapement goal, and optimal escapement goal as defined in 5 AAC 39.222.

ISSUE: A complex multitude of codified management plans now govern the salmon fisheries in the State of Alaska and elements of one plan, on occasion, conflict with elements found in another. Most of the state's major salmon fisheries are mixed stock fisheries in nature and harvest salmon bound for more than one major river system and often more than one regulatory region. Upper Cook Inlet is acknowledged to be one of the more complex systems in the state but certainly not the only complex system, others include Lower Yukon, Lower Kuskokwim, Bristol Bay, False Pass, Alitak Bay, Shelikof Straits, Prince William Sound, Cape Fairweather and all of Southeast Alaska. During its 2008 meeting for Upper Cook Inlet, the Board developed specific regulatory language for the area at the request of the department to address the occasions when achieving the objectives or implementing the prescriptive tools of one management plan conflicts with or compromises the department's ability to achieve the objectives of another plan. The basic concept embodied in the regulatory language has proved constructive and should be adopted statewide with the minor modifications that we suggest.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Simply stated, achievement of established escapement goals could be compromised. Frankly, the department should provide the answer to this question since they were the original proponents of the regulation as found in Upper Cook Inlet 5 AAC 21.363 (e). The Upper Cook Inlet Area is not the only complex mixed stock fishery in the state. KRSA does not know why the department has not advocated for this regulatory language statewide.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, if adopted the language in this proposal will help the department manage for established escapement goals in complex mixed-stock fisheries.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The salmon resource and department managers.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? The solution that KRSA suggests is considered by the department to be necessary for achievement of established escapement goals. KRSA could have suggested the exact language found in 5 AAC 21.363 (e) but we believe that two modifications improve the utility of the regulation. The first modification is to drop "in-river" goal from the list of escapement goals found in the Upper Cook Inlet language since in-river goals are allocative in nature and the department should not be put in the position of trying to favor one allocation strategy over another without consultation with the Board. The second modification requires the department to utilize, to the extent practicable, all prescriptive elements found in codified plans prior to going outside of the codified plans to achieve established

escapement goals. The department should be required to use the tools spelled out in prescriptive plans and not normally go outside the plans until all tools are utilized. KRSA believes that each of these modifications is constructive.

PROPOSED BY: Kenai River Sportfishing Association (HQ-F12-167)

PROPOSAL 217 - 5 AAC 39.223. Policy for statewide salmon escapement goals. Mandate statewide priority for management of king salmon as follows:

Have the BOF mandate that the Chinook salmon returns be managed AS A PRIORITY to meet the pre-season established goals AND on a yearly basis, STATEWIDE, raise the lower end escapement goals 2 percent for the next 15 years for all rivers to correct the last 25 years of mismanagement. We must manage Chinook Salmon for abundance.

Other Options:

Raise the lower end escapement goals for sockeye, to allow more non-fishing times so Chinook have a greater opportunity to escape.

Change methods and means of sockeye commercial as not to intercept Chinook salmon. Increase driftnet fishery for sockeye salmon, and reduce setnet opportunity.

Change the "type of net" allowed while sockeye setnet fishing to allow for the escapement of Chinook salmon.

BOF, write restrictive language, without loopholes, requiring the department strict management requirements for Chinook salmon until escapements are met.

In rivers with heavy sport influence on the escapement, restrict the sport fishery one fish to one fish, with any mandated commercial fishery restrictions.

ISSUE: Over the last 25 years, STATEWIDE, Alaska's Chinook salmon have failed to maintain escapement goals established and managed by ADF&G. In turn, the Department has reacted to this loss of returning Chinook by reducing escapement goals in an effort to meet the numbers of returning fish. In a generic sampling of four rivers in Alaska, Karluk River-Kodiak, Situk River-Yakutat, Nushagak River-Bristol Bay, and the Kenai River-Cook Inlet, all four drainages have lost at a minimum 30 percent of their escapement in this time period. In turn, escapement goals have been reduced to meet this lack of returning stock.

Data:

Karluk River:

Three year average return; 1989-1991; 12,030

Three year average return; 1999-2001; 7,441

Three year average return; 2009-2011; 2,547

(escapement goals over this period have gone from 4,500 lower-8,000 upper, to 3,000 lower-6,000 upper).

Situk River:

Three year average return; 1989-1991; 721

Three year average return; 1999-2001; 1,720

Three year average return; 2009-2011; 438

(escapement goals over this period; 600-750 reduced to 450-1,050).

Nushagak River:

Three year average return; 1989-1991; 82,161

Three year average return; 1999-2001; 69,906

Three year average return; 2009-2011; 59,200

(escapement goal was 75,000, now reduced to 40,000-80,000).

Kenai River:

Three year average return; 1989-1991; 24,153

Three year average return; 1999-2001; 27,512

Three year average return; 2009; 17,158 (ADF&G data for 2010 and 2011 considered to corrupt to post).

I would challenge the Department to name ONE RIVER in Alaska that has more or even an equal amount of Chinook returning to it today as it was 25 years ago. This is obviously not a ~~habitat~~ "problem statewide, it's a ~~management~~ "problem" statewide.

Last issue; Chinook salmon ~~size of fish~~ are progressively decreasing. While working on escapement, we should also discount ~~jack~~ kings as part of the king salmon escapement goal calculation. Let's not cloud the numbers with fish not considered valuable to the reproduction of this resource.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? In 25 years, Statewide we have lost at least 30 percent of our returning Chinook salmon escapement stocks. If ADF&G does not change their management plan we will continue to lose the fight for healthy Chinook returns.

I believe our current management of sockeye salmon being a priority over Chinook salmon is wrong. We are meeting sockeye goals at the expense of the Chinook.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, by increasing the minimum size of king salmon in our escapement reporting, over time we will increase the quality of fish available for all parties.

Who buys a JACK Chinook filet at the grocery store?

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The Alaskan ~~in~~ it for the long haul" will benefit. Those Alaskans who someday want their children to be able to fish for king salmon, with the net or a rod, will all benefit.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? We are not currently managing Chinook salmon for abundance. We have depleted the stock at the rate of 30 percent in 25 years, AND ACCEPTED IT AS OKAY. So, anyone who does not want to alter the current fishing methods and management of Chinook will be hurt this proposal prioritizing Chinook salmon STATEWIDE and treating it as a stock of concern.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? The solution of ~~running~~ with the current management plan and waiting it out is ~~rejected~~. 25 years of progressive ~~losses~~' STATEWIDE proves management is not on the right track for managing Chinook.

The current plan is built to prioritize sockeye salmon, our sockeye salmon are doing fine at the expense of the Chinook. We need to change our focus.

PROPOSED BY: Bruce Morgan (HQ-F12-249)

PROPOSAL 218 - 5 AAC 39.222. Policy for the management of sustainable salmon fisheries; and 5 AAC 39.223. Policy for statewide salmon escapement goals. Establish a sustained escapement threshold (SET) for stocks listed as yield or management concern as follows:

A sustained escapement threshold (SET) shall be established for any stock that is listed as a yield or management concern.

ISSUE: The policy for the Management of Sustainable Salmon Fisheries defines a ~~conservation concern~~ as a stock for which the escapements fail to meet a ~~sustained escapement threshold~~, or SET. The SET is some level of escapement lower than normal management targets (such as biological, sustainable, or optimal escapement goals), and below which the ability of the stock to sustain itself is jeopardized. However, the Department has not established SET's for any stock of salmon. Without establishing a SET, you do not know if a stock qualifies as a conservation concern.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The ~~conservation~~ level of concern will continue to be ignored/avoided.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Not applicable.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The management of our salmon stocks will benefit by fully utilizing the policies.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Considered establishing SET's for all stocks of salmon that have escapement goals, however that may be an unnecessary burden on the Department. Requiring it only when a stock is listed as yield or management concern seems more prudent.

PROPOSED BY: Bering Sea Fishermen's Association (HQ-F12-164)

PROPOSAL 219 - 5 AAC 39.975. Definitions. Define terms, including ~~maximum~~ sustained yield”, ~~optimum~~ sustained yield”, “sustained yield”, and ~~mixed~~ stock fishery” as follows:

I would like to see a dictionary of words used in fishery management that would once and for all remove any confusion.

ISSUE: I am submitting for defining such words as ~~maximum~~ sustain yield”, ~~optimum~~ sustain yield” and does it mean in returns or harvest? It is currently used both ways. Another word is ~~sustained~~ yield”. At what point does a run become unsustainable? There are many more words that fall into the category. There is confusion among the various users groups that work with fishery issues regularly. At what point is a ~~mixed~~ stock fishery” identified as such and management as such under Alaska Statute?

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued uncertainty and doubt when discussing proposals and regulations.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Anyone reading and discussing fishery management regulations.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one. It will remove the veil of mystery from regions and fishery management.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Bruce Knowles (SC-F12-006)

PROPOSAL 220 – 5 AAC 28.020. Groundfish area registration. Allow groundfish registration by facsimile, telephone, or e-mail as follows:

5 AAC 28.020(c) Before operating groundfish gear within a registration area, the vessel owner, or the owner's authorized agent, shall complete the registration requirements [BY MAIL OR] in person **or by facsimile** at a department office located within the registration area **unless otherwise specified by the department**. A completed form validated by the department satisfies the registration requirements. In the form, the department may require check-in and check-out procedures for fishing specified **fishing periods or** subsections within the registration area. A copy of the completed form must be retained on board a vessel operating groundfish gear in the registration area.

5 AAC 28.020(d) Before registering for another registration area, the vessel operator shall check out of the current registration area by contacting, in person, **or by telephone, facsimile, e-mail,** or [BY] radio, a department representative at an office located within that registration area. Delay in validation of subsequent registration forms in other areas might result if has not been accomplished.

ISSUE: Registration is routinely completed by facsimile or e-mail, which is not specified in 5 AAC 28.020(c). Signature by ADF&G personnel is required to validate a registration; with the advent of facsimile machines and e-mail in every port, registration by mail is no longer a current or practical method for registration. When the department allows, registration may be completed in person in department offices outside of the registration area (for example, registering in Kodiak for Cook Inlet). Additionally, check out procedures may not be required in some areas if a fishery might be reopened later in the calendar year, in a subsequent “fishing period”, for example, in the parallel Pacific cod B season. Check out may also be completed by telephone, facsimile, or e-mail, in addition to in person and by radio; these modes are not currently specified under (d) of the regulation.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? There will continue to be confusion on proper registration and check out procedures.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Fishermen who are required to register, particularly those who fish in more than one registration area in a calendar year, as well as department staff who assist with registration paperwork.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game. (HQ-F12-239)

PROPOSAL 221 – 5 AAC 28.070. Groundfish possession and landing requirements. Remove federal regulatory reference as follows:

5 AAC 28.070(e) A CFEC permit holder operating a vessel fishing for groundfish shall retain (2) the maximum retainable bycatch of pollock and Pacific cod taken [, SPECIFIED IN 50 C.F.R. 679.20, REVISED AS OF OCTOBER 1, 1996 AND AMENDED THROUGH MAY 7, 1997,] when a directed fishery for pollock or Pacific cod is closed.

ISSUE: The regulation incorrectly references the federal regulation and the reference is unnecessary. The federal regulation was changed, but was not reflected in state regulation. The intent of 5 AAC 28.070(e)(2) is clear without the federal regulatory reference. The maximum retainable bycatch for pollock and Pacific cod is defined in other state regulations and therefore the inclusion of the federal regulatory reference is confusing and unnecessary, in addition to being incorrect.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? There will continue to be an error in state regulation that will confuse both the public and department staff attempting to reference the federal regulation listed and understand the requirement.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Fishermen and department staff.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game. (HQ-F12-240)

PROPOSAL 222 - 5 AAC 39.1XX Personal identification required. Require a CFEC permit holder to provide proof of identification when attempting to sell fish or at the request of a peace officer as follows:

5 AAC 39.XXX

Any person who is in possession of a CFEC interim-use or entry permit card shall upon request of any fish purchaser, or any officer authorized by the state to enforce this chapter, present personal identification as required by AS 16.10.267 (a)(2) to establish that the card is in the possession of the person to whom it was issued.

ISSUE: The Alaska Department of Public Safety requests that a provision requiring CFEC permit holders to present personal identification upon request of a purchaser of fish or a peace officer be placed in 5 AAC 39.

Presently, the personal identification requirement for CFEC permit holders is located only in 20 AAC 05.115. 20 AAC has no strict liability option (as 5 AAC 39 does) so violations cannot be reduced to non-criminal offenses when circumstances indicate a lesser penalty is appropriate.

All fishing regulations listed in 5 AAC give prosecutors and the judicial system the option of reducing criminal misdemeanor offenses to non-criminal strict liability offenses which carry lesser fine amounts. This proposal would accomplish this for the personal identification and allow the same charging options afforded in other fishing violations.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? No option to reduce violations of failing to present personal identification by CFEC permit holders will be possible in lesser offenses. Only criminal misdemeanor penalties will continue to apply to this issue.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? CFEC permit holders who are charged with failing to present personal identification and viewed within the judicial system as having a lesser offense appropriate for application of a non-criminal penalty

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: Leave the issue alone and allow no ability to reduce violations within the judicial system from criminal offenses to non-criminal offenses. This was rejected as many other fishing regulations give the option of charging as criminal offenses (for serious violations) or non-criminal offenses (for lesser violations).

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Public Safety (HQ-F12-077)

PROPOSAL 223 – 5 AAC 39.120. Registration of commercial fishing vessels. Specify area registration requirements for salmon net fishing vessels as follows:

(c) Area registration requirements for salmon net fishing vessels are as follows:

(4) a person who owns a fishing vessel registered for an area of intended operation in compliance with (c)(1) of this section or his authorized agent may register it for a different salmon net registration area under the following conditions:

(A) the reregistration of a salmon net fishing vessel shall be authorized by the

(ii) Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission upon receipt of a written certification or personal affidavit stating that the vessel has not been used for salmon net fishing in the original area of registration **during the current registration year**;

ISSUE: Currently, the regulation lacks clarity regarding a period of time within which a vessel may not have been used within "the original area of registration" prior to reregistration for another area. Permit holders claim that the time period is not specified in regulation and that underlying Alaska Board of Fisheries intent regarding this matter is unclear.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Regulations will remain unclear regarding the period of time during which a vessel may not have fished in a salmon net fishing area prior to changing areas.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Commercial fishermen and department staff will benefit from the increased clarity of the regulation.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? This proposal will not affect anyone currently participating in the fisheries that require registration in more than one area.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game. (HQ-F12-238)

PROPOSAL 224 – 5 AAC 39.195. Announcement of emergency orders. Revise emergency order (EO) announcement process to add e-mail or facsimile as means of notification as follows:

Announcement of emergency orders will be publicized and made known to interested persons, fishermen, buyers, packers and canneries by one or more of the following means if possible:

- (1) radio transmission by department stations;
- (2) notices posted at canneries and public places;
- (3) press releases and announcements in the ADF&G website, local newspapers, and commercial radio stations;
- (4) telephone message hotline, e-mail or facsimile. [TELEGRAMS AND COMMERCIAL RADIO FACILITIES.]

ISSUE: Technology has changed; telegrams are no longer used to transmit emergency orders (EOs). Recorded telephone messages, e-mail, and facsimile have been added as modes of distribution. Additionally, ADF&G has implemented an online news release system through which EOs, in addition to news releases, may be distributed via e-mail.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Regulations will remain outdated and inaccurately reflect modes of EO distribution.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The public, fishermen, and department staff will know the expected transmission mode of EOs and can receive or send timely notification through the appropriate channels.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game. (HQ-F12-241)

PROPOSAL 225 - 5 AAC 39.2XX. Policy for the implementation of permit stacking. Develop and require use of a statewide policy during consideration of permit stacking proposals as follows:

The Board of Fisheries will have to address the issue of permit stacking on a statewide basis and come up with the most appropriate policies and procedures for this issue that meets with CFEC legal requirements.

ISSUE: The Alaska Board of Fisheries has, during the past two cycles, deliberated and subsequently adopted a series of commercial salmon fishery proposals dealing with the practice commonly called “permit stacking”. It has been our observation that the process lacked consistently solid goals and objectives. While at times it seemed clear that a purpose such as

keeping an active permit in the family while a permit holder is serving their country in the military was being served, at other times it appeared likely that allowing permit stacking would bring long-time latent permits back into a fully utilized fishery. Thru this proposal we are asking the Board to develop a set of goals and objectives and a process framework for examining future proposals related to permit stacking.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Most if not all of Alaska’s salmon fisheries are fully allocated. Permit stacking has the potential to increase the fishing power of the gear group where this practice occurs. This increase of fishing power can further complicate already complex management strategies. We believe that it is wise for the Board of Fisheries to develop a Policy for the Implementation of Permit Stacking prior to adopting any additional proposals furthering the practice.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. Preventing unintentional increases in management complexity or allocation conflicts resulting from adoption of permit stacking proposals.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Most of Alaska’s salmon fisheries are somewhat complex and conflicts over the allocation of the fishery resource are well documented. It is our intent that solid goals and objectives along with a decision process framework develop to examine future permit stacking proposals will be constructive to fishery management and economic optimization.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? It is our intention that no one would suffer since we are not asking for the practice of gear stacking to be prohibited only that a policy and process be developed for examining the intended and unintended consequences of adopting gear stacking proposals.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Prohibition of permit stacking was considered but rejected since we can see select cases where the practice has no negative effect on the fishery.

PROPOSED BY: Kenai River Sportfishing Association (HQ-F12-166)

PROPOSAL 226 – 5 AAC 47.020. General provisions for seasons and bag, possession, annual, and size limits for the salt waters of the Southeast Alaska Area; 5 AAC 55.022. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Prince William Sound Area; 5 AAC 58.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession, and size limits; and special provisions for Cook Inlet-Resurrection Bay Saltwater Area; 5 AAC 64.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession, and size limits; and special provisions for the Kodiak Area; 5 AAC 65.020. Bag limits, possession limits, and size limits for Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Area; and 5 AAC 75.012. Sport Shark Fishery Management Plan. Update regulations to accurately reflect changes to the statewide *Sport Shark Fishery Management Plan* which allowed for an increase bag and possession limit of spiny dogfish shark and no annual limit requirement as follows:

5 AAC 47.020. General provisions for seasons and bag, possession, annual, and size limits for the salt waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.

(9) shark: may be taken [FROM JANUARY 1-DECEMBER 31; BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT OF ONE FISH; ANNUAL LIMIT OF TWO FISH; NO SIZE LIMIT; A HARVEST RECORD IS REQUIRED] as specified in 5 AAC 75.012;

5 AAC 55.022. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Prince William Sound Area.

(9) shark [, INCLUDING ALL SPECIES OF THE ORDER *LAMNIFORMES*, *SQUALIFORMES*, OR *CARCHARHIFORMES*]: may be taken [FROM JANUARY 1 - DECEMBER 31; BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT OF ONE FISH; ANNUAL LIMIT OF TWO FISH WITH A HARVEST RECORD REQUIRED] as specified in 5 AAC 75.012;

5 AAC 58.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession, and size limits; and special provisions for Cook Inlet - Resurrection Bay Saltwater Area.

(8) shark [(ALL SPECIES OF THE ORDERS *LAMNIFORMES*, *SQUALIFORMES*, OR *CARCHARHIFORMES*)]: may be taken [FROM JANUARY 1-DECEMBER 31; BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT OF ONE FISH; ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT OF TWO FISH; A HARVEST RECORD IS REQUIRED] as specified in 5 AAC 75.012;

5 AAC 64.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession, and size limits; and special provisions for the Kodiak Area.

(9) shark: may be taken [FROM JANUARY 1-DECEMBER 31; BAG LIMIT OF ONE FISH AND ANNUAL LIMIT OF TWO FISH; A HARVEST RECORD] as specified in 5 AAC 75.012 [IS REQUIRED];

5 AAC 65.020. Bag limits, possession limits, and size limits for Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Area.

(10) shark: may be taken as specified in 5 AAC 75.012 [1 PER DAY, 1 IN POSSESSION, NO SIZE LIMIT; 2 FISH ANNUAL LIMIT].

5 AAC 75.012. Sport Shark Fishery Management Plan.

(b)(1) shark: may be taken from January 1–December 31; the bag and possession limits for sharks in salt water is one fish;

ISSUE: At the 2010 Statewide Finfish Alaska Board of Fisheries meeting, a bag and possession limit of five fish was established for spiny dogfish shark, statewide. In addition, spiny dogfish sharks were removed from the annual limit and harvest recording requirement for sharks. Although the statewide regulation under 5 AAC 75.012 *Sport Shark Fishery Management Plan* was modified to reflect the board adopted changes, area regulations remained unchanged and in conflict with the statewide regulation.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Conflicting regulations will remain in the codified regulation book and may lead to unnecessary enforcement situations.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? This administrative proposal would repeal incomplete, duplicative, and conflicting regulations.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F12-246)

PROPOSAL 227 - 5 AAC 75.003. Emergency order authority. Provide the department with emergency order (EO) authority to restrict sport proxy fishing as follows:

5 AAC 75.003(1) The commissioner or an authorized designee may decrease sport fish bag and possession limits, annual limits, and restrict methods and means of harvest by emergency order when

(B) the recreational harvest must be curtailed in any fishery for conservation reasons; **emergency orders may independently decrease proxy bag, possession, and annual limits;** the department may issue a “catch and release only” emergency order . .

ISSUE: The department lacks emergency order authority to restrict proxy limits as a method to decrease the harvest of fish for conservation reasons, such as achieving an escapement goal. Decreasing proxy bag, possession, and annual limits or prohibiting proxy fishing for a particular species would be a valuable tool for fisheries managers to consider when decreasing the sport harvest of salmon for conservation reasons.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The department will not have the authority to use a tool that could reduce sport harvest sport fisheries during times of low abundance.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Not applicable.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Anglers.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Resident anglers who serve as proxies and the beneficiary who receives the fish.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F12-247)

PROPOSAL 228 – 5 AAC 75.995. Definitions. Prohibit the practice of ~~high grading~~ by anglers as follows:

(4) ~~bag limit~~ means the maximum legal take per person per day, in the area in which the person is fishing, even though part or all of the fish are immediately preserved; a fish when landed and **not immediately released** [KILLED] becomes part of the bag limit of the person originally hooking it;

ISSUE: There are problems with anglers keeping fish alive on stringers or in live-wells, holding boxes, etc., then releasing them (high grading) when a bigger fish or a fish in better condition, is caught. This practice causes unneeded mortality.

The proposed change will still allow anglers to immediately release a fish in hopes of catching something more desirable (selective harvest), but it would clarify when a fish becomes part of the bag limit and prohibit releasing fish once the angler has retained the fish as a part of his or her bag limit.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Unnecessary mortality will continue to occur on the state's fisheries resources.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The resource and the public.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Anglers who wish to high grade their catch.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F12-248)

PROPOSAL 229 – 5 AAC 75.006. Harvest record for finfish with an annual limit. Specify harvest record reporting requirements for additional sport fishing licenses and harvest records as follows:

(b) A person obtaining a duplicate **or additional** sport fishing license or duplicate **or additional** harvest record shall record on that form the information required by (a)(2) of this section for all finfish previously landed during that year that were subject to the harvest record reporting requirements of this section.

ISSUE: Currently, nonresident anglers can make several trips to Alaska during the same year and purchase a one- or multi-day license during each trip and are not required to transfer their prior harvest record information from the back of their previous licenses or harvest record to their current license or harvest record. This is inconsistent with harvest recording requirements that apply to duplicate licenses and harvest records, and allows potential abuse of the annual limit provision set for king salmon, sharks (except spiny dogfish), and rainbow trout/steelhead in various sport fish management areas throughout the state. There have been recent reports of this occurring, specifically, with king salmon annual limits.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? There would be potential harvest by nonresidents above the annual limits for king salmon, rainbow/steelhead trout, and sharks, jeopardizing management for sustained yield for these species in those affected management areas.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The fishery resources that have been designated with annual limits to provide for sustained yield and the anglers that fish these resources will benefit from compliance with the proposed regulation.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Nonresident anglers who purchase additional licenses and/or obtain additional harvest records and wish to harvest more king salmon, rainbow/steelhead trout, or shark than allowed by the annual limit for those species.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game and Department of Public Safety.
(HQ-F12-243)

PROPOSAL 230 - 5 AAC 75.005. Possession of licenses, stamps and harvest record. If duplicate licenses are issued, ensure that the section for season or annual limits is removed from duplicate as follows:

When duplicate licenses are issued the block or section for season limits will be crossed off or the duplicate will be identified so that season limit block cannot be used, or some other method to prevent the abuse of the annual limits established by the Board of Fisheries. The new

computer generated licenses will have to be modified to identify the first one printed as the original and all other copies printed as duplicates or require duplicates to be issued by a vendor.

ISSUE: Abuse of lost license procedures, after in season limit has been reached. For example, king salmon in Cook Inlet drainage has a five king limit. Some fishers are having a duplicate license issued with the lost license procedures, that enables them to harvest an additional five fish limit. There is no way to verify the number kings harvested with original license.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Abuse of the system intended to control the harvest of king and other species fish that have had seasonal limits established both fresh and saltwater.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All Alaskans that obey the regulations, and understand the need to protect our resources.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? The one percent of Alaskans and a few nonresidents that are perusing species, which have had season harvest limits reduced due to shortages or other management actions.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Locking tags instead of the back of the licenses, the cost of establishing a locking tag program.

PROPOSED BY: Bruce Knowles (SC-F12-004)

PROPOSAL 231 – 5 AAC 75.995. Definitions. Define the term –compensations” as follows:

(52) “compensation” means direct or indirect payment, remuneration, or other benefits received in return for services, regardless of the source; in this paragraph, “benefits” includes wages or other employment benefits given directly or indirectly to an individual or organization, and any dues, payments, fees, or other remuneration given directly or indirectly to a fishing club, business, organization, or individual who provides sport fishing guide services; and does not include reimbursement for the actual daily expenses for fuel, food, or bait;

ISSUE: There is no current definition of –compensation” in AS 16.40.299 or 5 AAC 75.995. –Compensation” is referenced in AS 16.40.299 definitions of –sport fishing guide services” and –sport fishing services”, but no definition is provided. A definition is needed for clarity when payment scenarios other than clients paying the guide directly take place.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? There may be continued confusion concerning what constitutes –compensation”.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The public, department staff, and enforcement personnel all benefit from clear, concise regulations.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those individuals or organizations who have avoided obtaining a guide license or a guide business license due to ambiguity in the regulations.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game and Department of Public Safety.
(HQ-F12-244)

PROPOSAL 232 – 5 AAC 75.026. Use of sport-caught fish as bait. Clarify the use of sport-caught fish as bait as follows:

(b) Whitefish [,] **and** herring [,] and [OTHER] species of fish for which no seasonal or harvest limits are specified in 5 AAC 47–5 AAC 75, as well as the head, tail, fins, **closely trimmed skeleton**, and viscera of legally taken sport-caught fish taken under 5 AAC 47–5 AAC 75, may be used **whole or cut** for bait or other purposes.

ISSUE: The current regulatory language defining which sport-caught fish species may be used for bait is unclear. Of the two specific species listed in 5 AAC 75.026(b), only whitefish have a bag limit in any sport fish management area (15 fish bag limit in the Tanana River Area). Due to the inconsistency of the specific species listed in regulation, there has been confusion whether sport-caught whitefish in the Tanana River Area can be used for bait. In addition, since the skeletal remains of sport-caught fish generally include the head, tail, fins, and viscera of the fish, they are often used for bait in crab and shrimp pots. This addition would clarify the existing regulation.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? There will be continued confusion among fishery managers, enforcement staff, and the public on whether sport-caught whitefish in the Tanana River Area can be used for bait and whether the skeletal remains of sport-caught fish can be used as bait.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Fishery managers, enforcement staff, and the public will benefit from clear, concise regulations.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F12-245)

PROPOSAL 233 - 5 AAC 75.022(d). Freshwater sport fishing. Create an exemption for the use of footgear with felt soles for the disabled or handicapped fisherman as follows:

I would like to have an exemption made for handicap and disabled sport fishers. The requirement for disabled and handicap fishing licenses could be used as eligibility as the criteria to wear felt soles. The wading shoes that they use could not be used outside of Alaska.

ISSUE: The Board of Fisheries established a ruling that felt soles could no longer be used as of 2012. This ruling will have adverse effect on handicapped and disabled Veterans, and many seniors that need the additional traction provided by felt soles.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The new super tact soles have not proven themselves to be as good as felt. Sports fishers with disabilities may not be able to continue to wade and fish with the less effect new soles.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? It will allow disabled veterans and many seniors, that have lost agility, to wade without the add traction.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one will, it will keep the waters available to a special group that has gone the extra mile for their country and seniors that have retired.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? As a 100% disabled veteran I don't know how I would be able to continue fishing in the waters that mean so much to me!

PROPOSED BY: Bruce Knowles

(SC-F12-007)

PROPOSAL 234 - 5 AAC 75.020. Sport fishing gear. Ban use of lead weights in fresh and salt waters of Alaska in sport fisheries as follows:

(X) Lead weights, weighing 1oz. or less and jigs less than 1 inch along their longest axis are banned in all waters in the State of Alaska.

ISSUE: Lead weights used for fishing.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Lead shot was eliminated in 1991 by federal regulation to address widespread lead poisoning of ducks and secondary poisoning of bald eagles. And in 1994, the EPA even proposed banning lead fishing weights that were being eaten by waterfowl. Hunters and anglers in states that have restricted or banned lead shotgun

ammunition or lead fishing gear have already made successful transitions to nontoxic alternatives and fishing and hunting in those areas remain active.

Anglers frequently snag and lose lead sinkers. Unfortunately, lead is a toxic substance and, when left in the environment, can cause injury to wildlife. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency states that tackle made of lead harms waterfowl such as Swans Geese and Loons. These birds, as part of their feeding habits, swallow small stones to grind food within their digestive tract. Other predatory birds such as Osprey and Eagles also suffer from lead poisoning from eating fish contaminated with lead sinkers. An estimated 10 million to 20 million birds and other animals die each year from lead poisoning in the United States.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. According to Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, some states, including Maine, New York, Vermont and New Hampshire, prohibit certain sinkers, based on size and weight. Other states are considering similar legislation. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife also prohibits lead sinkers in Yellowstone National Park and two national wildlife refuges, with more bans likely in the future.

According to studies by Tufts University, over the last 30 years, lead poisoning accounts for up to 57% of adult Loon deaths. Up to 25% of dead Eagles are victims of lead poisoning. Up to 25 species of birds are affected by lead poisoning with up to 31% of endangered Trumpeter Swans being killed by lead poisoning.

Replace your lead fishing weights with non toxic weights.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Alaskan wildlife Including fish and game.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Sport fisherman may see a small increase in the cost of non-toxic weights.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? N/A.

PROPOSED BY: Robin Collman (HQ-F12-012)

PROPOSAL 235 - 5 AAC 75.0XX. New Regulation; 5 AAC 75.005. Possession of licenses, stamps and harvest record. Establish mandatory reporting system for sport fisheries statewide as follows:

5 AAC 75.0XX. Sport fishing reporting requirements.
For all fishers required to possess a license under AS 16.05.330 or exempt from licensing under AS 16.05.400, the following reporting conditions shall apply to the harvest of any species for which the license is required, unless otherwise specified by the regulation in 5 AAC 77:

(1) Each fisher shall keep accurate daily records of the catch involved, showing the number of fish taken by species, location and date of the catch, and such other information as the department may require for management or conservation purposes.

(2) Sport fishing reports must be completed on forms provided by the department at the point of sale or any department office, and returned by mail within 15 days of the expiration date of the license, or by January 15th of each year for persons exempt from licensing under AS 16.05.400.

5 AAC 75.005. Possession of licenses, stamps and harvest record.

(a) All persons engaged in sport fishing or in possession **or transportation** of fish must show their sport fishing licenses, Harvest Records and special permits or stamps to any local representative of the department or to any peace officer of the state upon his request.

(b) Any licensee who fails to comply with reporting requirements as required under 5 AAC 75.XXX is ineligible to receive a sport fishing license during the following calendar year, unless the licensee demonstrates to the department that failure to report was due to unavoidable circumstances.

ISSUE: Lack of accountability or timely reporting in the statewide sport fisheries leads to ineffective enforcement and poaching of fish because nobody is paying attention. Enforcement officers have no way to consistently and accurately monitor accumulation of seasonal or even daily bag limits. Voluntary response to a random survey months after fishing closes is a poor and inaccurate way to manage a fishery. Reported harvest data are indefensible, but are used to affect management plans, EO actions, and allocation of resources to other fisheries where timely mandatory reporting is enforced. A mandatory reporting provision is authorized to the department under AS 16.05.370, but has not been placed into regulation or requested to be done so by the department.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The State's fisheries will continue to decline, and resident subsistence, PU and commercial fishers will continue to suffer and incur harvest allocation reductions while our resources leave the State unchecked in southbound wetlock boxes.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Everyone who utilizes or manages the fisheries of Alaska.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Mandatory daily reporting to a telephone or online system whenever fish are harvested. This would be a good long term goal but too expensive and cumbersome in the short term.

PROPOSED BY: Native Village of Eyak (HQ-F12-008)
