

ARCTIC-YUKON-KUSKOKWIM FINFISH

PROPOSAL 123 - 5 AAC 70.013. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means in the Yukon River Management Area. Amend this regulation as follows:

(c)(#) in all waters of the Nowitna River drainage, the bag and possession limit for northern pike is 5 fish, of which only one fish may be 30 inches or greater in length

ISSUE: The current bag and possession limit for northern pike in the Nowitna River is 10 fish with no size limit. This background regulation was established in 1987 for areas of the Yukon drainage where little fishing effort for northern pike occurred. In Yukon River locations where anglers specifically target northern pike such as the Innoko River, and the Yukon River drainage between the mouth of the Tanana and the Hodzana rivers (including the Dall River), the bag and possession limit is five fish, of which only one may be 30 inches or greater in length (or more restrictive). The Nowitna River fishery, along with the Dall River and the Innoko River fisheries account for the majority of the sport catch and harvest of this species in the Yukon Area.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? There is the potential for reductions in the proportion of northern pike in large size categories due to liberal regulations that allow the harvest of ten large northern pike. There will continue to be inconsistency in regulations for similar fisheries.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Recreational anglers who desire to catch large northern pike.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those recreational anglers that desire to harvest more than one northern pike larger than 30 inches or harvest more than five northern pike per day.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Status quo.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-06F-121)

PROPOSAL 124 - 5 AAC 70.015. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means in the Tanana River Management Area. Amend this regulation as follows:

In flowing waters of the Chena River, above Nordale Road bridge, allow catch-and-release only for the entire year. Below the Nordale Road bridge, the daily bag and possession limit is on grayling less than 12 inches in length between June 1 and July 15. No grayling may be retained anywhere on the Chena River between July 16 and May 31.

ISSUE: We would like to see a limited harvest of the Arctic grayling in the Chena River below the Nordale Road bridge. No fish greater than 12 inches should be kept as they begin spawning around this age. The season requested would be one and one half months long from June 1 through July 15, and the daily bag limit and possession should be one.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? This proposal would allow for a limited harvest of Arctic grayling from the Chena River downstream from the Nordale Road bridge

during a one and one half month period during the summer.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, it allows for a limited harvest of Arctic grayling which have not recruited to spawning age yet.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Local residents would benefit from being able to keep some of the fish they catch. This also allows a foul hooked fish to be kept for consumption versus being returned to the river to die.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? There are numerous river guides that take clients further up the river on catch and release trips. However they should not be greatly affected by this proposal as it does not allow an angler to retain any fish above the Nordale Road bridge and they may not retain any fish larger than 12 inches.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? We considered leaving this regulation as it is but there is a large interest in the community to open this species in this river for retention.

PROPOSED BY: Fairbanks Advisory Committee (I-06F-026)

PROPOSAL 125 - 5 AAC 70.015. Seasons, bag, possession, and limits, and methods and means in the Tanana River Management Area. Amend this regulation as follows:

(c)(5) In the Delta Clearwater River drainage including the Clearwater Lake drainage, Arctic grayling may be taken by catch-and-release fishing only, except that from **June 1 – December 31** [JULY 10 THROUGH AUGUST 9], a person may retain Arctic grayling, with a bag and possession limit of one fish, 12 inches or less in length; all Arctic grayling caught that are greater than 12 inches in length must be released immediately;

ISSUE: Currently there is a short season July 10-August 9 in which one Arctic grayling less than 12 inches may be taken. This was a conservative measure taken by the board in 2000 to see what level of harvest would occur and maintain large-sized grayling in the population. As a result little harvest occurred and we would like to see one grayling, less than 12 inches, taken from June 1 – December 31.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The opportunity to keep one Arctic grayling under 12 inches, for one month, is overly restrictive.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, that larger fish are retained in the river to enhance the quality of fishing experience. Harvest has been low on smaller fish that by extending the season it would not pose any risk to the stock.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Anglers who desire to keep a grayling to eat.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Have the department determine if other bag limit is possible for fish less than 12 inches, if not, leave it at one fish.

PROPOSAL 126 - 5 AAC 70.015. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means in the Tanana River Management Area. Amend this regulation as follows:

Modify the regulations concerning Fielding Lake as follows:

(A) the use of set lines is prohibited

(B) only single hook, artificial lures may be used [WHEN FISHING FOR BURBOT OR LAKE TROUT, ONLY ONE SINGLE HOOK WITH BAIT MAY BE USED].

(C) April 1 through September 30, bait may not be used

(D) October 1 through March 31, bait may be used

ISSUE: Maintaining fishing opportunities while addressing harvesting concerns. The department is considering a no bait restriction at Fielding Lake. Users would prefer to see harvest reduced by a combination of keeping the catch-and-release only, in September when lake trout arrive on the spawning beds, discontinuing bait during the open water season and allowing bait during a portion of the winter months. Regulations should be clarified so that single hook regulations apply to all species.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? If bait is not allowed during the winter season this would essentially result in a de-facto closure for burbot and lake trout, as the odds of catching a trout or burbot while jigging through the ice without bait are slim to none. Recent regulations at nearby Summit and Paxson lakes will now allow bait during a portion of the winter after an outcry over a similar no-bait restriction. My proposal disallowing bait during summer will reduce some harvest because of the methods used, but summer lake trout can still be caught with unbaited lures. Keeping a catch-and-release season in September is the single best regulation that will reduce harvest of larger fish because of spawning. Allowing bait until March 31 will allow some winter harvest but eliminate the most active month which is April, when there is the most ice fishing pressure due to nice weather. Allowing treble hooks for some species and not others is inconsistent, causes confusion and would allow incidental catch of lake trout with treble hooks, increasing mortality.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. This proposal reduces mortality and harvest by limiting methods and means by specifying single hook for all fish, maintaining catch-and-release for lake trout during spawning, and limiting harvest methods during winter months while retaining fair and reasonable harvest opportunities for fishermen. These regulations also maintain substantial consistency with current regulations at Summit and Paxson lakes.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Dedicated fishermen concerned about the quality and value of the resource while retaining significant fishing opportunities for sport fishermen.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Fishermen that have little respect or knowledge of the resource they take for granted.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? A) Catch-and-release for lake trout. This would unnecessarily limit harvest opportunities but would be an acceptable winter alternative. B) No bait year-round. This would unfairly discriminate against fishermen that enjoy ice fishing. No bait basically eliminates the potential to catch burbot or lake trout in winter. It would be

inconsistent with adopted regulations in nearby lakes such as Summit and Paxson. C) Only allowing one tended line. Only jigged rod typically catches burbot or lake trout but could be considered. D) September fly fishing only requirement. Although low impact, discriminates against some fishermen. It could be a valid idea for not allowing trolling techniques in September (spawning).

PROPOSED BY: Ethan Birkholz (I-06F-005)

PROPOSAL 127 - 5 AAC 70.015. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means in the Tanana River Management Area. Amend this regulation as follows:

- (d)(7) in Fielding Lake,
 - (A) the use of set lines is prohibited;
 - (B) **only unbaited, single-hook, artificial lures may be used.** [WHEN FISHING FOR BURBOT OR LAKE TROUT, ONLY ONE SINGLE HOOK WITH BAIT, MAY BE USED;]

ISSUE: Fielding Lake is a relatively deep, cold, low productivity lake. The life history characteristics of lake trout, combined with the environmental characteristics of Fielding Lake, increase the vulnerability of this species to over-harvest. The lake trout population in Fielding Lake is relatively small, and the estimated sustained yield for lake trout is low.

Currently there is a 26-inch minimum size requirement for lake trout in Fielding Lake. Based on current stock assessment, less than half of the catch at Fielding Lake is greater than 26 inches and most fish must be released. Given the low abundance of lake trout and the high proportion that are caught and released, the continued use of bait in this fishery will likely result in total lake trout mortality exceeding the estimated sustained yield. The proposed regulatory change is consistent with the Regional Lake Trout Management Plan under consideration in another proposal.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Lake trout harvests combined with hooking mortality could exceed sustainable levels and result in further regulatory restrictions or closure.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All sport anglers benefit from the opportunity that a sustainable fishery provides.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Anglers who currently harvest fish from Fielding Lake using bait.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-06F-122)

PROPOSAL 128 - 5 AAC 70.015. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means in the Tanana River Management Area. Amend this regulation as follows:

(C)(11) In George Lake, including the George Lake outlet stream, northern pike may be taken only from June 1 through March 31, with a bag and possession limit of **three** [FIVE] fish, of which only one fish may be 30 inches or greater in length.

ISSUE: We believe there is potential for pike harvest to exceed the sustained levels in George

Lake.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? We believe that much attention is focused on pike fishing on George Lake and the potential for overharvest is possible. Volkmar Lake was subject to overfishing and that population is just recovering after 12 years, we do not want that to happen at George Lake. There has been an improvement in fishing over recent years and we would like to maintain the quality of large-sized fish in the population.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, keeping harvest at lower level will help maintain larger-sized fish.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Anglers who desire good catchability of pike and expect to catch larger individuals.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those who desire to keep more fish.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Reduce the season. Additional seasonal restrictions would overly restrict opportunity for anglers.

PROPOSED BY: Delta Advisory Committee (I-06F-009)

PROPOSAL 129 - 5 AAC 70.015. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and method and means in the Tanana River Management Area. Amend this regulation concerning Harding Lake as follows:

The bag and possession limit for lake trout is one fish, **36** [26] inches in length; all lake trout that are less than **36** [26] inches must be released immediately.

ISSUE: Maintaining fishing opportunities while addressing harvesting concerns due to a significant increase in fishing pressure. Due to increased fishing pressure the possession size limit for lakers should be 36-inches.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Allowing a 26-inch size limit for lakers will decimate the well-graded population due to drastically increased fishing pressure.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. This proposal maximizes exploitation of the lake trout while retaining its trophy character.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Fishermen who are concerned about the quality and value of the resource while still retaining trophy class fishing opportunities for sport fishermen.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Fishermen who have little respect or knowledge of the resource they take for granted.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? A) Catch and release for lake trout; this would unnecessarily penalize the opportunity for catching a trophy fish, but a viable option.
B) 33-inch limit for lake trout; this is another viable alternative. Dropped in favor of

maintaining trophy quality of lake so near to population center.

PROPOSED BY: Ethan Birkholz, Jason Hill, Travis Donovan and Per Sather. (I-06F-004)

PROPOSAL 130 - 5 AAC 70.015. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means in the Tanana River Management Area.

(c)(24) in the Tangle Lake system, including all waters of the Delta River drainage upstream from Wild Horse Creek,

(A) sport fishing for salmon is closed;

(B) **the bag and possession limit for lake trout is one fish with no size limit;** [THE BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT FOR LAKE TROUT IS ONE FISH, 18 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH; ALL LAKE TROUT CAUGHT THAT ARE LESS THAN 18 INCHES IN LENGTH MUST BE RELEASED IMMEDIATELY;]

(C) the bag and possession limit for burbot is two fish, with no size limit;

ISSUE: Currently, the lake trout harvest (including estimated hooking mortality) in the Tangle Lakes drainage is below the estimated sustained yield for lake trout. The current 18-inch minimum length limit for lake trout in the Tangle Lakes system is not needed to restrict harvests to sustainable levels, and is not an appropriate length limit to protect spawning-age fish from harvest. The Regional Lake Trout Management Plan under consideration in another proposal recommends that the minimum length limit, if needed, be 24 inches, which would protect most fish through at least one spawning cycle. Because current harvests are below the estimated sustained yield, having a minimum length limit is unnecessary.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Harvest opportunity for lake trout from Tangle Lakes will continue to be restricted unnecessarily.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Anglers who fish for lake trout in Tangle Lakes and wish to harvest a lake trout less than 18 inches.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-06F-120)

PROPOSAL 131 – 5 AAC 70.015. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means in the Tanana River Management Area.

This proposal modifies the language and updates the Tanana River Management Area stocked waters list.

Amend the regulation as follows:

(c)(29) in stocked **waters** [LAKES], 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 maybe 18 inches or greater in length; for the purposes of this paragraph "stocked **waters** [LAKES]" 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 45.5 Mile Pit, CHSR 47.9 Mile Pit, Coal Mine Road #5, Craig Lake, Dick's Pond, Doc Lake, Donna Lake, Firebreak Lake, Four Mile Lake, Fourteen Mile Lake, **Fun Fish Day Pond**, 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 L**, Ken's Pond, Koole Lake, Last Lake, Les' Lake, Lisa Lake, Little Donna Lake, Little Lost Lake, [LONG POND], Luke Lake, Lundgren Pond, Manchu Lake, Mark Lake, **Meadows Rd #1, Meadows Rd #2, Meadows Rd #3, Meadows Rd #4**, Monterey Lake, Moose Lake, **Mosquito Creek 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, [OUTBOARD PIT, PARKS 209 POND], Parks 261 Pond, Paul's Pond, **Piledriver 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 Lake #2, Rockhound Lake, [ROUND POND], **Sansing Lake**, Shaw Pond, Sheefish Lake, Sirlin Drive Pond, South Johnson Lake, South Twin Lake, Square Lake, Steese H. 29.5 Mile Pit, Steese H. 31.6 Mile Pit, [STEESE H. 33.0 MILE PIT], Steese H. 33.5 Mile Pit, Steese H. 34.6 Mile Pit, Steese H. 35.8 Mile Pit, Steese H. 36.6 Mile Pit, **Steese H. 120.0 Mile Pit, Stringer Rd Pond**, Triangle Lake, Tschute Lake, Wainwright #6, Weasel Lake, **West Iksgiza Lake, West Pond**, [WEIGH STATION POND # 1, WEIGH STATION POND # 2,] Z Pit (Chena Floodway).

ISSUE: This is a housekeeping proposal. In conjunction with the Board of Fisheries cycle, the Department reviews the stocked waters list for the various management areas. Stocked waters are removed from the stocked waters list 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 list. The proposed language will update the Tanana River Management Area stocked waters list. In addition, this proposal requests the language be modified to include all stocked waters, not only stocked “lakes”, which adds clarity to the regulation.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Water bodies that are no longer stocked will remain in regulation and new stocked waters will not be added to regulation. The regulation will not reference stocked waters that are not lakes, in this case Piledriver Slough.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The public, 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-06F-119)

PROPOSAL 132 - 5 AAC 70.015. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means in the Tanana River Management Area. Amend this regulation as follows:

For the Tanana River Drainage, it shall be unlawful to have, in possession, any pike that is not whole, with the exceptions that the gills and innards may be removed. Such fish must remain whole until angler reaches primary residence.

ISSUE: The inch limit on pike is currently unenforceable. Wardens are not able to determine

from filleted or chunked-up fish whether illegal fish are being taken. Currently they can be killed and filleted the minute they are caught. Most other states that have an inch limit also have a gill/gut law.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The major spawners (30-inch to 38-inch fish) will be fished off, thus adversely affecting the reproduction of the lake.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, by insuring that the major spawners are retained.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All fishermen will benefit by a healthier, more abundant population of fish.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Possibly a few outfitters, guides and cabin owners.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? There is no other way to enforce the inch rule. It is very important for the adult fish to stay in the waters they are in for the future of the fishery.

PROPOSED BY: Mary Malcolm (I-06F-013)

PROPOSAL 133 - 5 AAC 70.015. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means in the Tanana River Management Area. Amend this regulation as follows:

Regulations concerning Fielding Lake special provisions:
Tip-ups may not be used.

ISSUE: I would like to see tip-ups disallowed at Fielding Lake to reduce mortality and improve fishing practices.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Use of tip-ups encourages poor fishing practices and increases mortality. Use of tip-ups encourages cheating by people who leave them unattended. Fish that are caught on tip-ups typically have the hooks swallowed or deeply embedded by the very nature of how they work. If the hook is removed this can significantly increase mortality.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. This proposal would reduce mortality caused by tip-ups and thus encouraging traditional jigging methods that have low fish mortality.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Dedicated fishermen that are concerned about the quality and value of the resource while retaining significant fishing opportunities for sport fishermen.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Fishermen unconcerned with the value of the resource they take for granted.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Ethan Birkholz (I-06F-007)

PROPOSAL 134 - 5 AAC 70.015. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means in the Tanana River Management Area. Amend this regulation as follows:

Modify the regulations concerning Fielding Lake special provisions as follows:

October 1 through March 31, only one closely tended line may be used.

ISSUE: Maintaining fishing opportunities while addressing harvesting concerns. The department is considering a no-bait restriction at Fielding Lake. I would prefer to see harvest reduced by a combination of keeping the catch-and-release only in September when lake trout arrive on the spawning beds, discontinuing bait during the open water season and allowing bait during a portion of the winter months. This proposal specifically calls for using only one tended line to further limit harvest potential as another alternative that should be considered to a no-bait restriction. Using only one tended line during the winter season would not cut the potential for catching fish in half since the active line sees the most action, but it would significantly reduce fish caught with tip ups and reduce fish caught jigging.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? If bait is not allowed during the winter season this would essentially result in a de-facto closure for burbot and lake trout, as the odds of catching a trout or burbot while jigging through the ice without bait are slim to none. Recent regulations at nearby Summit and Paxson lakes will now allow bait during a portion of the winter after an outcry over a similar no-bait restriction.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, this proposal reduces mortality and harvest by limiting methods and means by only allowing one tended line to limit harvest methods during winter months while retaining fair and reasonable harvest opportunities for fishermen.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Dedicated fishermen that are concerned about the quality and value of the resource while retaining significant fishing opportunities for sport fishermen.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Fishermen that are not concerned with the resource they take for granted.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Catch-and-release for lake trout: this would unnecessarily limit harvest opportunities but would be an acceptable winter alternative. No bait basically eliminates the potential to catch burbot or lake trout in winter. It would be inconsistent with adopted regulations in nearby lakes such as Summit and Paxson.

PROPOSED BY: Ethan Birkholz (I-06F-014)

PROPOSAL 135 - 5 AAC 70.065. Artic-Kuskokwim-Yukon Region Stocked Waters Management Plan. Amend this regulation as follows:

Reclassify Koole Lake from “regional” management category to “conservative” management category. Regulations for regional management have a daily bag limit of ten fish, all species combined, of which only one fish can equal or exceed 18 inches. Regulations for conservative management area the same except the daily bag limit is five fish.

ISSUE: Koole Lake is a stocked lake that has large rainbow trout, easy winter access, and is

attracting increasing numbers of anglers. The current daily bag limit is ten fish. It is highly likely that more anglers will harvest more large fish. The bag limit must be reduced to five fish to prevent over harvest of large rainbow trout and to sustain an attractive, popular fishery.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The large rainbow trout will be removed from the population. The result will be an unattractive population of small rainbow trout, loss of quality recreational opportunity, and less angler participation.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? A bag limit of five fish will sustain the quality of the fishery and allow for increasing angler participation. Anglers are attracted to quality fisheries that provide for reasonable opportunities to catch large rainbow trout. Quality recreational opportunities will attract more angler participation which will result in more money for local businesses and the economy.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Sport anglers who desire a reasonable opportunity to catch large rainbow trout. Local businesses that are used by anglers. Local communities that want quality recreational opportunities.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? People who want a daily bag limit of ten fish.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Stocking more fish was rejected because it would not provide more large fish.

PROPOSED BY: Bill Larry and Ralph Seekins (I-06F-003)

PROPOSAL 136 - 5 AAC 70.065. Arctic-Kuskokwim-Yukon Region Stocked Waters Management Plan. Amend this regulation as follows:

For stocked lakes in Region III. General provision: five fish daily and in possession with only one fish over 20”.

ISSUE: Amend Lake Management Plan:

- A. Have uniform state bag limit for stock lakes. Bag limit preferred is five fish daily and in possession and only one fish over 20 inches.
- B. Hatchery problems – hatchery unable to stock sufficient fish.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Because the bag limit in stocked lakes in the rest of Alaska is only half of region three bag limit, there are insufficient number of fish available for anglers to catch.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? It will enable anglers to catch larger sized fish.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All lake sport fishermen.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Subsistence style fishermen who prefer to harvest large numbers of fish.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? A. Total catch and release in times of hatchery crisis.

B. Having A. take place would penalize anglers who wish to retain part of their catch.

PROPOSED BY: Wendell Shiffler

(I-06F-001)

PROPOSAL 137 - 5 AAC 70.0XX. Lake Trout Management Plan. Amend this regulation as follows:

(a) Notwithstanding the other provisions in this chapter regarding lake trout, the department shall manage wild lake trout populations in the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Region by employing a conservative harvest regime and by maintaining harvests below maximum sustained yield levels. Following sustained yield principles, the department may manage wild lake trout fisheries to provide or maintain fishery qualities that are desired by sport anglers.

(b) In a sport fishery covered by this management plan, the commissioner, by emergency order, may take one or more of the management actions specified in this subsection if there is a conservation or biological concern for the sustainability of the fishery or for a stock harvested by that fishery. The concern must arise from harvest, effort, or catch data for that fishery which has been derived from statewide harvest survey data, on-site creel survey data, stock status data, stock exploitation rates, or from inferential comparisons with other fisheries. The management actions are as follows:

- (1) reduce the bag and possession limits;
- (2) reduce fishing time;
- (3) allow only a catch-and-release fishery;
- (4) modify methods and means of harvest.

(c) If the harvest level in the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Region exceeds sustained yield for a two-year time period, the commissioner by emergency order, may close the fishery and immediately reopen a fishery during which one or more of the following restrictions apply:

(1) set lines are prohibited;

(2) bag and possession limit of one lake trout;

(3) a minimum size limit applies, the size limit shall be established based on the following considerations:

(A) length of maturity, with two years of protection from harvest for spawning fish before recruitment to the fishery;

(B) lake size, with no size limits for a trout population in a lake with a surface area less than 247 acres;

(C) uniformity of size limits, with the minimum size limit 24 inches unless the department determines that there is a biological justification for an alternate size limit;

(4) if the reduced bag limit or size limits do not keep harvest below maximum sustained yield levels the commissioner may further restrict harvest opportunity, through

(A) seasonal closures;

(B) spawning closures, winter closures, or both;

(C) allowing single-hook, artificial lures only or no bait, or both;

(D) allowing catch-and-release fishing only;

(E) a complete closure of the fishery.

(d) Special management waters are waters designated by regulation of the Board of Fisheries, where harvests are within sustained yield levels and where the management objectives include higher stock abundance or a need for a higher percentage of trophy-sized fish. Within special management areas, if the department determines that management objectives will not be met under existing regulatory provisions, the commissioner may, by emergency order, close the fishery and immediately reopen a fishery during which one or more of the following management measures apply:

- (1) reduced fishing season;**
- (2) special gear restrictions;**
- (3) alternative size limits;**
- (4) catch-and-release fishing only.**

(e) The department shall minimize potential conflicts with a subsistence fishery, or other fisheries that overlap the sport fishery, that harvest other fish within the same body of water.

ISSUE: There is currently no region-wide management plan for lake trout. A unifying management plan would allow evaluation of lake trout stocks to be conducted on a regional basis, thereby promoting consistent, objective-based fisheries management across the region. This plan would provide the department, public and Board with a reference for lake trout fishery management actions and to evaluate future regulatory requests. During the December 2005 meeting the Alaska Board of Fisheries adopted this regulatory plan for lake trout in the Upper Copper/Upper Susitna area. Adoption of this management plan will provide a consistent management and regulatory approach for the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim portion of the region.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Management actions for lake trout populations in the AYK management areas will continue to be considered on a case-by-case basis without the benefit of a consistent objective-based protocol for lake trout management

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Recreational anglers, the board and the department.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Status quo.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-06F-123)

PROPOSAL 138 - 5 AAC 77.190. Personal use whitefish and sucker fishery. Amend this regulation as follows:

Create a personal use management plan to allow conservatively managed harvest of whitefish by spearfishing, allowing ten fish per person in household.

ISSUE: Loss of harvest opportunity for humpback whitefish in Chatanika River near Fairbanks, using spearfishing techniques.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Loss of harvest opportunity in Chatanika

River near Fairbanks for humpback whitefish, using spearfishing techniques.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Residents of Fairbanks area.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one, not an allocative issue.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Dr. Fred Bouse (I-06F-025)

PROPOSAL 139 - 5 AAC 77.190. Personal use whitefish and sucker fishery. Amend this regulation to include the following:

(b)(2) permits may be issued for set gillnet, beach seine, dip net, fyke net, **fish wheels, and spear gear** [AND FISH WHEEL GEAR].

ISSUE: Lack of opportunity to harvest personal use whitefish by traditional spearing technique.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued unnecessary restriction on spearfishing of whitefish.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? It simply recognizes the customary and traditional use of spears to harvest whitefish.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Consumptive users of whitefish.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Reinstating a limited sport spearfish season on the Chatanika River. Rejected because the current personal use fishery provides the department with the management tools to effectively regulate harvest and ensure that threatened whitefish populations are not exploited by over fishing, whether by spear or other means listed on the personal use regulation.

PROPOSED BY: Fairbanks Advisory Committee (I-06F-029)

PROPOSAL 140 - 5 AAC 01.172. Limitations on subsistence fishing gear. Amend as follows:

5 AAC 01.172. Limitations on subsistence fishing gear. (a) Except when fishing through the ice [OR WHEN A SUBSISTENCE FISHING PERMIT IS REQUIRED], for subsistence fishing in state waters of, and all flowing waters that drain into, northern Norton Sound from Cape Prince of Wales to Bald Point (Between Elim and Koyuk) with a hook and line attached to a rod or a pole, the following provisions apply:

(1) the methods and means specified in 5 AAC 70.011 and 5 AAC 07.030;

[AND]

(2) **in areas where subsistence permit limits are not in effect**, the bag and possession limits, by species, specified in 5 AAC 70.011[.]; **and**

(3) in areas where subsistence permit limits are in effect, the subsistence permit limit may be taken.

(c) A person fishing under this section may not take more than the bag and possession limit as specified in 5 AAC 70.011 in the Niukluk River unless the limit is waived by emergency order.

ISSUE: When the Board of Fisheries recognized hook and line as legal subsistence gear for waters in Northern Norton Sound, the board applied sport fish bag limits, possession limits, methods, and means to subsistence fishing, except when fishing through the ice or in areas where a subsistence permit was required. In Northern Norton Sound, subsistence fishing permits are required only for catching salmon. At the time this regulation was adopted, most Norton Sound subsistence salmon fishing permits had catch limits. Permits were only required in the Subdistrict 1 (Nome), Cape Woolley area and on the Pilgrim River (Port Clarence District). Thus, all hook and line fishing also had limits, whether for sport or for subsistence.

In 2004, the board extended subsistence salmon permit requirements to Norton Sound Subdistricts 2 and 3 and portions of the Port Clarence District (Brevig Mission and Teller). Unlike salmon permits for waters along the majority of the Nome road system, the new subsistence salmon permits did not have harvest limits. Because 5 AAC 01.172 does not apply in areas where subsistence fishing permits are required, hook and line now can be used in these areas without bag and possession limits. This was an unintended consequence of expanding the permit system. The proposed language would restore 5 AAC 01.172 to its original intent. In areas where subsistence permit *limits* (as opposed to just subsistence *permits*) exist, subsistence limits would apply to all subsistence fishing, including hook and line. In all other areas of Northern Norton Sound, the sport fish bag and possession limits would apply when hook and line were being used, whether for sport or for subsistence.

In the Niukluk River, chum and coho salmon runs have been weak for a number of years. This regulation would restrict hook and line fishers to the sport fish bag limit to protect salmon from overharvest. In years of large runs, particularly pink salmon, the subsistence hook and line fishing limit could be waived to provide more opportunity on an abundant resource.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? In areas of Northern Norton Sound where subsistence permits are required but subsistence catch limits are not imposed, any Alaska resident fishing with a rod and reel can fish without bag or possession limit.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? People who want to continue harvesting salmon for subsistence primarily with nets.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? People who want to exceed the sport fish bag limit while using hook and line.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Catch limits could be imposed on all subsistence fishing permits in Northern Norton Sound. In the Niukluk River, there are conservation issues and this is an appropriate solution is proposed. In other areas of Northern Norton Sound, not

easily accessible by road, subsistence harvests are within harvestable surpluses and individual permit limits are not necessary.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-06F-159)

PROPOSAL 141 - 5 AAC 01.175. Waters closed to subsistence fishing. Amend this regulation as follows:

(b) In the Port Clarence District, Salmon Lake, its tributaries and waters within 300 feet of Department of Fish and Game regulatory markers placed at the outlet of Salmon Lake are closed to subsistence fishing from July 15 through August 31 **unless opened by emergency order.**

ISSUE: In recent years record runs have returned to Salmon Lake. Previously the department closed Salmon Lake to protect spawning salmon. However, starting in 2005, the department began to allow fishing in Salmon Lake again for those wishing to target sockeye salmon. In recent years salmon have begun entering the lake in late June and the present closure for the lake is July 15 through August 31.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Possible lost subsistence fishing opportunity.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Those wanting to have more fishing opportunity.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those who would like to see the lake closed longer.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Restrict fishing locations in the lake.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-06F-160)

PROPOSAL 142 - 5 AAC 01.175. Waters closed to subsistence fishing. Amend this regulation as follows:

- (c) The following waters are closed to subsistence fishing for salmon:
 - (1) the Nome River from its terminus upstream for a distance of 200 yards and upstream from an ADF&G regulatory marker located near **the VOR site approximately two miles upstream from the Nome River mouth.** [OSBORN]

ISSUE: In recent years the subsistence boundary has been moved downstream to the VOR site by emergency order to prevent the overharvest of salmon spawning upriver of the VOR site. In conjunction with this management strategy, subsistence limits have been raised or waived earlier in the season for salmon in the Nome River. The Nome River weir is located approximately four miles upstream from the Nome River mouth with large congregations of salmon holding approximately one quarter mile downstream of the weir. The current regulation allows for subsistence fishing up to Osborn Creek which is located approximately seven miles upstream from the Nome River mouth. Both chum and coho salmon congregate and spawn in

some locations below Osborn Creek. Hook and line has been a very effective gear in harvesting coho salmon and with subsistence limits in the Nome subdistrict much higher than sport bag limits, large harvests of coho salmon may occur in upstream holding areas.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Possible overharvest of salmon on the Nome River.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Those who would like to harvest more salmon by having the subsistence limit waived earlier in the season.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those who would like to harvest more salmon farther upstream.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Make hook and line bag limits the same whether sport fishing or subsistence fishing. Allow nets only to be used downstream of the VOR site in the subsistence area.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-06F-161)

PROPOSAL 143 - 5 AAC 01.175. Waters closed to subsistence fishing. This proposal would allow for the opportunity to take pink salmon in the Penny and Cripple rivers for subsistence. Amend this regulation as follows:

(c) The following waters are closed to subsistence fishing for salmon:

(8) the Penny River **upstream of an ADF&G regulatory marker approximately 100 yards upstream from its mouth;** and

(9) the Cripple River **upstream of ADF&G regulatory marker approximately 400 yards upstream from its mouth.**

(e) The following waters are closed to subsistence fishing for chum salmon:

(1) the Penny River; and

(2) the Cripple River.

ISSUE: The current regulations have the entire Cripple and Penny Rivers closed to subsistence fishing for all salmon. Previous regulations had more than 100 yards upstream of the Penny River mouth and more than 400 yards upstream of the Cripple River closed to subsistence fishing for salmon. A previous proposal arising from the action plan for the Nome subdistrict chum salmon stock of management concern in 2001 asked to close the Penny and Cripple to subsistence chum salmon fishing.

These rivers are in permit areas which can control harvest limits of specific salmon species depending on stock abundance, health, and fishing effort without the need for additional regulations.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Opportunity to subsistence fish for pink salmon will be eliminated on the Penny and Cripple Rivers.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Subsistence and sport fishers who want to harvest salmon other than chum salmon.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-06F-162)

PROPOSAL 144 - 5 AAC 01.175(c). Waters closed to subsistence fishing. Amend this regulation as follows:

(c) The following waters are closed to subsistence fishing for salmon **with a net**:

ISSUE: This will allow subsistence fishers in the Norton Sound – Port Clarence Area the opportunity to harvest salmon with hook and line in the same areas as sport fishers.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? A sport fish license will be necessary to harvest salmon in the waters listed as closed to subsistence fishing for salmon.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Subsistence fishers who want to harvest salmon in upstream locations.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Sport fishers who want less competition.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-06F-163)

PROPOSAL 145 - 5 AAC 01.180. Subsistence fishing permits. Repeal the following regulation:

(d) Repealed. [IN SUBDISTRICT 1 OF THE NORTON SOUND DISTRICT, THE ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT FOR THE HOLDER OF A MARINE WATERS SUBSISTENCE SALMON FISHING PERMIT IS 200 SALMON, OF WHICH NO MORE THAN 50 MAY BE CHUM SALMON; THE DEPARTMENT MAY ISSUE ADDITIONAL PERMITS DURING RUNS OF ABUNDANCE.]

ISSUE: This regulation is not necessary. In recent years there have been record runs of pink

salmon in Subdistrict 1 of the Norton Sound District. Also, the number of permit holders targeting chum salmon has been decreasing with subsistence fishers shifting their effort to target sockeye salmon in the nearby Port Clarence District. The department now issues one permit for Subdistrict 1 and limits for each species are listed on the permit for various locations. As there have been more salmon returning in recent years to Subdistrict 1, the department has increased the permit limits for various locations rather than issuing additional permits.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Subsistence fishers will continue to be inconvenienced by interrupting their activity in order to obtain additional permits.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Those who would like to harvest more salmon from marine waters without the need to obtain additional permits.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those who would like to fish a particular river because less salmon return to a particular river as more salmon are harvested in the ocean.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-06F-164)

PROPOSAL 146 - 5 AAC 01.180. Subsistence fishing permits; and 70.011. Seasons and bag, possessions, and size limits for the Northwestern Management Area. Amend these regulations as follows:

In subdistrict 2 of Norton Sound district, except in the fresh water of Kachavik River and McKinley Creek:

1) Sport Fishing: Sport fishing licenses apply to the individual. Currently, the bag and possession limit is three coho per day, and we would like that changed to the following: The bag and possession limit for sport fishing is one coho per day, which must be male, and only barbless single hook, unbaited lures may be used from July 20 through September 15.

2) Subsistence Fishing: Subsistence fishing permits apply to the household. Currently there are no limits on subsistence fishing. We would like the following regulations enacted:

- a) The bag and possession limit for subsistence fishing with a rod and reel is three coho per day. No gear restrictions.
- b) The seining limit is 20 coho per day for each permit holder, of which only four may be female.
- c) The gillnetting limit is: from July 20 to September 15, set gillnets may be used to take salmon only during two 48-hour periods per week, which are established by emergency order.
- d) The annual harvest limit is 50 coho per year for each permit holder.

ISSUE: Because Golovin is located in Golovin Bay, it is further removed from the apparent decline of coho salmon on the Fish River system. However, the need for conservation measures

to preserve the future of coho salmon on the river system is understood. The department manages the coho salmon on the Fish River system by using the Niukluk River escapement project as an index. The Niukluk River escapement project has documented this decline in coho salmon since 1995. Because of the location of the escapement project is far upriver, on a tributary of the Fish River, the department does not get a good indication of inriver escapement numbers until relatively late in the coho season. Therefore, any management action taken to preserve the coho returns has not generally happened until mid-to-late August, and as a result, these management actions impact us, the local users, by doing too little, too late.

We have been impacted by the declining coho salmon in the Fish River system through those management actions. Sport and/or subsistence harvest has been closed or restricted each year for the past four years, and commercial fishing has been closed since a dismal harvest in 2001. Golovin residents once held 27 commercial fishing permits, but now we cannot earn a living by commercial fishing due to the coho salmon declines and department management actions. By putting harvest restrictions into regulation, conservation would occur over the entire coho season, spreading the effort to all user groups evenly. Perhaps these conservation actions will eventually result in an increase in coho salmon escapement to the Fish River system, and therefore re-open the possibility of future commercial fishing opportunities.

Although we are in favor of subsistence and sport harvest restrictions to help conserve the coho salmon escapement to the Fish River system, we do not intend for these restrictions to also apply to our traditional subsistence harvest areas of Kachavik River and McKinley Creek. These smaller systems are in the immediate vicinity of Golovin, are remote from the more intense subsistence fishery on the Fish River, and subsistence harvests there have been constant at a modest level for years. These smaller systems are not monitored by the department. However, from our harvest practices and observations, we know that these smaller systems have not experienced the same declines as the Fish River system, and are not under the same harvest pressure as the Fish River system. Subsistence harvest in the river mouth and upriver in these traditional use areas will not impact escapement to the Fish River system, because the harvest will target salmon bound for these smaller systems. Therefore, we do not support subsistence harvest restrictions in Kachavik River and McKinley Creek, however, we do support subsistence and sport harvest restrictions in the Fish River and the marine waters of Golovin Bay.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Coho salmon escapement to the Fish River system will continue to decline. We are worried because we want coho salmon to be available for future generations and we would like the possibility of commercial fishing opportunities in future years if coho salmon escapement increases. We are proposing these restrictions on both subsistence and sport harvest as much needed conservation measures that should have been enacted long ago.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Initially the resource will benefit. If restricted harvest results in increased escapement in future years, the users will also benefit.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Initially the users will suffer through decreased harvest.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSAL 147 - 5 AAC 70.011. Seasons and bag, possession, and size limits for the Northwestern Management Area; and 5 AAC 01.180. Subsistence fishing permits; and 5 AAC 01.160. Fishing seasons and periods; and 5 AAC 01.172. Limitations on subsistence fishing gear. Amend these regulations as follows:

In Subdistrict 2 of the Norton Sound District:

Sportfishing: Sportfishing licenses apply to the individual. Currently, the bag and possession limit is three coho per day, and we would like that changed to the following:
the bag and possession limit for sportfishing is one coho per day, which must be male, and only barbless single hook unbaited lures may be used from July 20 through September 15. (5AAC 70.011 (c) (3) (B))

Subsistence Fishing: Subsistence fishing permits apply to the household. Currently there are no limits on subsistence fishing. We would like the following regulations enacted:
the bag and possession limit for subsistence fishing with a rod and reel is three coho per day. No gear restrictions. (5 AAC 01.172)
the seining limit is 20 coho per day for each permit holder, of which 4 may be female. (5 AAC 01.172)
the gillnetting limit is: From July 20 to September 15, set gillnets may be used to take salmon only from 6:00pm Thursday to 6:00pm Saturday. (5 AAC 01.160(7))
the annual harvest limit is 50 coho per year for each permit holder. (5 AAC 01.180 (f))

ISSUE: We are concerned because coho salmon on the Fish River system, which flows into Norton Sound Subdistrict 2, have been in consistent decline over the past 10 years. This decline has been documented by an Alaska Department of Fish and Game escapement project on the Niukluk River, a tributary to the Fish River, since 1995. In addition, we have noticed that traditional subsistence harvest areas have less coho salmon now than they used to. Commercial fishing in subdistrict 2 has not occurred for any species since 2001. Despite concerted management effort, the coho escapement on the Fish River system continues to decline.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game manages the coho salmon on the Fish River system by using the Niukluk River escapement project as an index. Because of the location of the escapement project is far upriver, on a tributary of the Fish River, the department does not get a good indication of in-river escapement numbers until relatively late in the coho season. Therefore, any management action taken to preserve the coho returns has not generally happened until mid-to-late August, and as a result, these management actions impact us, the local users, by doing too little too late. Significant harvest can occur prior to these management actions and harvest restrictions being enacted. Sport and/or subsistence harvest has been closed or restricted each year for the past four years, and commercial fishing has been closed since a dismal harvest in 2001. By putting harvest restrictions into regulation, conservation would occur over the entire coho season, spreading the effect to all user groups evenly.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Coho salmon in Subdistrict 2 will continue to decline. We are worried because we want coho salmon to be available for the future generations. We are proposing these restrictions on both subsistence and sport harvest as much needed conservation measures that should have been enacted long ago.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Initially the resource will benefit. If restricted harvest results will increase escapement in future years, the users will also benefit.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Initially the users will suffer through decreased harvest.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: White Mountain IRA Council (HQ-06F-066)

PROPOSAL 148 - 5 AAC 01.1XX. Use of Subsistence Caught Fish. Create a new regulation to include the following:

The new regulation should allow the exchange of subsistence caught fish for cash, not to exceed \$1,000 and should not comprise a significant commercial enterprise.

ISSUE: Lack of customary trade regulations for Norton Sound and Port Clarence.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Laws will exist without implementing regulations, persons may become cited for customary trade. Customary trade as defined by state and federal law is the exchange of subsistence caught fish for cash.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? This proposal does address improving the quality of the resource for Alaskans who may no longer be active fishers and wish to exchange subsistence caught fish for cash when and if funds allow. Barter and customary trade is a longstanding cultural practice that should be legitimized so that persons may feel comfortable doing so upon the limited basis proposed in this proposal.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Subsistence fishers who may no longer be active fishers.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? N/A.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? N/A.

PROPOSED BY: Austin Ahmasuk (A-06F-003)

PROPOSAL 149 - 5 AAC 04.320. Fishing periods. Amend the following regulations in the Norton Sound District as follows:

5 AAC 04.320. Fishing periods.

(2) in Subdistricts **2-4**, [3] salmon **fishing periods are established by emergency order** [MAY BE TAKEN FROM 6:00 P.M. MONDAY TO 6:00 P.M. TUESDAY AND FROM 6:00 P.M. THURSDAY TO 6:00 P.M. FRIDAY].

(3) in Subdistricts **5-6**, salmon **fishing periods are established by emergency order**. [2 AND

4-6 MAY BE TAKEN FROM 6:00 P.M. MONDAY TO 6:00 P.M. WEDNESDAY AND FROM 6:00 P.M. THURSDAY TO 6:00 P.M. SATURDAY].

ISSUE: Regulations listing times of fishing periods have become obsolete as the department has moved to establishing fishing times to coincide with market conditions. Buyers and managers coordinate the schedule of fishing periods with transportation opportunities and capacity limitations.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? An outdated regulation will stay on the books.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Those who would like regulations to reflect current management practices and improve salmon marketing.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those who prefer to fish on a set schedule.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-06F-158)

PROPOSAL 150 - 5 AAC 04.200. Fishing districts and subdistricts and 5 AAC 04.310. Fishing seasons; and 5 AAC 04.320. Fishing periods; and 5 AAC 04.330. Gear; and 5 AAC 04.331. Gillnet specifications and operations; and 5 AAC 04.350. Closed waters. Amend these regulations as follows:

5 AAC 04.200 The old commercial fishing boundary regulations from the commercial fishery of 1966 be utilized for the first year. The outer line ran from Brevig Lagoon entrance (marked by a now stranded bridge) to the western tip of Cape Riley. The inner line ran from Four Mile Point to Sunset Creek Mouth, across Grantley Harbor. Should this result in water marked fish an emergency opening could be issued to adjust the line to the narrows at the entrance of Grantley Harbor.

5 AAC 04.310 “from a date established by emergency order after July 1 through August 31” These dates could be refined after the first season.

5 AAC 04.320 “to be established by emergency order.” Depending on the number of participants this could be left to the buyer and fishers to best manage quality with little additional workload to the department as it is done in other low volume fisheries (Kotzebue salmon).

5 AAC 04.330 and 5 AAC 04.331 Same as Norton Sound District.

5 AAC 04.350 Strike (3) the Port Clarence District

ISSUE: The sockeye salmon returns in the Port Clarence District have increased by a factor of ten in past decade. Although subsistence use has had a proportionate increase in harvest and effort, there have been very large escapements to the spawning grounds at Salmon Lake. The

department and local people are now viewing this stock as a potential economic opportunity. The NSEDC board has expressed their wish to see that communities most closely located to local resources derive the bulk of the direct benefit from the harvest. It is quite likely that within three years, commercial fishers and a buying station could be operational at Port Clarence. Assuming the regulations to enable a commercial fishery are put in place, CFEC and the department will need to implement a permitting process, establish a management plan, and refine the escapement goal to effectively manage this stock and the fisheries dependent upon it. This proposal is intended to move that process forward.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Currently, there is no means of opening a commercial harvest at Port Clarence. Significant overescapements are occurring at Salmon Lake. Although the department, Bureau of Land Management and NSEDC sponsored a lake fertilization program during the past decade, the strong escapements now well exceed the amount of chemical fertilizer that was once required to jumpstart this system. Research is being conducted to assess the forage species and nutrients now in the lake. The escapement goal is likely to be adjusted, but it is anticipated there will be a large harvestable surplus. The potential human benefit from the resource cannot be realized without a well-managed commercial fishery.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? The regional commercial fishers will have another fishery adding to the diversity of their choices for participation.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? A commercial fishery downstream of the subsistence fishery will reduce abundance on the fishing grounds of the Pilgrim River. However, since seining at prime milling sites is the primary method in the subsistence fishery, subsistence permit limits are still likely to be met.

PROPOSED BY: Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation (HQ-06F-099)

PROPOSAL 151 - 5 AAC 03.320. Fishing periods. This proposal simplifies regulatory text and better reflects current management practices.

5 AAC 03.320. Fishing periods. In the Kotzebue District

(1) **fishing periods are established by emergency order.** [WEEKLY SALMON FISHING PERIODS ARE TO BE OPENED AND CLOSED BY EMERGENCY ORDER UNTIL AUGUST 1;]

Repeal the following regulation:

[(2) AFTER AUGUST 1, SALMON MAY BE TAKEN ONLY FROM 8:00 A.M. MONDAY UNTIL 8:00 P.M. TUESDAY AND FROM 8:00 A.M. THURSDAY UNTIL 8:00 P.M. FRIDAY.]

ISSUE: Beginning in the mid-1990s, market conditions necessitated shorter periods for better fish quality. Since 2002, limited buyer capacity has resulted in the commercial fishery being

open continuously from mid-July through August 31. The open salmon fishery allows buyers and catcher-sellers to coordinate the fishing effort with airline schedules for better quality. This proposal simplifies regulatory text and better reflects current management practices.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? An outdated regulation is on the books.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Those who would like regulations to reflect current management practices.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-06F-157)

PROPOSAL 152 - 5 AAC 27.905. Description of Bering Sea-Kotzebue Area districts and subdistricts. This is a housekeeping proposal to simplify regulatory boundaries. Amend the regulations as follows:

(b) The Norton Sound District consists of all waters between the latitude of the westernmost tip of Cape Douglas and the latitude of **Point Romanof** [CANAL POINT LIGHT].

ISSUE: The current herring district boundary in regulation is Canal Point Light. However, several years ago the southern boundary for the salmon district was changed to Point Romanof approximately 20 miles south of Canal Point. This proposal would make the herring and salmon district boundaries the same.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Regulatory language will continue to be confusing to those who fish both herring and salmon because of two different boundaries.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Everyone will benefit by eliminating confusion and having one boundary for Norton Sound finfish.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-06F-156)

PROPOSAL 153 - 5 AAC 27.910. Fishing seasons and periods for Bering Sea-Kotzebue Area. Amend this regulation as follows:

If market prices for Norton Sound herring are too low for the buyers to travel there and for the

fishermen to make a profit, the fishery should be closed. No state program, like CDQ, should be allowed to use public funds to create a fishery that only exist for political reasons.

ISSUE: In 2005, Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation (NSEDC) paid a price subsidy at Norton Sound, to local fishermen only, of \$100 per ton. The real world market price at Togiak, for similar fish, was \$140 to \$150 per ton. The big fish buyer paid a market price of \$150 per ton at Norton Sound. The big buyer's price was less than harvest cost. The fishery would not have occurred without the \$100 per ton subsidy NSEDC added.

These herring just spawn in Norton Sound. NSEDC does not own them. During the rest of the year these herring travel as far as Dutch Harbor. They are the basis of the entire Being Sea food chain. Sea lions, birds, halibut and crab, all depend on that food chain.

Herring will come back year after year if you let them. The 1,764 tons of herring NSEDC paid to kill in 2005 could easily come back in five years. The price might be up by then and permit holders like myself might be able to fish for profit.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? NSEDC executives will continue to waste vast amounts of CDQ money every year, to create a fishery that makes them look good at election time.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. Right now the value of Norton Sound herring is a negative \$100 per ton. If you do not fish, the value increases to zero. In 2005 you would have improved the value of the harvest by \$176,400, if you did not fish.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Herring fishermen in other areas will not get the Norton Sound fish dumped on the market at below harvest cost. People who care about wanton waste will sleep better at night.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? The big fish buyer will lose their subsidy. They will no longer get the Norton Sound herring at below harvest cost. NSEDC executives will lose a valuable campaign strategy in the next election. Some department staff might get laid off.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Use the vast CDQ wealth to help fund village schools, hospitals and police protection.

PROPOSED BY: Sidney Nelson (HQ-06F-062)

PROPOSAL 154 - 5 AAC XX.XXX. Create a new regulation to include the following:

The new regulation would establish a controlled use area for the Nome River specifically in regulation to Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities activities in locations where the Nome River is within the right-of-way of Nome-Taylor highway. The controlled use provision would only apply to the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities activities and the provision should prohibit use of river substrate and provide for effective seeding of native willow clumps to enhance Nome riverbanks where they have been destroyed. The Nome-Taylor highway shoulder in some locations in the area is the bank of the river and actively erodes. Streamside stabilization using planted native willow clumps will provide cover, habitat for juvenile salmon, bank stabilization, macro invertebrates, and waterfowl.

ISSUE: Water quality in the Nome River. The Alaska Department of Transportation in many attempts to maintain Nome area roads is using river substrate or banks of rivers to upgrade, maintain, and/or repair Nome area roads. Those actions and others, unless curtailed or better managed, will result in destruction of salmon habitat. Enhancement needs to occur to improve habitat for anadromous and non-anadromous fish, macro-invertebrates, waterfowl, and terrestrial life. Such actions occurred between milepost 10 and milepost 30 of the Nome-Taylor highway. The alteration of the bank in those locations needs stabilization and streambank vegetation needs to be planted. Improvements were made that exposed the gravel bank and destroyed all or most vegetation in particular locations.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The Alaska Department of Transportation will continue to use stream substrate, and/or banks to maintain Nome area roads causing the destruction of aquatic life habitat.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? This proposal will dramatically improve the quality of the resource, Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities needs to address the destruction of streamside habitat along the Nome River.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? N/A.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? N/A.

PROPOSED BY: Austin Ahmasuk (A-06F-002)

PROPOSAL 155 - 5 AAC 07.331. Gillnet specifications and operations. Amend this regulation to provide the following:

In District 1, salmon may be taken with gillnets of up to eight or smaller mesh in the early part of the season (June 15 to July 1).

ISSUE: The mesh sizes for gillnets were reduced to six-inch or smaller in response to the decline in chinook in the Kuskokwim area about ten or more years ago. The current department information shows a rapid increase of chinook in the Kuskokwim within the last five years. Therefore, commercial fishermen in District 1 would like to see a limited chinook targeted fishery with use of larger mesh gear to harvest the surplus of chinook in the first part of the season while they are still fresh and marketable.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The local residents of District 1 will continue to not be able to take advantage of harvesting a limited number of chinook to boost the overall economy in the area.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, the Kuskokwim area fish are historically of best quality in the lower part of the Kuskokwim River and during the period suggest in this proposal.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All District 1 commercial fishermen, fish buyers, and the

local economy.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? There will not be any significant loss or suffering to other users or the resource as the numbers indicate there is sufficient surplus at this time to merit this small increase in harvest.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Return to prior to 1985 management. It would be too extreme at this time.

PROPOSED BY: Lower Kuskokwim Advisory Committee (SW-06F-040)

PROPOSAL 156 - 5 AAC 07.365. Kuskokwim River Salmon Rebuilding Management plan. Amend this regulation as follows:

During commercial openings, the lower portion of the river will be open for eight hours while the upper portion remains the same at six hours.

The Kuskokwim River is divided into two, the upper and lower, districts thus having different openings depending on the fish runs.

ISSUE: Commercial districts in the Kuskokwim River. Open the lower portion of the river for eight hours per opening. Upriver fishermen report catching more than we, due to river narrowing towards Bethel. The lower portion is about two and one half to three miles wide in some areas and thus fish are more spread out than in narrower areas. Average fish caught on the lower portion of the Kuskokwim for about one half hour would be 25 to 30, on the other hand, upriver would catch about twice the average or more in the same amount of time. The other idea would be to separate the district into two lower and upper, both having different times of openings depending on the fish run.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Probably the department will be the one to take the findings of not having openings even though there was an average run during that time and only opened up the upriver portion. Also, mainly fish run is always dependent on fish tests done near Bethel and not always accurate readings/tests. Bethel is far from the mouth of the river and when fish runs are abundant downriver, they may not be upriver and when they abundant upriver they may not be downriver, so it is like playing a game of see-saw.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Production will probably go up due to a better managed organization of the two districts, or prolonged hours fished downriver.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Lower portion and upper portion of the Kuskokwim.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? The department, trying to manage two districts.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Separate the district into two lower and upper, both having different times of openings depending on the fish run.

PROPOSED BY: Douglas Kernak (HQ-06F-011)

PROPOSAL 157 - This proposal asks the Board of Fisheries to recommend to the legislature, as per AS 16.05.251(a)(1), that a reserve area be designated as follows:

Per authority granted under 16.05.251(a)(1), that the Board of Fisheries may adopt regulations it considers advisable for setting apart fisheries reserve areas, refuges, and sanctuaries in the water or on the land of the state over which it has jurisdiction, subject to approval of the legislature, the Board hereby establishes the Holitna Basin Fisheries Reserve consisting of the mainstem and tributaries of the Holitna River from Gemuk Lake to its confluence with the Kuskokwim.

For the purposes of this designation, “reserve” means to specifically recognize, elevate and emphasize the area’s high productivity potential; and that habitat maintenance for its abundant fisheries resources, dependent subsistence and other human harvest opportunity is the primary over-riding management purpose, such that any other activities are of secondary consideration in their potential degradation to the areas’ highest and best use; this being, preservation in perpetuity for the Holitna Basin’s significant productivity and contribution for salmon and other fisheries species to the entire Kuskokwim drainage.

ISSUE: The Holitna Basin is a highly productive ecosystem essential to the regional health of human and fisheries resources in the Kuskokwim region that has little in place against other competitive use interests to assure conservation of habitat and related fish stocks into the future.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Future development activities representing significant threat to maintaining long term integrity of the Holitna river system’s fisheries productivity for the entire Kuskokwim drainage may well occur.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? The magnitude and fundamental support of the Holitna River system for sustained yield of fish stocks throughout the entire Kuskokwim drainage, and the importance of those fish stocks to residents of the Kuskokwim cannot be over emphasized. Studies over just the last few years have established that 25 percent of Kuskokwim River Chinook salmon (a board recognized stock of concern) comes from the Holitna River Basin. To punctuate this areas’ comparative importance in the broader state perspective; the subsistence catch of Kuskokwim Chinook represents 50 percent of the total King salmon subsistence harvest statewide.

It also has recently been found that as much as 50 percent of the sockeye salmon for the Kuskokwim originate in the Holitna River Basin. Of special note is that these sockeye may be unique in that they spawn and rear in a river environment, as compared to most other statewide sockeye populations that are dependent on lake systems for their early life history. It has yet to be determined which parts of the river system are most important for the 2 rearing years spent in the river. There is also heavy use of the Holitna Basin by whitefish species that are important in contributing to subsistence harvests throughout the entire Kuskokwim region.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All consumptive and non-consumptive user groups dependent upon the fish stock contributions of the Holitna River Basin.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Entities focused or oriented towards speculative, short term interest gains, without abiding consequences incumbent to degradation aftereffects.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Pursue designation as a Critical Habitat Area: The Kuskokwim area has been woefully lacking historically in funding and research activities

common to other areas of the state. With the recent advent of management support, significant findings as referenced above have already been found in just a few short years. At present this remains an option for further discussion.

PROPOSED BY: Orutsararmiut Native Council and Sleetmute Traditional Council (HQ-06F-118)

PROPOSAL 158 - 5 AAC 01.240. Marking and use of subsistence-taken salmon. Amend this regulation as follows:

(c) In Districts 1-3, during an opening for commercial salmon fishing, a person may not possess king salmon taken for subsistence uses unless **both lobes of the caudal fin (tail fin) have** [THE DORSAL FIN HAS] been **immediately** removed. A person may not sell or purchase salmon from which **both lobes of the caudal fin (tail fin) have** [THE DORSAL FIN HAS] been removed.

ISSUE: Removing the dorsal fin of king salmon harvested by subsistence fishers in District 1-3 in the Yukon Area during the open commercial fishing season places an undue hardship on subsistence fishers because of the following: 1) removing the dorsal fin from king salmon is physically difficult; 2) removing the dorsal fin often exposes flesh prior to processing; and 3) the regulations for marking king salmon in Districts 1-3 are inconsistent with other areas within the state regulations (e.g. 5 AAC 1.360., 5 AAC 01.590., 5 AAC 01.640.).

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The flesh of the fish will continue to be contaminated if this problem is not solved since removal of the dorsal fin from king salmon harvested for subsistence in Districts 1-3 often breaks the skin of the dorsal fin area, exposing flesh prior to processing and allowing the flesh of the fish to be contaminated. Additionally, inconsistencies between the marking requirements for subsistence fishers in Districts 1-3 and those for other fisheries in the state will cause confusion.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, removing both lobes of the caudal fin (tail fin) allows the demarcation of subsistence harvest from commercial harvest of king salmon with greater ease, while decreasing the probability that the skin of the fish will be compromised (increasing the possibility of contamination).

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Subsistence fishers in districts 1-3 would benefit by making the marking of subsistence fish safer and easier.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one is likely to suffer if this solution is adopted.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association (SC-06F-005)

PROPOSAL 159 - 5 AAC 05.360. Yukon River King Salmon Management Plan. Amend this regulation as follows:

The effective dates of the windowed schedule would be May 1 to September 1. The windowed

schedule will not be lifted for any reason.

ISSUE: Quality of chinook salmon on the spawning grounds. The department classifying a 655mm (25.79 inches) or longer chinook salmon as large. The department having a start date for windows schedule and ending the windows as soon as they have a commercial opening.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The eight-year age class of chinook salmon have been extirpated. The seven-year age class is less than one percent on the Tositna River. Over 70 percent of the escapement on the Tositna River will continue to be precocious males five-years old or less.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. When the same problem happened to the Taku River, commercial fishing was closed. It took 30 years for the department to recommend that commercial fishing start again. If we address the problem early on, we hopefully will not be facing total closures such as the Taku River later on.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? In the long term everyone will benefit.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? The most important issue is the sustainability of the run to include the large fish. What benefits the fish, benefits all the people in the drainage.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? N/A.

PROPOSED BY: Fairbanks Advisory Committee (I-06F-019)

PROPOSAL 160 - 5 AAC 05.360. Yukon River King Salmon Management Plan. Amend this regulation as follows:

Retain the window concept for all fisheries including subsistence and commercial. The windows schedule has been established since 2001. However, whenever there is a commercial opening at the mouth, they get out of the windows schedule. This proposal is to force strict adherence to the schedule. No change for anything or anybody.

ISSUE: The sizes of Yukon River kings have become noticeably smaller over the last 30 years. Any fishermen or elder will verify that the size has greatly reduced. Historically, in other fisheries, such as the Columbia River fishery which allowed selective fishing, the size has decreased.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The genetic integrity of the species is in danger. The size of the king salmon will continue to decrease.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. It allows big fish to get through to spawn so that their offspring can again get into the rivers, live their life cycles, then return to the rivers and spawn themselves, thus reversing the trend of fewer large kings in the Yukon River.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? In the long run, everybody. The more big fish that are hatched and make it to the ocean, the more there will be in years to come. It will help people become more conscious of the limited resource of the king salmon, and it will help them realize that this is an excellent long term strategy.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? In the short run, the people who think only of this year and perhaps next year, but not the long run future. Short-sightedness is going to cause long run (perhaps irreversible) damage to our king salmon stocks.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Tanana-Rampart-Manley Advisory Committee (I-06F-017)

PROPOSAL 161 - 5 AAC 05.360. Yukon River King Salmon Management Plan; and 5 AAC 01.210. Fishing seasons and periods. Amend these regulations to provide the following:

In the Yukon River drainage both subsistence and commercial salmon fishing will be subject to, and maintain, the windowed fishing schedule throughout the summer season.

ISSUE: Windows of no fishing to allow passage of returning Yukon River chinook salmon are needed throughout the summer season to allow pulses of returning salmon to reach their spawning streams. Allowing the various pulses of fish to pass throughout the entire drainage will ensure that the genetic variability and integrity of salmon will be maintained and protected. The true “windows” schedule was implemented by the board to provide this level of protection even after management decided to open a district to commercial fishing. The windowed fishing schedule would remain in effect even in a fishing district granted a commercial opening. The Yukon River salmon stocks need this additional protection to rebuild and have the genetic variability to face the challenges of climatic and human population changes.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The genetic variability and integrity of the Yukon River salmon will not be protected and will continue to decline and the genetic shift to smaller fish will continue.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Returning salmon throughout the summer season 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 stop the genetic shift to smaller fish that subsistence users are noticing. Local subsistence users in the upper Yukon River area, including Canada, are reporting harvesting smaller fish. Conservation actions are necessary now to protect the genetic integrity of the Yukon River chinook salmon stocks.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? 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 consistent with sound management principles and the conservation of healthy populations of fish. This proposal will provide for a reasonable opportunity to meet subsistence needs during a time to rebuild the stocks and to guarantee a realistic subsistence priority for future generations of all subsistence fishers across the drainage.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Passage of this proposal would restrict all subsistence and commercial users to the same windowed schedule thereby sharing the conservation burden by all fishers across the drainage. This proposal was written to be consistent with sound management principles and conservation of healthy populations of fish and wildlife in order to

the have the least adverse impact on rural residents who depend on those resources for their subsistence needs. Management actions are needed now in order to have the least adverse impact on all subsistence users but especially on future generations of subsistence users.

It would also restrict the commercial fisheries to the windowed schedule the subsistence fishers are subject to. The restriction of the commercial fisheries is necessary for the conservation of healthy populations of fish and for the continuation of subsistence uses of those populations. It would also provide additional protection for the salmon stocks and allow them to return to their historic levels. Taking necessary conservation actions now will provide for the subsistence as well as commercial fisheries needs in the future. Not taking action will hurt future fisheries across the drainage as they face the challenges of climatic and human population changes.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council (HQ-06F-058)

PROPOSAL 162 - 5 AAC 05.360. Yukon King Salmon Management Plan; and 5 AAC 01.210. Fishing seasons and periods. Amend this regulation as follows:

In the Yukon River drainage there will be set days of salmon fishing followed by days of complete closure to both subsistence and commercial fishing (example: four days of open fishing followed by three days of complete closure of commercial and subsistence fishing).

ISSUE: Time periods of no fishing are needed throughout the summer season to allow passage of returning Yukon River chinook salmon unmolested throughout the summer season to allow pulses of returning fish to reach their spawning streams. Allowing the various pulses of fish to pass and not be subjected to fishing pressure throughout the entire drainage will ensure that the genetic variability of salmon will be maintained and protected. The Yukon River salmon stocks need this additional protection to rebuild and have the genetic variability to face the challenges of climatic and human population changes.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The genetic variability and integrity of the Yukon River salmon will not be protected and will continue to decline and the genetic shift to smaller fish will continue.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Returning salmon throughout the summer season will be provided additional opportunity to reach their spawning grounds to help improve the quality of escapement of chinook salmon throughout the Yukon River drainage. Passage of this proposal would stop the genetic shift to smaller fish. Local subsistence users in the upper Yukon River area, including Canada, are reporting harvesting smaller fish. Conservation actions are necessary now to protect the genetic integrity of the Yukon River chinook salmon stocks.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? 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 consistent with sound management principles and the conservation of healthy populations of fish. This proposal will provide for a reasonable opportunity to meet subsistence needs during time of rebuilding the stocks and to guarantee a genuine subsistence priority for future generations of all subsistence fishers across the drainage.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Passage of this proposal would restrict all subsistence and commercial users to the same fishing closures thereby sharing the conservation burden by all fishers throughout the drainage. This proposal was written to be consistent with sound management principles and conservation of healthy populations of fish and wildlife in order to have the least adverse impact on rural residents who depend on those resources for their subsistence needs. Management actions are needed now in order to have the least adverse impact on all subsistence users but especially on future generations of subsistence users.

It would also restrict the commercial fisheries to the same closure times to which the subsistence fishers are subjected. The restriction of the commercial fisheries is necessary for the conservation of healthy populations of fish and for the continuation of subsistence uses of those populations. It would also provide additional protection for the salmon stocks and allow them to return to their historic levels. Taking necessary conservation actions now will provide for the subsistence, as well as commercial fisheries needs in the future. Not taking action will hurt future fisheries across the drainage as they face the challenges of climatic and human population changes.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council (HQ-06F-061)

PROPOSAL 163 - 5 AAC 05.331. Gillnet specifications and operations; and 5 AAC 01.220. Lawful gear and gear specifications. Amend these regulations as follows:

In the Yukon River drainage the maximum gillnet size is six-inch or smaller stretched-mesh for subsistence and commercial salmon fishing.

ISSUE: Larger nets have a detrimental effect on the stock composition and quality of escapements for Yukon River chinook salmon and tend to target the larger female chinook salmon. There have been continued poor returns of Yukon River salmon in most years since 1998. This has led to conservation concerns 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 fishers 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 turns protects the genetic variability and integrity of the Yukon River chinook salmon stocks.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? If management actions are not taken now the genetic shift to smaller fish will continue and the genetic variability and integrity of the Yukon River chinook salmon stocks will continue to decline.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Returning salmon, especially larger 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 that subsistence users are noticing. Local subsistence users in the upper Yukon River area, including Canada, are reporting harvesting smaller fish. Conservation actions are necessary now to protect the genetic variability and integrity of the Yukon River chinook salmon stocks.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? 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 consistent with sound management principles and the conservation of healthy populations of fish. Passage of this proposal will provide for a reasonable opportunity to meet subsistence needs during a time to rebuild the stocks and to guarantee a realistic subsistence priority for future generations of all subsistence fishers across the drainage.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? The Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council is keenly aware passage of this proposal would place restrictions on subsistence uses but the conservation concern of the genetic impacts of large mesh nets on the larger female chinook salmon needs to be addressed now in order to protect the Yukon River chinook Salmon runs for subsistence needs in the future. Without viable salmon stocks that have the genetic makeup to face the challenges of climatic changes and other impacts on salmon habitat, subsistence fishers on the Yukon River could have a rural priority for no fish or a priority for smaller fish that requires they fish harder and longer.

Passage of this proposal would restrict subsistence users to a gear type which may require additional fishing time and effort but it is being requested because of biological concerns and to provide for future subsistence needs. Management actions are needed now in order to have the least adverse impact on all subsistence users but especially on future generations of subsistence users.

It would also restrict the commercial fisheries to six-inch nets or smaller. It may result in additional fishing time and effort for the current commercial fisheries. The restriction on the commercial fisheries is necessary for the conservation of healthy populations of fish and for the continuation of subsistence uses of those populations. It would also provide additional protection for the salmon stocks and allow them to return to their historic levels. Taking necessary conservation actions now will provide for the subsistence as well as commercial fisheries needs in the future. Not taking action will hurt future fisheries across the drainage as they face the challenges of climatic and human population changes.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council (HQ-06F-059)

PROPOSAL 164 - 5 AAC 05.331. Gillnet specifications and operations. Amend this regulation as follows:

Gillnets in the Yukon River districts shall be no larger than six inches stretched mesh.

ISSUE: Lack of chinook salmon on the spawning grounds. chinook salmon harvest in Y5 & Y6 with fishwheels is over 70 percent precocious males under 10 pounds. In the Taku River the directed commercial fishery was closed for 30 years when this happened.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The older age class larger chinook salmon will continue to decrease in abundance in the upper Yukon.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. It will provide for the ability to catch more of the

smaller chinook and allow for more of the larger chinook to get upriver.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Everyone that uses the chinook salmon on the Yukon River.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one. Allowing the large chinook to reproduce will eventually restore and preserve the large fish. This will benefit all fishers in the drainage.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Eliminate drift gillnets in the Yukon River.

PROPOSED BY: Fairbanks Advisory Committee (I-06F-020)

PROPOSAL 165 - 5 AAC 05.331. Gillnet specifications and operations; and 5 AAC

01.220. Lawful gear and gear specifications. Amend these regulations as follows:

In the Yukon River drainage all gillnets with greater than six-inch mesh may not be more than 35 meshes in depth. This applies to both subsistence and commercial fishing gillnets.

ISSUE: Deeper nets are having a detrimental affect on the stock composition and quality of escapements for Yukon River chinook salmon and tend to target the larger female chinook salmon. There have been continued poor returns of Yukon River salmon in most years since 1998. This has led to conservation concerns on the spawning grounds bringing into question the sustained yield principle used in state management. These poorer returns are also not allowing subsistence users a reasonable opportunity to harvest their subsistence salmon needs.

The use of the deeper drift gillnets has and will continue to change the composition of the chinook stocks harvested. Stationary set gillnet and fish wheel gear likely harvest more local chinook salmon stocks, while the mobile drift gillnet gear will most likely harvest more Canadian origin chinook salmon stocks which are known to be larger on average than Alaska stocks. This knowledge is commonly accepted along the river. Allowing the use of greater than 35 mesh depth nets would be inconsistent with the conservation of natural and healthy populations of fish.

Test fish wheels and net monitoring projects break point for recording a large chinook salmon is 655mm in length from the center of the fish eye to the fork of the tail. Fish less than 655mm in length are considered small fish. For the average fisher this translates to a 28-inch fish or greater are considered large fish for management purposes. Published monitoring data from these projects list 655mm fish to be 14 pounds or larger in weight. Dr. Kocan's *Ichthyophonous* studies on chinook salmon in the Tanana and Rampart Rapids area, weighed as well as measured, the fish he collected. The 655mm fish he collected weighed seven to eight pounds. This confirms what fishers in the middle and upper Yukon Rivers have noted that the returning chinook salmon are getting smaller and conservation measures are needed to protect the larger fish that in turns protects the genetic integrity of the Yukon River chinook salmon stocks.

Current management plans for sustainable fishing ignore the consequences of selective harvesting that gear types can have on returning salmon. The Council supports that size-selective mortality causes genetic changes because they hear from fishers and elders across the drainage that the returning fish are smaller in size and weight. Department studies have shown gill nets to be size selective for chinook Salmon ("A study of Chinook salmon in Southeast Alaska" Sport Fish Division (1975, Volume 17 AFS 41); "Age, sex, and length composition of Chinook salmon from the 2002 Kuskokwim River subsistence fishery (2004 Regional

Information Report No. 3A04-13)). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service study, “Chinook Salmon Age, Sex, and Length Analysis from Selected Escapement Projects on the Yukon River (Alaska Fisheries Technical Report Number 87) clearly states the scope of their analysis was limited since they could only examine a small number of spawning populations over a short time period when both the fisheries and the environment were changing. The report went on further that “without accurate baseline data on age, sex, and length composition of the Yukon River chinook salmon stocks, it is not possible to determine whether any of the trends we found were due to selectivity of the gill-net fishery”. The data from fishers and others clearly show a decline in the size of the fish which demands action be taken to address the decline. Even if the ASL study cannot definitively show it is because of gillnet fishery, reducing the depth of nets will allow more fish and bigger fish reach the spawning grounds, thereby protecting the genetic viability of salmon stocks for future generations across the drainage including Canada.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? If management actions are not taken now the genetic shift to smaller fish will continue and the genetic variability and integrity of the Yukon River chinook salmon stocks will continue to decline.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Returning 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 afford protection of the larger chinook salmon migrating to their spawning grounds. Passage would address the potential genetic shift to smaller fish that subsistence users are noticing. Local subsistence users in the upper Yukon River area, including Canada, are reporting harvesting smaller fish. Conservation actions are necessary now to protect the genetic integrity of the Yukon River chinook salmon stocks. Nets need to be raised in depth so the larger fish can migrate under the nets and provide a more reasonable opportunity for upriver subsistence users.

The Tozitna River fishery monitoring project is one example showing that the composition of chinook salmon escapement is heavily skewed toward smaller, male fish or jacks. Conservation measures need to be taken now in order to maintain the genetic integrity and productivity of the Yukon River chinook salmon stocks that face ocean competition with hatchery fish, commercial by-catch, and climatic changes. Maintaining strong genetic diversity provides flexibility and safeguards for both management and users who depend on this value natural resource.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? 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 subsistence in the future. Passage of this proposal will provide for a reasonable opportunity for all subsistence fishers across the drainage.

It would have the beneficial effect on sport/recreational uses by increasing the opportunity for these uses to harvest larger fish throughout the drainage.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? The Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council is keenly aware passage of this proposal would place restrictions on subsistence uses but the conservation concern of the genetic impacts of deeper nets on the larger female chinook salmon needs to be addressed now in order to protect the Yukon River chinook salmon runs for subsistence needs in

the future. Without viable salmon stocks that have the genetic makeup to face the challenges of climatic changes and other impacts on salmon habitat, subsistence fishers on the Yukon River could have a rural priority for no fish or a priority for smaller fish that requires they fish harder and longer.

Subsistence fishing opportunity would be spread more equably across the drainage and necessary conservation measures would be in place to allow the salmon to rebuild their genetic and stock composition for future subsistence and commercial needs.

Passage of this proposal would restrict subsistence users to a gear depth which may require additional fishing time and effort but it is being requested because of biological concerns and to provide for future subsistence needs. This proposal was written to be consistent with sound management principles and to conserve healthy populations of fish. Management actions are needed now in order to have the least adverse impact on all subsistence users but especially for future generations of subsistence users.

It would restrict the commercial fisheries to net depth of 35 meshes. It may result in additional fishing time and effort for the current commercial fisheries. The restriction on the commercial fisheries is necessary for the conservation of healthy populations of fish and for the continuation of subsistence uses of those populations. It would also provide additional protection for the salmon stocks and allow them to return to their historic levels. Taking necessary conservation actions now will provide for the subsistence as well as commercial fisheries needs in the future. Not taking action will hurt future fisheries across the drainage as they face the challenges of climatic and human population changes.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council (HQ-06F-060)

PROPOSAL 166 - 5 AAC 05.331. Gillnet specifications and operations. Amend this regulation as follows:

No gillnets in the Yukon River larger than six inches stretch mesh will be more than 35 meshes deep.

ISSUE: Overharvest of the older chinook salmon.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The older salmon will continue to be harvested.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. More of the older, larger chinook salmon will be on the spawning grounds.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All users of chinook salmon.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Eliminate drift gillnets in the Yukon River.

PROPOSAL 167 - 5 AAC 05.320. Fishing periods; 5 AAC 05.331. Gillnet specifications and operations; and 5 AAC 05.360. Yukon River King Salmon Management Plan. Amend these regulations as follows:

To address the concerns raised by fishermen on the size of Yukon River chinook salmon, consider a wide variety of solutions, including fishing times and fishing gear. A specific solution may be provided after the working group meeting.

ISSUE: YRDFA is developing a proposal to address the concerns raised by fishermen on the size of Yukon River chinook salmon. YRDFA is assembling a working group composed of representatives from lower and upper Yukon River communities; tribal groups; representatives from Eastern Interior, Western Interior, and Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta regional advisory councils; state fish and game advisory committees; state and federal agency staff; Federal Subsistence Board representatives; Board of Fisheries representatives; and YRDFA board members. Canadian members may also participate. This working group will meet in the fall of 2006 and will address this issue in a manner which all fishers can agree on.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? We do not think this problem will be solved by the AYK January 2007 Board of Fisheries meeting, but we would like to address the issue of fish size on the Yukon River. If not addressed, proposals to limit gear size and fishing time will continue to be submitted to the Board of Fisheries and division will occur on the Yukon River.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? This proposal will ensure that chinook salmon continue to return to the Yukon River can continue to be harvested from the Yukon River for all user groups.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All fishermen and women along the Yukon River will benefit by ensuring the health of Yukon River chinook salmon stocks and a consensus on how to protect and utilize the resource.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? This will depend on what solution the working group endorses. Fishing gear restrictions would likely hurt all gillnet fishers. Fishing time restrictions would likely impact commercial and subsistence fishers up and down the river for both gillnet and fishwheel users.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSAL 168 - 5 AAC 05.360. Yukon River King Salmon Management Plan. Amend this regulation as follows:

The first commercial period in this Lower Yukon will take place between June 11 and June 15. The length of these initial periods will be adjusted accordingly depending upon run strength. The first commercial period in the Upper Yukon will take place between June 28 and July 2.

ISSUE: This is a placeholder proposal to revise the king salmon management plan to better respond to the changing commercial markets so as to assure the sustainability of the mixed subsistence-cash economy throughout the Yukon River. As processors can attest, demand from Japan for both salmon flesh and roe has declined considerably. Conversely, however, the demand and interest from the domestic market for Yukon salmon products has grown tremendously similarly to the growth Copper River salmon first experienced in the late 1980s and early 1990s. YRDFA will be assembling department staff, YRDFA board members, fishers and processors to identify needs and develop solutions. This collaboration will result in a more detailed proposal to change the management plan to be more responsive to the market while still providing for subsistence and escapement needs.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Harvesting tactics (for example, waiting until run strength justifies a nine to twelve house opening in the lower Yukon or a 48-hour period in the upper Yukon) will continue to focus as if Japan was still buying 99 percent of the salmon. While this strategy has generally enabled escapement goals and subsistence needs to be met, the quality of the commercial harvest has declined, the season has become severely compressed and opportunities for building market interest and demand have stagnated because the season has gotten progressively shorter over time and the market will not commit to advertising and promotions when the season only lasts 14 days or less. As well, Yukon River fishers throughout the lower and upper Yukon will harvest poor quality fish during the second half of the run and receive lower prices for their fish and will not be able to access all markets and potentially lose markets due to poor quality. An opening earlier in the run will also help spread out the harvest during the run, lessening the pressure from harvesting the same stocks each year on the second half of the run.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? First this will help spread out the harvest during the run instead of harvesting the same stocks each year on the second half of the run. Second, quality will improve and third, the fresh market will have access to fresh fish and fresh roe for a longer time period. Fourth a predictable opening date as has been done with the Copper River fishery will make markets more likely to commit advertising and promotional dollars.

Fish harvested early in the season will be of better quality, especially for an inriver fishery.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Commercial fishermen all along the river will benefit from a more predictable duration of the commercial season. Processors will benefit as they can sell better quality fish to market over a longer season, which will ultimately return a premium to the fishers. A more controlled harvest will take place, with a more even distribution of fish to the spawning grounds. As well, the beginning of the run is proportionally males.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Shorter periods will force both fishermen and tender operators to burn the same amount of gas for less fish. This is unfortunate but the industry must adapt to the needs of the market. However, shorter periods may also discourage fishermen from burning gas while hunting for fish in the waning hours of the period.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? We considered specifying an exact opening date with a minimum number of hours. We rejected this option because it would not allow for adjusting the opening or length accordingly.

PROPOSED BY: Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association

(SC-06F-002)

PROPOSAL 169 - 5 AAC 05.360. Yukon River King Salmon Management Plan. Amend this regulation as follows:

The first commercial period in the Lower Yukon will take place between June 11 and June 15. The length of these initial periods will be adjusted accordingly, depending upon run strength. The first commercial period in the Upper Yukon will take place within a specified window as well.

ISSUE: This is a placeholder proposal to revise the King Salmon Management Plan to better respond to the changing commercial markets so as to assure the sustainability of the mixed subsistence-cash economy of the Lower Yukon River. As processors can attest, demand from Japan for both salmon flesh and roe has declined considerably. Conversely, the demand and interest from the domestic market for Yukon salmon products has grown tremendously, similarly to what the Copper River first experienced in the late 1980s and early 1990s. YDFDA will attempt to assemble department staff, YDFDA board members, Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association board members, fishermen and processors to identify needs and develop solutions. This collaboration will result in a more detailed proposal to change the management plan to be more responsive to the market while still providing for subsistence and escapement needs.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Harvesting tactics will continue to focus as if Japan was still buying 99 percent of the salmon. While this strategy has enabled escapement goals and subsistence needs to be met, the quality of the commercial harvest has declined, the season has become severely compressed and opportunities for building market interest and demand have stagnated because the season has gotten progressively shorter over time and the market will not commit to advertising and promotions when the season only lasts 14 days or less.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, fish harvested early in the season will be of better quality, especially for an inriver fishery. First, this will help spread out the harvest during the run instead of harvesting the same stocks each year on the second half of the run. Second, quality will improve and third, the fresh market will have access to fresh fish and fresh roe for a longer time period. Fourth, a predictable opening date (as it has done with the Copper River fishery) will make markets more likely to commit advertising and promotional dollars.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Commercial fishermen all along the river will benefit from a more predictable duration of the commercial season. Processors will benefit as they can sell better quality fish to market and over a longer season, which will ultimately return a premium to the fishermen. A more controlled harvest will take place, with a more even distribution of fish to the spawning grounds.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? If the fishing periods become shorter, shorter periods will force both fishermen and tender operators to burn the same amount of gas for less fish.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Specifying an exact opening date with a minimum number of hours. Would not be able to adjust opening or length accordingly.

PROPOSED BY: Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Association

(HQ-06F-114)

PROPOSAL 170 - 5 AAC 05.360. Yukon River King Salmon Management Plan. Amend this regulation as follows:

The CDQ bycatch of king salmon along the coast at the mouth of the Yukon River will be part of the allocation of Y1 for Yukon kings.

ISSUE: The size of the Yukon kings has become noticeably smaller over the last 30 years. Any fishermen or elder will verify that the size has greatly reduced. Historically, in other fisheries, such as the Columbia River fishery which allowed selective fishing, the size has decreased.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The genetic integrity of the species is in danger. The size of the king salmon will continue to decrease.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. It allows more kings, and hopefully some of the larger ones, to get through to spawn so that their offspring can again get into the rivers, live their life cycles, then return to the rivers and spawn themselves, thus reversing the trend of fewer large kings in the Yukon.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? In the long run everybody. The more big fish that are hatched and make it to the ocean, the more there will be in years to come. It will help people become more conscious of the limited resource of king salmon, and it will force them to be more careful with their fishing methods.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? In the short run, the people who think only of this year and perhaps next year, but not the long run future. The people who have excessive bycatch from their trawlers.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Tanana-Rampart-Manley Advisory Committee (I-06F-016)

PROPOSAL 171 - 5 AAC 05.200. Fishing Districts and Subdistricts; and 05.360. Yukon River King Salmon Management Plan; and 05.362. Yukon River Summer Chum Salmon Management Plan. Amend these regulations as follows:

Change the boundary between Y1 & Y2 to Mountain Village. Divide the guideline harvest ranges for Y1 & Y2 for chinook, chum, and coho salmon equally between the new districts. Subtract the previous years bycatch of chinook from the guideline harvest ranges and the bycatch of other salmon from the fall chum and coho salmon from the Y1 guideline harvest for the current year.

ISSUE: The bycatch of chinook, chum, and coho salmon by the Lower Yukon CDQ group's trawler. This bycatch is in addition to, and not included in, the group's salmon allocation. As a result, the CDQ group has double the allocation of salmon.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The Lower Yukon CDQ group will

continue to have bycatch of chinook, chum, and coho salmon bound for Western Alaska to include the Yukon River that are above their allocation.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. The lower Yukon CDQ group will not have a double allocation of Yukon River salmon, i.e., bycatch by their trawler and the guideline harvest ranges in river.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Everyone that fishes for salmon on the Yukon River. More salmon will make it the spawning grounds.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? The lower Yukon River CDQ group will have less total yearly catch, as they will have to count all fish harvested toward their quotas.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? N/A.

PROPOSED BY: Fairbanks Advisory Committee (I-06F-018)

PROPOSAL 172 - 5 AAC 05.200. Fishing districts and subdistricts. Amend this regulation to include the following:

Move District three line downstream to include the community of Marshall. District 3 consists of that portion of the Yukon River drainage from the department regulatory marker located at the confluence of Polty Slough and the main Yukon River stem (Toklik) up stream to the department regulatory marker at the mouth of an unnamed slough three-fourths of a mile downstream from Old Paradise Village.

ISSUE: Problems include declining markets for upper Y-2 fish, lack of any fishing opportunity in Y-3, and inability to compete with Y-1 buyers who continue to source product to Japan.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Markets for upper Y-2 fish will continue to decline. Operating cost will continue to climb for fishermen who must travel by boat, downstream, to sell their salmon.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, this proposal would help improve the quality as the department could better manage resource harvesting, and better accommodate processor capabilities. They could target earlier run fish when fish quality is stronger in Y-3. Late run fish have less acceptance in the marketplace because Yukon salmon are river caught salmon where quality deteriorates as the run progresses.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Y-3 fishermen will benefit greatly. They have a harvestable quota of 1800-2200 King salmon that has not been fished in many years. The department would benefit because they would have another management tool to harvest fish. This proposal is an innovative approach to resource management and the department could use this tool to harvest salmon sooner. The market will benefit as well. Prolonging the commercial fishing season on the lower Yukon River will benefit all processors as the domestic market in particular will have greater time to accept products.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Displaced Y-2 fishermen who choose to stay in the new

District 2 boundary, and thereby become displaced from their previous fishing grounds.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? 1. IFQ's for communities like Marshall to allow for sustained fishing opportunities. 2. Elimination of Y-3. Division of Y-2 and Y-1 fishery and allocation to fishermen of harvestable resource.

PROPOSED BY: Maserculiq Fish Processors Inc. (HQ-06F-134)

PROPOSAL 173 - 5 AAC 05.369. Yukon River Coho Salmon Management Plan. Amend this regulation as follows:

5 AAC 05.369. Yukon River Coho Salmon Management Plan.

- (c) The department may allow a directed coho salmon fishery under this section in years when
- (1) the return of coho salmon measured under (b) of this section is above the average of previous years;
 - (2) the fall chum salmon return is assessed by the department to be more than 625,000 fish; and
 - (3) no directed fall chum salmon commercial has occurred or the department determines that it is not expected to occur.
- (d) Fall chum salmon harvested during a directed commercial coho salmon fishery under this section will be considered incidental and may only occur on the harvestable surplus of fall chum salmon above 625,000 fish.

The threshold numbers of fish mentioned above should be reassessed in the coho management plan to determine if these numbers should be lowered.

ISSUE: Current regulations do not allow for a directed commercial coho salmon fishery when fall chum are below the threshold required to allow a directed commercial fall chum fishery regardless of the coho salmon run strength. The YR DFA board is examining the available information to determine if the coho management plan should be amended to allow a directed commercial coho fishery. The YR DFA board has already received some information from the Department of Fish and Game and will be reviewing the matter further for a final recommendation at the fall YR DFA Board Meeting.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Fishermen may forego a potential commercial harvest of coho salmon when a surplus may be available.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? It may enable fish to be harvested earlier in the run, and therefore improve the quality.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? It will benefit commercial fishermen by providing opportunity to harvest an available surplus of coho salmon. It will benefit salmon buyers by providing product to maintain market interest.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? This change would only provide a small additional harvest which may mean that not all commercial fishermen may have the opportunity to participate. This change would lower the number of salmon returning to the spawning grounds.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? This will be provided after the working group

meeting.

PROPOSED BY: Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association (SC-06F-006)

PROPOSAL 174 - 5 AAC 05.XXX. Closures to non-salmon fisheries. Adopt a new regulation as follows:

No commercial fishing for fall Cisco, whitefish or sheefish.

ISSUE: Fishing for Cisco and whitefish during fall.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? If the king salmon are depleted, we as a consumer of Cisco and whitefish will have no other fish to harvest.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? They will replenish themselves.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Subsistence fishermen, generations to come.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Commercial fishermen.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Edward Abraham (SC-06F-001)

PROPOSAL 175 - 5 AAC 70.015. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means in the Tanana River Management Area. Amend this regulation as follows:

Catch and release below the South Fork of the Goodpaster River for chinook salmon.

ISSUE: No fishing for salmon on the Goodpaster River.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The Goodpaster River will continue to be closed to fishing for salmon.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Fairbanks Advisory Committee (I-06F-024)

PROPOSAL 176 - 5 AAC 70.015. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means in the Tanana River Management Area. Amend this regulation as follows:

In the Goodpaster River drainage, king salmon may be taken from January 1 through December 31 by catch-and-release fishing only [THE GOODPASTER RIVER DRAINAGE IS CLOSED TO SPORT FISHING FOR SALMON], any king salmon caught must be released immediately. Sport fishing for king salmon is closed above the confluence of the south fork.

ISSUE: Currently no sport fishing for king salmon is allowed in the Goodpaster River drainage. In recent years runs of king salmon have been noticeable in the Goodpaster River drainage and opportunity to catch king salmon is possible.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The opportunity to catch king salmon will not exist.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Anglers desiring an opportunity to catch king salmon close to Delta Junction.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? The idea of allowing harvest of king salmon was rejected in order to promote production potential of the king salmon run.

PROPOSED BY: Delta Advisory Committee (I-06F-011)

PROPOSAL 177 - 5 AAC 70.015. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means in the Tanana River Management Area. Amend this regulation as follows:

In the Salcha River and its tributaries only unbaited, artificial lures may be used, except that bait may be used only on hooks with a gap size larger than three-quarters of an inch throughout the Salcha River drainage, and Archery equipment may be used if a recurve bow has a minimum pull weight of 35 pounds, a compound bow with a minimum 35/55 pound pull weight/release force bow, a fiberglass arrow equipped with a fish barb, arrow cannot be less than 30 inches in length and not more than 32 inches in length, arrow must be equipped with rubber/plastic fletching, line reel cannot be any larger than six inches in diameter and cannot contain more than 22 yards of line. Access to fishing waters cannot be accomplished using any type of water vessel. Fishing is to be from shore or shallow water that is accessible by walking or wading only. Archery certification is required to use archery equipment to harvest salmon.

ISSUE: Allow a short archery season for king salmon downstream from the Richardson Highway bridge to the Tanana River.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? This is not a problem. If there is a harvestable surplus of king salmon in this drainage, sportsmen would like to harvest a king salmon using archery equipment.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS

PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, it provides additional methods and means to harvest salmon.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All users who would like to use archery equipment to harvest salmon.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? There were no other solutions considered.

PROPOSED BY: Fairbanks Advisory Committee (I-06F-027)
