

Alaska Board of Fisheries Committee Summary

COMMITTEE B

Subsistence, Sport, and Personal Use Fisheries
December 4, 2011

Board Committee Members:

1. Bill Brown, *Chair
2. John Jensen
3. Mike Smith

Alaska Department of Fish and Game Staff Members:

1. Tom Brookover, Deputy Director, Sport Fish Division
2. Don Roach, Regional Supervisor, Sport Fish Division
3. Matt Evenson, Research Coordinator, Sport Fish Division
4. Tom Taube, Management Coordinator, Sport Fish Division
5. Matt Miller, Management Coordinator, Sport Fish Division
6. Dan Bosch, PWS Area Manager, Sport Fish Division
7. Mark Somerville, Management Biologist, Sport Fish Division
8. Scott Maclean, Assistant Area Management Biologist, Sport Fish Division
9. James Savereide, Salmon Research Biologist, Sport Fish Division
10. Tim Viavant, Regional Management Biologist, Sport Fish Division
11. Sam Hochhalter, Assistant Area Management Biologist, Sport Fish Division
12. Cody Jacobson, Research Biologist, Sport Fish Division
13. Jim Fall, Statewide Program Manager, Subsistence Division
14. Lisa Olson, Deputy Director, Subsistence Division
15. Davin Holen, Program Director, Subsistence Division
16. Robbin La Vine, Subsistence Resource Specialist, Subsistence Division

Alaska Department of Law:

1. Mike Mitchell, Assistant Attorney General

Advisory Committee Members:

1. Mel Grove – Matanuska Susitna Valley AC
2. Johnny Kerr – Valdez AC
3. Ray Heuer – Fairbanks AC

Public Panel Members:

1. Keith van den Broek – Native Village of Eyak
2. Eric Lian – Cordova District Fishermen United (CDFU)
3. Thea Thomas – Self
4. Jason Koontz – Inlet Fish, Inc
5. Shawn Gilman – Comm fish/Sport fish
6. George Covell – Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation (PWSAC)
7. Mike Mahoney – Self
8. John Delaquito – Self
9. Jennifer Ehmann – Self
10. Jerry McCune – CDFU
11. Rod Arno – Alaska Outdoor Council
12. Elmer Marshall – Self
13. Karen Linnell – Self
14. Christopher Gene – Self
15. Linda Tyone – Self
16. Angela Vermillion – Self
17. Kory Blake – Self

Federal Subsistence Representatives:

1. Dave Nelson – Office of Subsistence Management
2. Molly McCormick – Wrangell-St. Elias National Park

The Committee met December 4, 2011 at 1:00 p.m. and adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

PROPOSALS BEFORE THE COMMITTEE WERE: (39 total) 56 – 76, 120 – 130, 132 – 138.

PROPOSAL 66 - 5 AAC 01.610. Fishing Seasons; 5 AAC 01.620. Lawful Gear and gear specifications. Prohibit bycatch, require ADF&G notification, and set season in the whitefish fishery as follows:

Under **5 AAC 01.610. Fishing seasons.** Add the following language:

Any species (except as provided in 5 AAC 01.610(e)) taken incidentally by gillnet may not be retained and must be immediately released

Under **5 AAC 01.620. Lawful Gear and gear specifications.** Add the following language:

Gillnets used for subsistence fishing of freshwater finfish, other than salmon, may be operated only as follows;

- (1) With 24 hour prior notification to ADF&G identifying the specific water body
- (2) May only be fished under the ice
- (3) Must be re-located a minimum distance of 500 feet if greater than 4 lake trout are caught in a set

Comment Summary:

Department: The lake trout sport harvest is an order of magnitude greater than the incidental subsistence harvest and the sport harvest is being addressed in another proposal.

Department of Law: None.

Federal Subsistence Representative: None.

Public Panel Comments:

- A member stated that all these proposals submitted on whitefish subsistence deal with the same issues. There is concern about how harvest data is collected, and that there is no population data on whitefish for these lakes. There is a feeling that the incidental catch estimate of 59 lake trout is suspect.
- A member was not in favor exactly as written, but felt that we need better management.
- A member stated that they support maintaining subsistence opportunity for whitefish and the 24 hour notification that is already in the permit stipulation.
- A member felt there are not enough protection officers available to monitor the fishery.
- A member referenced RC 18, indicating that there were large, older fish included in the incidental harvest of lake trout.
- The board committee asked about the effect the proposal would have on subsistence opportunity, and the department stated that the board has made a very broad ANS for freshwater fish in the entire area, so the department could restrict specific fisheries and still provide reasonable opportunity.

Public Panel Recommendation:

None.

PROPOSAL 67 - 5 AAC 01.610. Fishing seasons (e) Rainbow trout and steelhead; and 5 AAC 01.630. Subsistence fishing permits; Require ADF&G notification, set season, and limit bycatch in the whitefish fishery as follows:

Require subsistence whitefish permit holders to notify ADF&G, 24 hours prior to deploying gear. Season dates for subsistence whitefish; Nov. 10-March 31st. No more than 5% total bycatch will be allowed for the season for each permit holder.

Comment Summary:

Department: None.

Department of Law: None.

Federal Subsistence Representative: None.

Public Panel Comments:

- A member asked if there is a conservation concern over lake trout. The department responded there is no conservation concern about lake trout harvest from the subsistence fishery.

Public Panel Recommendation:

None.

PROPOSAL 68 - 5 AAC 01.625. Waters closed to subsistence fishing. Establish closed areas and seasons, and prohibit bycatch in the whitefish fishery as follows:

Close the Lake Louise/Susitna Lake and Susitna/Tyone channels totally to subsistence whitefish netting, change the opening date of the subsistence whitefish fishery from October 1 to November 15, and require the release of all incidental bycatch.

Comment Summary:

Department: None.

Department of Law: None.

Federal Subsistence Representative: None.

Public Panel Comments:

- The author of the proposal stated that the date of the proposed closure aligned with lake trout spawning timing, and stated that lake trout spawning continues through the middle of October.

Public Panel Recommendation:

None.

PROPOSALS 57, 58, 59, and 60 - 5 AAC 01.620. Lawful gear and gear specifications.
(*This proposal was erroneously cited as 5 AAC 01.625. Waters closed to subsistence fishing and 5 AAC 77.570. Waters closed to personal use fishing.*). Prohibit netting of fish in Lake Louise, Susitna and Tyone lakes as follows:

Stop all netting.

Comment Summary: Proposals 57, 58, 59, and 60 were considered together.

Department: None.

Department of Law: None.

Federal Subsistence Representative: None.

Public Panel Comments:

- A member stated they did not support this proposal but still believed the incidental mortality of lake trout is a problem since the department is concerned about total lake trout mortality in these lakes.

Public Panel Recommendation:

Consensus to Oppose Proposals 57 to 60.

PROPOSALS 61 and 62 – 5 AAC 01.620. Lawful gear and gear specifications. (*This proposal was erroneously cited as 5 AAC 01.625. Waters closed to subsistence fishing and 5 AAC 77.570. Waters closed to personal use fishing.*) . Prohibit netting of whitefish and lake trout in Lake Louise, Susitna and Tyone lakes as follows:

There will be no netting of white fish or lake trout.

Comment Summary: Proposals 61 and 62 were considered together.

Department: Permit stipulations prohibit netting of lake trout.

Department of Law: None.

Federal Subsistence Representative: None.

Public Panel Comments: None.

Public Panel Recommendation:

Consensus to Oppose.

PROPOSAL 63, 64, and 65 – 5 AAC 01.620. Lawful gear and gear specifications. *(This proposal was erroneously cited as 5 AAC 01.625. Waters closed to subsistence fishing and 5 AAC 77.570. Waters closed to personal use fishing.)* Prohibit netting of fish in Lake Louise, Susitna and Tyone lakes as follows:

No netting of whitefish.

Comment Summary: Proposals 63, 64, and 65 were considered together.

Department: None.

Department of Law: None.

Federal Subsistence Representative: None.

Public Panel Comments:

- None.

Public Panel Recommendation:

Consensus to Oppose.

PROPOSAL 69 - 5 AAC 01.610. Fishing seasons; 5 AAC 01.625. Waters closed to subsistence fishing; and 5 AAC 01.630. Subsistence fishing permits. *(This proposal erroneously cited only as 5 AAC 01.625. Waters closed to subsistence fishing.)* Establish closed area and set season dates in the whitefish fishery as follows:

Close the Lake Louise/Lake Susitna Channel to freshwater fish subsistence gillnets and change the opening date of the “freshwater fish subsistence permit” to December 1st.

Comment Summary:

Department: None.

Department of Law: None.

Federal Subsistence Representative: None.

Public Panel Comments:

- A member stated they agreed with the channel closure, but not with reduced dates of the gillnet fishery.

Public Panel Recommendation:

Consensus to Oppose.

PROPOSAL 70 - 5 AAC 01.610. Fishing seasons and 5 AAC 01.630. Subsistence fishing permits. *(This proposal was erroneously cited as 5 AAC 01.625. Waters closed to subsistence fishing and 5 AAC 77.570. Waters closed to personal use fishing.)*. Restrict netting of whitefish in Lake Louise, Susitna and Tyone lakes as follows:

Limit the amount of whitefish netted; no coincidental lake trout in nets; add more regulatory patrolling.

Comment Summary:

Department: None.

Department of Law: None.

Federal Subsistence Representative: None.

Public Panel Comments: None.

Public Panel Recommendation:

No support because of ambiguity in the proposal.

PROPOSAL 71 - 5 AAC 01.610. Fishing seasons and 5 AAC 52.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Upper Copper and Upper Susitna River Area. *(This proposal erroneously cited as 5 AAC 01.625. Waters closed to subsistence fishing).* Establish lake trout spawning closures in Tyone Lakes complex as follows:

Close lake trout fishing on the Lake Louise, Lake Susitna, Lake Tyone Waterway from September 1 to October 15.

Comment Summary:

Department: This proposal would have more effect on the sport fishery (1.5 month closure) than the subsistence gillnet fishery because the subsistence fishery does not begin until October 1 (two week closure).

Department of Law: None.

Federal Subsistence Representative: None.

Public Panel Comments:

- A member stated that there is a lot of sport fishing effort for lake trout during the time of this proposed closure. If there is a need to shorten the sport fishing time during spawning, they support it for conservation reasons. They prefer taking action in steps, would support proposal 68 first and then take this step if needed.

Public Panel Recommendation:

None.

PROPOSAL 56 - 5 AAC 24.361. Copper River King Salmon Management Plan. Amend the Copper River King Salmon Management Plan as follows:

Clarify for the board and public what actions the department may take for conservation of king salmon.

Comment Summary:

Department: None.

Department of Law: None.

Federal Subsistence Representative: Support for resource conservation and clarity in regulations. Referenced PC 15.

Public Panel Comments:

- A member supported this for conservation reasons and because many local users fish using federal permits, but oppose restrictions to retention of king salmon by fishwheels.
- A member supported this proposal for conservation concerns, but would like a written plan on how restriction on methods and means would be implemented.
- A member stated they do not want to see live boxes or other methods of limiting harvest of kings from fishwheels.

Public Panel Recommendation:

None.

PROPOSAL 72 - 5 AAC 77.591. Copper River Personal Use Dip Net Salmon Fishery Management Plan. Rescind allocation reduction in the Chitina personal use fishery as follows:

Rescind regulation.

Comment Summary:

Department: Without this regulation tying the Chitina PU fishery to the Copper River District commercial fishery, restrictions are based on Miles Lake sonar counts and would provide the department the ability to reduce fishing time if sonar counts were low.

Department of Law: None.

Federal Subsistence Representative: None.

Public Panel Comments:

- A member stated there was consensus during the 1997 meeting over this part of the management plan, and there should be linkage so that both user groups would share the conservation of fish.
- A member stated the regulation was ineffective.

Public Panel Recommendation:

None.

PROPOSAL 73 - 5 AAC 77.591. Copper River Personal Use Dip Net Salmon Fishery Management Plan. Increase harvest limit of king salmon in the personal use fishery as follows:

Restore retention of king salmon to at least 5 per family and 1 for individuals.

Comment Summary:

Department: Approximately 8,000 permits are issued and 5,400 permits are fished annually.

Department of Law: None.

Federal Subsistence Representative: Oppose for conservation reasons and maintaining subsistence opportunity, referenced PC 9 and PC15.

Public Panel Comments:

- Fairbanks AC referenced the McDowell decision and state subsistence law.
- A member was opposed, because the department should manage sport and personal use fisheries for the escapement goal. When the limit was 5, harvest was higher, and this proposal would increase harvests.
- Fairbanks AC supported the concept, but thought raising the limit to 5 might be too much, and would accept 2 or 3 instead of 5.
- A member stated that the PU fishery should provide king salmon for Alaska residents instead of nonresidents in the commercial fishery and another member responded that the commercial fishery is comprised of 75% residents.

Public Panel Recommendation:

No Consensus.

PROPOSAL 74 - 5 AAC 77.591. Copper River Personal Use Dip Net Salmon Fishery Management Plan. Allow for retention of king salmon in the personal use fishery as follows:

As long as commercial and sport fisheries are allowed to fish or retain any king salmon, personal use fishermen will be allowed to retain kings 2-3 days per week at the fisheries manager's discretion.

Comment Summary:

Department: None.

Department of Law: None.

Federal Subsistence Representative: Opposed due to conservation concerns and to maintain subsistence opportunity, and referenced PC 9 and PC15.

Public Panel Comments:

- A member was opposed because escapement numbers could be suspect.
- Fairbanks AC opposed due to possible impacts on the department's management ability due to loss of historic data for comparison.
- A member was opposed because this would make regulations confusing.
- A member supported the intent of this proposal because the PU fishery (resident only) is restricted while the sport fishery (nonresident) is still open.

Public Panel Recommendation:

No consensus.

PROPOSAL 75 – 5 AAC 77.591. Copper River Personal Use Dip Net Salmon Fishery Management Plan. Increase limit for sockeye salmon in the Chitina Personal Use Fishery as follows:

Increase the limits for sockeye salmon in the Chitina Subdistrict personal use salmon fishery when retention of king salmon is prohibited.

Comment Summary:

Department: None.

Department of Law: None.

Federal Subsistence Representative: Sockeye salmon are fully allocated and sockeye salmon harvest should be based on abundance, not based on king salmon abundance or management.

Public Panel Comments:

- A member stated there has been an annual increase in Chitina dipnetters.
- Fairbanks AC recommended removing reference to king salmon in the proposal and aligning sockeye salmon limits similar to the Kenai PU fishery. Referenced McDowell case.
- A member stated that the harvest data is inaccurate.

Public Panel Recommendation:

No consensus.

PROPOSAL 76 - 5 AAC 77.591. Copper River Personal Use Dip Net Salmon Fishery Management Plan. Delay opening of Chitina personal use dipnet fishery as follows:

Delay opening of the Chitina Subdistrict season until June 15th of each year.

Comment Summary:

Department: On average the PU fishery harvests approximately 5-10 % of total salmon harvest. The Glennallen Subdistrict ANS has been divided into 3 areas; the department will provide harvest information by area as an RC.

Department of Law: None.

Federal Subsistence Representative: Federal subsistence opening is linked to open the same dates as the PU fishery. The proposal would not distribute harvest throughout the run mandated by the management plan. Weir on Tanada Creek has shown highly variable runs during the 12 years of the project (range 1,700-38,000).

Public Panel Comments:

- A member stated that upper villages harvested more fish in 1950s and 1960s but harvest has decreased since initiation of the PU fishery. They try to harvest fish earlier as there are too many flies in July – fish rot. PU fishery decreases amount of fish in upper river streams. A 7-day delay would be a good start.
- A member stated that the first run of fish is the biggest and most nutritious. Since PU fishery began upriver abundance of salmon has decreased.
- A member stated they could get their supply of fish in June, but since PU fishery began this is no longer possible.
- A member stated that three generations of PU fisherman depend on early-run fish. Would tolerate a one-week delay.
- Fairbanks AC stated it would be a reallocation of wild stocks.
- A member stated that National Park Service data is recent and does not reflect the decline in salmon as opposed to historical data provided by other panel members.

Public Panel Recommendation:

No Consensus.

PROPOSAL 126 - 5 AAC 52.022. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Upper Copper River and Upper Susitna River Area and 5 AAC 52.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Upper Copper and Upper Susitna River Areas. *(This proposal erroneously cited only as 5 AAC 52.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Upper Copper and Upper Susitna River Areas.)*
Allow king salmon fishing on Gulkana River five days per week June 10 - August 10 as follows:

King salmon fishing on the Gulkana River will be open for five days per week, Tuesday 12:01 am thru Saturday 11:59 pm. June 10—August 10.

Comment Summary:

Department: None.

Department of Law: None.

Federal Subsistence Representative: None.

Public Panel Comments:

- A member stated EO authority should continue to be used to manage fishery. There are conservation concerns for Copper River king salmon.
- A member thought sport and PU fisheries should be closed until escapement goal is met.
- A member stated this would result in fishing on spawning fish.

Public Panel Recommendation:

Consensus to oppose.

PROPOSAL 127 - 5 AAC 24.361. Copper River King Salmon Management Plan and 5 AAC 52.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Upper Copper River and Upper Susitna River Areas. *(This proposal erroneously cited only as 5 AAC 52.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Upper Copper River and Upper Susitna River Area.)*

Restrict guided sport fishery when commercial fishery is restricted as follows:

If the commercial fishery is closed for conservation measures on the inside waters during the commercial season at least one conservation measure will be instituted on the guided sport fishery.

Comment Summary:

Department: None.

Department of Law: None.

Federal Subsistence Representative: None.

Public Panel Comments:

- The author withdrew support for the proposal due to unintended consequences of the proposal (unintended consequences were not mentioned).

Public Panel Recommendation:

No action.

PROPOSAL 128 - 5 AAC 52.022. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Upper Copper River and Upper Susitna River Area; 5 AAC 52.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession and size limits, and methods and means for the Upper Copper River and Upper Susitna River Area. Establish a limit for shipping of fish out of state for nonresident sport fishermen as follows:

A valid nonresident sport fishing license entitles the bearer to ship on daily bag limit of each legal species out to the State of Alaska per year. All shipped fish shall be in a form and with enough skin attached so species and quality can be easily determined. All shipping containers will be labeled with a signed ADF&G export tag identifying shipper, license number, quantity and species and granting law enforcement agents the permission to open and inspect the contents. In addition, an ADF&G furnished export report and harvest data survey will be mailed prior to the fish leaving the State of Alaska.

Comment Summary:

Department: This proposal would result in increased expenditures for the department and reduce its ability to perform core functions. If adopted this proposal would be difficult to enforce and require additional regulations for the proposal to be enforced. The department does not collect information on shipping of sport harvested fish. A variety of sources and methods are used to monitor harvest in sport fisheries depending on the management need for a particular fishery.

Department of Law: Proposals that are punitive to nonresidents may present a constitutional issue due to discrimination. Different bag limits for residents and nonresidents are constitutional but this proposal may be punitive to nonresidents.

Federal Subsistence Representative: None.

Public Panel Comments:

- A member supports, but provided no comment.

Public Panel Recommendation:

No consensus.

PROPOSAL 129 - 5 AAC 52.022. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Upper Copper River and Upper Susitna River Area and; 5 AAC 52.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Upper Copper River and Upper Susitna River Area. Modify lake trout regulations in four area lakes.

Comment Summary:

Department: Proposal also includes a no bait restriction.

Department of Law: None.

Federal Subsistence Representative: None.

Public Panel Comments:

- A member supports but provided no other comments.
- A member stated all harvest numbers are estimates and are not truly known.

Public Panel Recommendation:

No consensus.

PROPOSAL 130 - 5 AAC 52.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Upper Copper River and Upper Susitna River Areas. Establish a maximum size limit for lake trout in Lake Louise and Crosswind Lake as follows:

Lake trout 28 inches or greater in length must be immediately returned to the water. Trout under 28 inches in length may be kept, one per day, one in possession.

Comment Summary:

Department: There are not many fish over 28 inches in length. Few fish are likely to grow to a length of 28 inches or would be harvested before attaining this size.

Department of Law: None.

Federal Subsistence Representative: None.

Public Panel Comments: None.

Public Panel Recommendation:

Consensus to oppose.

PROPOSAL 132 - 5 AAC 52.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Upper Copper River and Upper Susitna River Area.
(This proposal was erroneously cited as 5 AAC 52.022. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Upper Copper River and Upper Susitna River Area.)

Paxson and Summit Lakes are closed to lake trout fishing from Sept. 1- Oct. 1.

Comment Summary:

Department: No concern for current lake trout harvest levels in Paxson and Summit Lakes.

During the spawning period, lake trout come into shallow areas primarily at night and could be vulnerable to harvest, but angler effort is low during this time period. Lake trout often use the same spawning areas each year.

Department of Law: None.

Federal Subsistence Representative: None.

Public Panel Comments:

- A member stated they can't fish for spawning salmon in many parts of the state. Spawning lake trout are vulnerable during spawning period and are a fragile resource.
- A member was neutral on proposal but provided no other comments.

Public Panel Recommendation:

No consensus.

PROPOSAL 133 - 5 AAC 52.022. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Upper Copper River and Upper Susitna River Area.

Allow the use of bait October 1 – July 31 in Paxson and Summit lakes.

Comment Summary:

Department: Anglers can use bait November 1 – April 15. During the remainder of the year only unbaited, single-hook artificial lures may be used.

Department of Law: None.

Federal Subsistence Representative: None.

Public Panel Comments:

- A member was opposed but provided no other comments.

Public Panel Recommendation:

Consensus to oppose.

PROPOSAL 134 and 135 - 5 AAC 52.037. Freshwater guiding requirements. Restrict guided sport fishery on Lake Louise, and Susitna and Tyone lakes as follows:

Do not allow sport fish guiding on Lake Louise, and Susitna and Tyone lakes.

Comment Summary:

Department: None.

Department of Law: None.

Federal Subsistence Representative: None.

Public Panel Comments:

- A member supports but provided no additional comment.
- A member was opposed because logbook data reported a total of one guide who took four clients during 2011 fishing season.

Public Panel Recommendation:

No consensus.

PROPOSAL 136 - 5 AAC 52.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Upper Copper River and Upper Susitna River Area.
Modify rainbow trout regulations in Summit Lake as follows:

Liberalize the season length and increase the length limit to 14” for rainbow trout in Summit Lake.

Comment Summary:

Department: Recommend changing the length limit to only one fish 18 inches or greater, based on review of the size composition data. This will allow anglers to harvest larger fish while the fish are still present.

Department of Law: None.

Federal Subsistence Representative:

- Lake is within Wrangell-Saint Elias National Park and Preserve. The proposal would not affect subsistence users. National Park Service supports proposal and referenced PC19.

Public Panel Comments: None.

Public Panel Recommendation:

Consensus to support with recommended substitute language.

PROPOSAL 137 - 5 AAC 52.055. Wild Arctic Grayling Management Plan.

Align the Wild Arctic Grayling Management Plan with area regulations.

Comment Summary:

Department: None.

Department of Law: None.

Federal Subsistence Representative: None.

Public Panel Comments: None.

Public Panel Recommendation:

Consensus to support.

PROPOSAL 138 - 5 AAC 52.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Upper Copper River and Upper Susitna River Area.

Open Tolsona Lake to sport fishing for burbot with a two fish of any size bag and possession limit.

Comment Summary:

Department: None.

Department of Law: None.

Federal Subsistence Representative: None.

Public Panel Comments: None.

Public Panel Recommendation:

Consensus to support.

PROPOSAL 120 - 5 AAC 55.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Prince William Sound Area. I

Increase sockeye salmon bag and possession limit to 6 per day/12 in possession and allow snagging in Eshamy Bay when the sockeye salmon escapement at Eshamy weir exceeds 20,500.

Comment Summary:

Department: If the board considers liberalizing, the department would prefer to repeal the “no snagging in the lagoon” regulation and adopt the general bag limit of 6/day and 12/possession. These changes would make Eshamy Lagoon sport fish regulations consistent with the rest of Prince William Sound saltwater regulations.

Department of Law: None.

Federal Subsistence Representative: None.

Public Panel Comments:

- A member stated for the last 20 years commercial fishermen are closed from the lagoon until escapement builds but sport fishermen have access to sockeye salmon in the lagoon regardless of escapement. This proposal would bring bag limits up to the rest of Sound but legalizing snagging in the lagoon is not a good idea.
- A member supports; if gillnetters are allowed to fish then why not allow sport fishermen into the lagoon too.
- A member stated this regulation would change the atmosphere of the lagoon if anglers were snagging. However, this member would be open to increasing bag limit.
- A member stated fly fishing for sockeye salmon is the same as snagging.

Public Panel Recommendation:

No consensus.

PROPOSAL 121 - 5 AAC 55.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Prince William Sound Area. Reduce sockeye salmon bag and possession limit in PWS as follows:

The bag and possession limit for sockeye salmon in all waters of Prince William Sound is 3 per day and 6 in possession. The bag and possession limit for sockeye salmon in Coghill (all waters of Port Wells north of Pakenham Point) and all the waters of Main Bay and on the Copper River Delta remain at 6 per day and 12 in possession.

Comment Summary:

Department: None.

Department of Law: None.

Federal Subsistence Representative: None.

Public Panel Comments: None.

Public Panel Recommendation:

Consensus to oppose.

PROPOSAL 122 - 5 AAC 55.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Prince William Sound Area. Establish coho salmon limit for non residents in Hells Hole Freshwater fishery as follows:

Limit nonresidents to 1 coho a day from Hells Hole freshwater fishery (maybe salt water as well).

Comment Summary:

Department: Every year there are reports of European anglers camping at Hells Hole and flying fish out daily.

Department of Law: None.

Federal Subsistence Representative: None.

Public Panel Comments:

- A member stated he was a previous charter operator who took Germans out to Hells Hole in the 1990s.

Public Panel Recommendation:

Consensus to oppose.

PROPOSAL 123 - 5 AAC 55.050. Waters closed to sport fishing.

Close Ibec Creek to sport fishing above the Copper River Highway.

Comment Summary:

Department: None.

Department of Law: None.

Federal Subsistence Representative: None.

Public Panel Comments:

- A member stated use has skyrocketed and anglers have begun to fish on the spawning grounds. This would be a preventative regulation that would protect spawning salmon in the future.
- A member stated a river skiff has gone upstream and is a concern.
- A member stated fishermen go above the three-mile line.
- A member stated there are coho salmon spawning closures on the Kenai River to protect salmon.
- A member stated there is consistent consensus among the community of Cordova to protect habitat.

Public Panel Recommendation:

Consensus to support.

PROPOSAL 124 - 5 AAC 55.050. Waters closed to sport fishing. Close 18 Mile Creek to sport fishing for coho as follows:

18 Mile Creek would be closed to sport fishing for coho north of a sign located just below the deep hole by the haystacks (a easily identifiable geologic feature) approximately 1000 yards from the confluence of alaganic slough and 18 Mile Creek.

Comment Summary:

Department: 2011 US Forest Service (USFS) stream survey counted over 3,000 coho salmon.
The USFS built trails to 18 Mile Creek to protect habitat.

Department of Law: None.

Federal Subsistence Representative: None.

Public Panel Comments:

- A member stated USFS surveys have shown a consistent decline in coho salmon escapement.
- A member stated he used to fish there but no longer does.
- A member stated at some point we need to protect angler opportunity.

Public Panel Recommendation:

No consensus.

PROPOSAL 125 - 5 AAC 55.022. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession and size limits, and methods and means for the Prince William Sound Area. Amend Prince William Sound trout size regulations as follows:

Institute a minimum length limit of 11 inches and a maximum length limit of 16 inches.

Comment Summary:

Department: The department stated that this would apply to wild fish only, and not to stocked lakes.

Department of Law: None.

Federal Subsistence Representative: None.

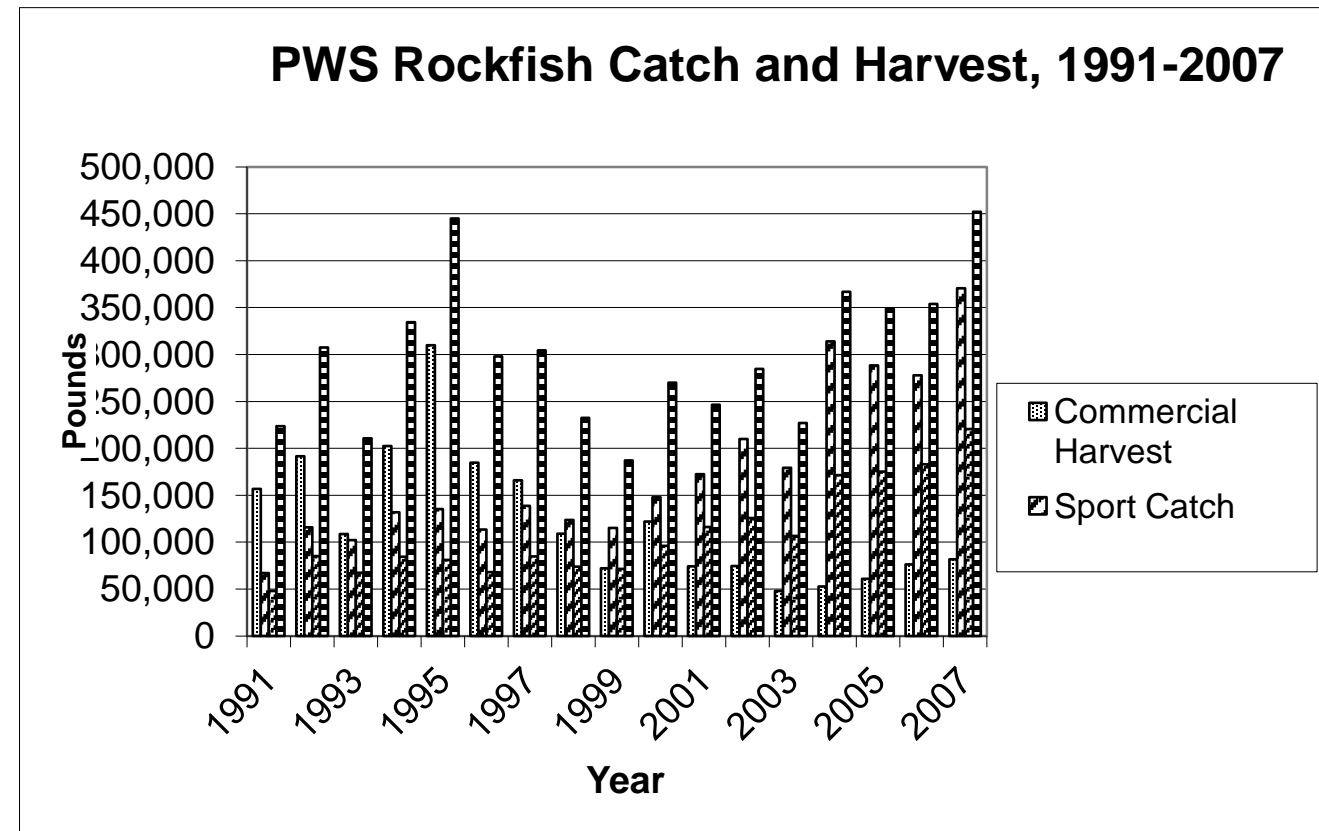
Public Panel Comments: None.

Public Panel Recommendation:

Consensus to support.

Year ^a	PWS Total		Whittier and Valdez	PWS total, lbs			
	Catch	Harvest	Avg. RndWt (lbs)	Catch	Harvest	Discard wt	Discard %
1991	12,200	8,733	5.5	67,100	48,032	19,069	28%
1992	21,085	15,478	5.5	115,968	85,129	30,839	27%
1993	18,558	12,274	5.5	102,069	67,507	34,562	34%
1994	23,999	15,382	5.5	131,995	84,601	47,394	36%
1995	24,566	14,701	5.5	135,113	80,856	54,258	40%
1996	20,602	12,375	5.5	113,311	68,063	45,249	40%
1997	25,223	15,403	5.5	138,727	84,717	54,010	39%
1998	22,464	13,451	5.5	123,552	73,981	49,572	40%
1999	20,947	12,996	5.5	115,209	71,478	43,731	38%
2000	26,915	17,476	5.5	148,033	96,118	51,915	35%
2001	29,131	19,608	5.9	172,454	116,078	56,376	33%
2002	33,964	20,348	6.2	209,981	125,800	84,180	40%
2003	35,961	21,405	5.0	179,101	106,606	72,495	40%
2004	57,429	31,327	5.5	314,140	171,361	142,780	45%
2005	51,441	31,224	5.6	288,370	175,037	113,333	39%
2006	49,983	32,958	5.6	277,684	183,101	94,584	34%
2007	64,836	38,606	5.7	370,461	220,587	149,873	40%
5-Yr Ave	45,756	27,452	5.5	250,061	150,031	100,030	40%
10-Yr Ave	36,946	21,620					

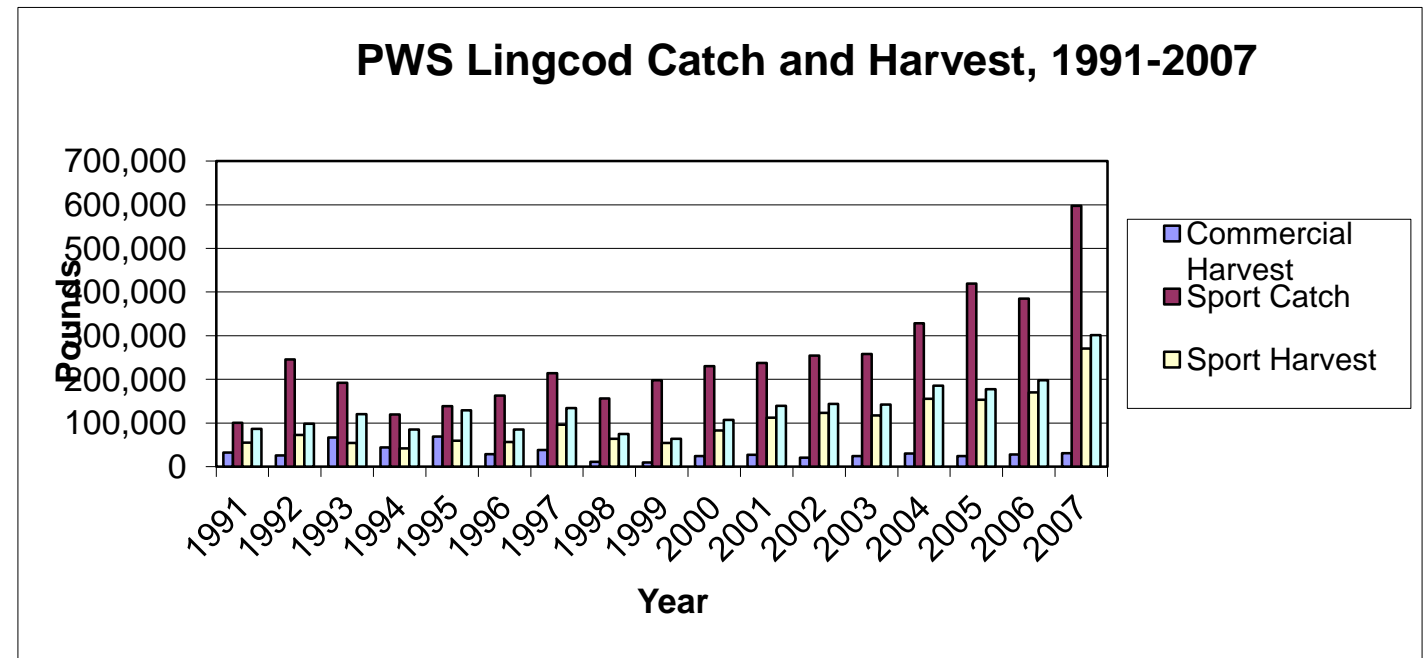
Year	Commercial Harvest	Sport Catch	Sport Harvest	Total Removals	Commercial Harvest as % of Total	Recreational Catch as % of Total
1991	156,650	67,100	48,032	223,750	70%	30%
1992	191,503	115,968	85,129	307,471	62%	38%
1993	108,573	102,069	67,507	210,642	52%	48%
1994	202,380	131,995	84,601	334,375	61%	39%
1995	309,946	135,113	80,856	445,059	70%	30%
1996	184,686	113,311	68,063	297,997	62%	38%
1997	165,838	138,727	84,717	304,565	54%	46%
1998	109,034	123,552	73,981	232,586	47%	53%
1999	71,987	115,209	71,478	187,196	38%	62%
2000	121,919	148,033	96,118	269,952	45%	55%
2001	74,082	172,454	116,078	246,536	30%	70%
2002	74,612	209,981	125,800	284,593	26%	74%
2003	47,990	179,101	106,606	227,091	21%	79%
2004	52,801	314,140	171,361	366,941	14%	86%
2005	60,850	288,370	175,037	349,220	17%	83%
2006	76,271	277,684	183,101	353,955	22%	78%
2007	81,604	370,461	220,587	452,065	18%	82%
5-Yr Ave	63,903	250,061	150,031			
10-Yr Ave						



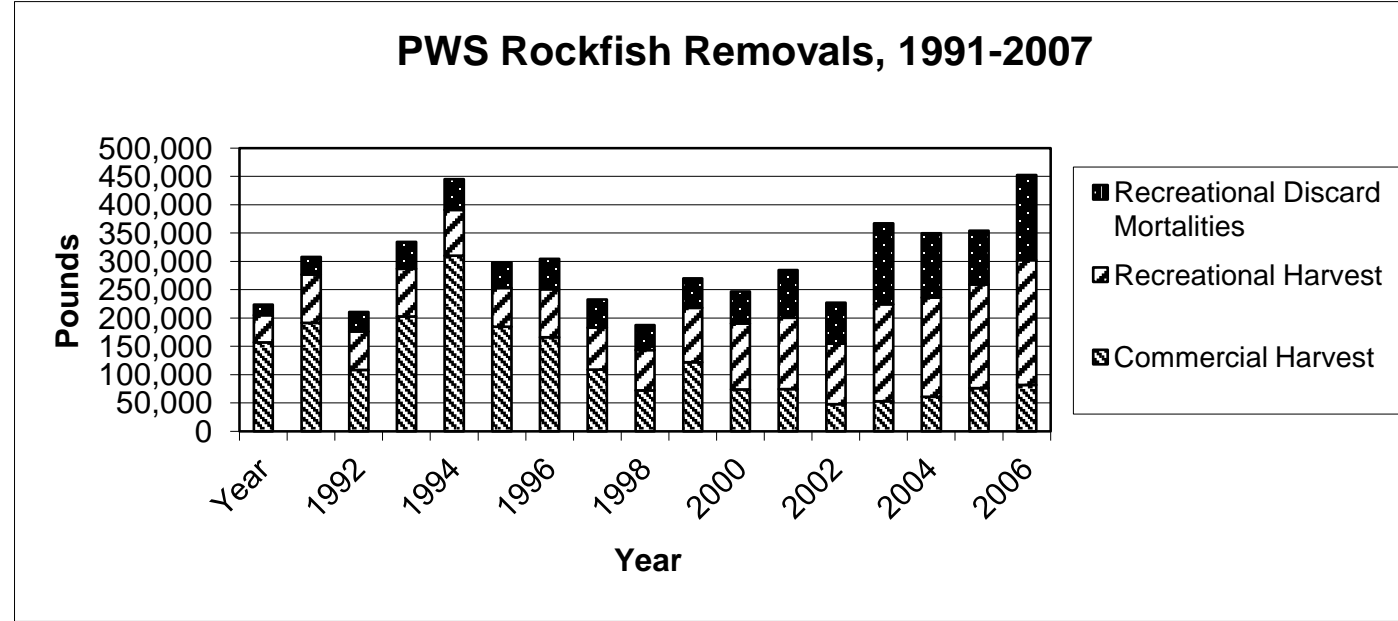
TOTAL RECREATIONAL LINGCOD CATCH AND HARVEST

Year ^a	PWS Total		Whittier and Valdez		Discard rate	Catch lbs	Harvest lbs
	Catch	Harvest	Avg. RndWt (lbs)				
1991	3,457	1,884	29.0		46%	100,253	54,636
1992	8,476	2,492	29.0		71%	245,804	72,268
1993	6,622	1,860	29.0		72%	192,038	53,940
1994	4,108	1,434	29.0		65%	119,132	41,586
1995	4,782	2,056	29.0		57%	138,678	59,624
1996	5,616	1,948	29.0		65%	162,864	56,492
1997	7,385	3,310	29.0		55%	214,165	95,990
1998	5,387	2,186	29.0		59%	156,223	63,394
1999	6,814	1,873	29.0		73%	197,606	54,317
2000	7,945	2,856	29.0		64%	230,405	82,824
2001	8,185	3,867	29.0		53%	237,365	112,143
2002	8,383	4,070	30.3		51%	254,005	123,321
2003	8,635	3,933	29.9		54%	258,187	117,597
2004	10,666	5,049	30.8		53%	328,513	155,509
2005	14,670	5,348	28.6		64%	419,562	152,953
2006	13,271	5,868	29.0		56%	384,859	170,172
2007	20,467	9,262	29.2		55%	597,636	270,450
5-Yr Ave	11,125	4,854					
10-Yr Ave	9,134	3,836					

Year	Commercial Harvest	Sport Catch	Sport Harvest	Total Harvest	Commercial Harvest as % of Total	Recreational Harvest as % of Total
1991	31,845	100,253	54,636	86,481	37%	63%
1992	25,746	245,804	72,268	98,014	26%	74%
1993	66,581	192,038	53,940	120,521	55%	45%
1994	43,673	119,132	41,586	85,259	51%	49%
1995	69,091	138,678	59,624	128,715	54%	46%
1996	28,753	162,864	56,492	85,245	34%	66%
1997	38,198	214,165	95,990	134,188	28%	72%
1998	11,096	156,223	63,394	74,490	15%	85%
1999	9,344	197,606	54,317	63,661	15%	85%
2000	23,855	230,405	82,824	106,679	22%	78%
2001	26,812	237,365	112,143	138,955	19%	81%
2002	20,170	254,005	123,321	143,491	14%	86%
2003	24,235	258,187	117,597	141,832	17%	83%
2004	30,292	328,513	155,509	185,801	16%	84%
2005	24,244	419,562	152,953	177,197	14%	86%
2006	28,083	384,859	170,172	198,255	14%	86%
2007	30,695	597,636	270,450	301,145	10%	90%



Year	Commercial Harvest	Recreational Harvest	Recreational Discard Mortalities	Total Recreational
1991	156,650	48,032	19,069	67,100
1992	191,503	85,129	30,839	115,968
1993	108,573	67,507	34,562	102,069
1994	202,380	84,601	47,394	131,995
1995	309,946	80,856	54,258	135,113
1996	184,686	68,063	45,249	113,311
1997	165,838	84,717	54,010	138,727
1998	109,034	73,981	49,572	123,552
1999	71,987	71,478	43,731	115,209
2000	121,919	96,118	51,915	148,033
2001	74,082	116,078	56,376	172,454
2002	74,612	125,800	84,180	209,981
2003	47,990	106,606	72,495	179,101
2004	52,801	171,361	142,780	314,140
2005	60,850	175,037	113,333	288,370
2006	76,271	183,101	94,584	277,684
2007	81,604	220,587	149,873	370,461



THE SEAFOOD INDUSTRY IN ALASKA'S ECONOMY

As a major player in global markets, Alaska's seafood industry is an economic engine for both the state and the nation. This publication updates "The Seafood Industry in Alaska's Economy," first published in 2009. It shows that the seafood industry continues to be the largest private sector employer in the state.

2011 Executive Summary Update

- Alaska led all states in terms of both volume and ex-vessel value of commercial fisheries landings in 2009, with a total of 1.84 million metric tons (MT) worth 1.3 billion dollars (NMFS 2010a).

- National harvest volume in 2009 was 3,568,599 MT (NMFS 2010a).

- In the list of top 50 U.S. ports based on volume for 2009, Alaska had 11 including Dutch Harbor-Unalaska (1st); Kodiak (4th); Naknek-King Salmon (11th); Sitka (14th); Ketchikan (15th); Petersburg (18th); Cordova (21st); Seward (26th); Homer (36); Juneau (41st); Kenai (50th) (NMFS 2010a).

- In the list of top 50 U.S. ports based on ex-vessel value for 2009, Alaska had 10; 8 of them were in the top 20. These ports include Dutch Harbor-Unalaska (2nd); Kodiak (3rd); Naknek-King Salmon (4th); Sitka (9th); Homer (12th); Seward (17th); Ketchikan (18th); Cordova (19th) (NMFS 2010a). Three other Alaska ports, Akutan, King Cove and Sand Point, would also make the top 20 were it not for confidentiality requirements that prevent release of data for ports with fewer than three processors.



Photo courtesy of ASMI

- In 2009, Dutch Harbor-Unalaska was the leading U.S. port in quantity of commercial fishery landings, and the second U.S. port in value of commercial fishery landings (NMFS 2010a)

- Dutch Harbor-Unalaska ranked second (after New Bedford, MA) with a harvest value of \$159.7 million dollars; Kodiak was ranked third at \$103.8 million, and Naknek-King Salmon ranked fourth at \$76.1 million dollars (NMFS 2010a).

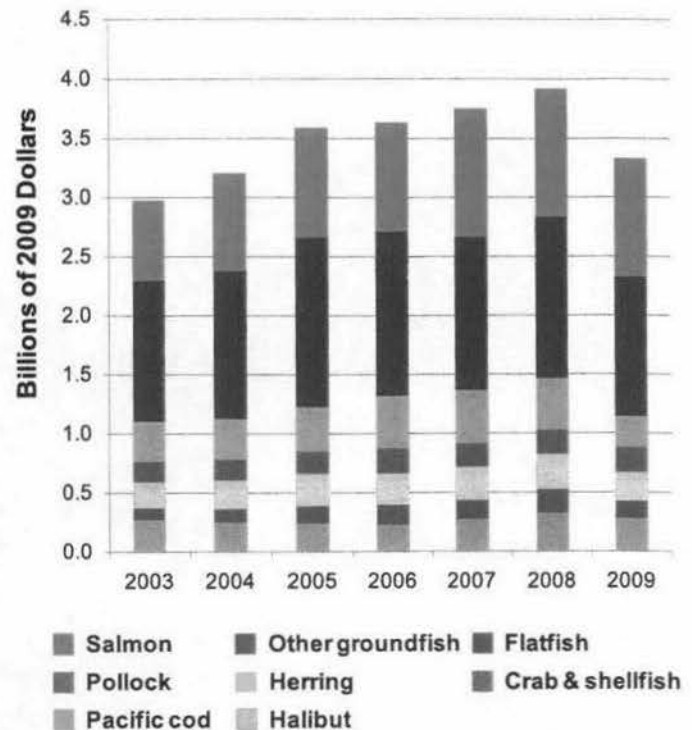
- The seafood industry, through direct, indirect and induced effects, contributed a total of \$4.6 billion to Alaska's economic output in 2009.

Prepared by

Importance of Alaska to the Global Seafood Market

- If Alaska were a nation it would have placed 14th among seafood producing countries in 2008 (NMFS 2010b and FAO 2010).
- Alaska landings of global groundfish species groups (including cod and pollock) and flatfish accounted for 18 percent of the world harvest of these species groups in 2008 (Hiatt, et al. 2010 and FAO 2010).
- In 2008 about 35 percent of the world capture production of salmon occurred in Alaskan waters (Hiatt, et al. 2010 and FAO 2010).
- Alaska accounted for 95 percent of total U.S. pacific salmon landings in 2009 (NMFS 2010a).
- The 2010 salmon season was one of the best on record with almost 170 million fish harvested in Alaska, the 11th highest number since statehood. Preliminary 2010 estimates show that the salmon harvest generated \$533.9 million, the highest ex-vessel value in eighteen years (since 1992) (ADF&G 2010).
- In 2009, \$1.6 billion dollars worth of seafood was exported directly from Alaska to destinations such as Japan, China, South Korea, Canada, and Europe (Office of the Governor of the State of Alaska 2009, NOAA 2010a).
- In 2009 Japan was the leading direct importer of Alaska fish and fisheries products (by value) followed by China, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and Canada (NOAA 2010a).

Real Wholesale Value by Species, 2003-2009



Source: Hiatt, 2007 and Hiatt, 2010b

Importance of Alaska Seafood to the U.S.

- In 2009, Alaska accounted for over 52 percent of the volume of the commercial seafood harvested in the United States (NMFS 2010a).
- Alaska as a single state led all other multi-state regions in the U.S. in terms of ex-vessel value with over 34 percent of the U.S. total (NMFS 2010a).
- The five New England States combined for a distant second with 20 percent, followed by the five states on the Gulf of Mexico with 16 percent (NMFS 2010a).
- Alaska's pollock fishery is the largest in the U.S., accounting for 24 percent of total U.S. fisheries landings (NMFS 2010a).
- In 2009, 26 percent of total U.S. crab catches were king and snow (tanner) crab, and they accounted for 35 percent of total U.S. crab value (NMFS 2010a). King and snow crab come entirely from Alaska.
- Dutch Harbor-Unalaska holds the record for catch volume with 911.3 million pounds landed in 2006 (NMFS 2010a).
- Alaska landings of Pacific Sea Herring accounted for 98 percent of the Pacific coast with 87 million pounds valued at over \$29.3 million (NMFS 2010a).



Photo Courtesy of PSPA

Importance of Alaska Seafood to Alaska

- In 2009 total estimated ex-vessel value of Alaska's commercial harvest was \$1.3 billion (NMFS 2010a).
- The additional value added by Alaska's seafood processing sector brought the first wholesale value of Alaska's commercial seafood industry to over \$3.3 billion in 2009 (Hiatt et al. 2010).
- It is estimated that the seafood industry's \$3.3 billion in wholesale value generated an additional \$1.3 billion in indirect and induced economic output for a total contribution of \$4.6 billion to Alaska's economic output (NEI using Hiatt 2010b, NOAA 2010b, Mothership Fleet Cooperative 2010 and IMPLAN 2009 data).
- The seafood industry also generated more than 80,800 direct, indirect, and induced jobs and \$1.45 billion in direct, indirect and induced payments to labor and income (NEI using Hiatt 2010b, NOAA 2010b, Mothership Fleet Cooperative 2010 and IMPLAN 2009 data).
- In 2009 the wholesale value generated by the seafood industry represented over 10 percent of the \$34 billion basic sector activity in Alaska's economy (Hiatt 2010b, Office of the Governor of the State of Alaska 2009, U.S. Census Bureau 2010 & 2011, ADOR 2011, McDowell 2010, and Szumigala 2010). The basic sector, because it brings money into the state from outside, is the driving force behind all economic activity in the state.
- The seafood industry ranks third in importance behind the North Slope oil and gas industry and federal government in terms of generating basic economic activity in Alaska (NEI using ADOLWD 2010 and ADOLWD 2011a).
- Alaska's seafood industry generated about \$79 million in state taxes and fees, in addition to local fish taxes in fiscal year 2009 (ADOR 2009; ADCCED 2011).
- Seafood was Alaska's leading export in 2009 and accounted for 50 percent of total direct exports—nearly double the value of the second highest export sector (minerals at 26 percent), (U.S. Census Bureau 2010). Total Alaskan seafood exports were even greater; a large portion of Alaskan seafood is exported internationally from packaging and storage facilities in Washington.
- In 2009, seafood processing accounted for about 95 percent of all food manufacturing jobs in Alaska, and 71 percent of total manufacturing jobs (ADOLWD 2010 and ADOLWD 2011b).



Photo courtesy of Ron Clarke

- With 70,548 estimated direct jobs in seafood harvesting and processing, the seafood industry employs more workers than any other non-government industry sector in Alaska, including oil and gas and mining combined. (ADOLWD 2010, ADOLWD 2011a and Warren 2010).
- With the concentration of major fishing ports in the Aleutian and Pribilof Islands region, seafood processing accounted for 58 percent of all private sector payments to labor in the Aleutian West Census Area in 2009 (ADOLWD 2011b).
- The seafood processing industry is estimated to have accounted for 35 percent of private-sector payments to labor in Kodiak in 2009 (ADOLWD 2011b).
- The Western Alaska Community Development Quota (CDQ) program, which allocates a portion of the Bering Sea catch for coastal communities to invest in economic development, generates millions of dollars each year. In 2008, the CDQ entities collectively generated more than \$180 million in revenue (WACDA 2008).
- The CDQ Program augments the important role of the seafood industry in Western Alaska. Sixty-five Bering Sea communities participate in the CDQ program (WACDA 2008).
- From 1992 through 2008 the CDQ Program generated over \$240 million in wages, payments to fishers, and scholarships and training benefits (WACDA 2008).
- In 2008 CDQ entities provided wage and salary jobs to more than 1,600 individuals, and the combined payroll for the year exceeded \$22.3 million (WACDA 2008).
- The value of the six CDQ groups' assets increased from about \$13.3 million in 1992 to over \$559 million in 2009 (WACDA 2008).

Table 1. Seafood Industry Employment by Region, 2009

Summary of Workers	Harvesting	Processing	Total
Aleutian and Pribilof Islands	5,309	6,276	11,585
Bristol Bay	9,385	4,522	13,907
Kodiak	3,664	2,934	6,598
Northern	627	68	695
Southcentral	8,071	3,491	11,562
Southeast	10,150	4,886	15,036
Yukon Delta	2,986	831	3,817
At-Sea	1,732	5,616	7,348
Regional Total (Total Seafood Jobs)	41,924	28,624	70,548

Source: Northern Economics, Inc. and ADOLWD, 2010.

Note: On-shore regional worker counts do not sum to the statewide workforce total as a single worker may be active in more than one region. NEI uses the sum of the regions as an estimate of total seafood jobs.

Table 2. Estimated Seafood Ex-vessel Volume and Value by Region, 2009

Region	Harvest Weight (1,000 MT)	Ex-Vessel Value (\$ Millions)
Aleutian and Pribilof Islands	497.2	393.7
Bristol Bay	86.6	119.0
Kodiak	157.2	129.8
Northwest/Arctic/Yukon-Kuskokwim	3.9	6.7
Southcentral	77.8	177.0
Southeast	134.4	209.8
At-Sea	883.0	307.9
Total	1,840.0	1,343.8

Source: Estimated by Northern Economics using NMFS (2010a), Hiatt (2010a) and Hiatt (2010b).

Table 3. Estimated Seafood Wholesale Volume and Value by Region, 2009

Region	Product Weight (1,000 MT)	Wholesale Value (\$ Millions)
Aleutian and Pribilof Islands	180.9	735.8
Bristol Bay	48.6	250.2
Kodiak	72.9	261.1
Northwest/Arctic/Yukon-Kuskokwim	2.3	15.9
Southcentral	45.4	289.3
Southeast	81.1	374.2
At-Sea	457.0	1,396.3
Total	888.1	3,322.9

Source: Hiatt, 2010b

2011 report sponsored by the Marine Conservation Alliance

March, 2011

This is a 2011 update of the Executive Summary from the 2009 report "The Seafood Industry in Alaska's Economy". This report, as well as the 2011 update with full references is available at www.marineconservationalliance.org.

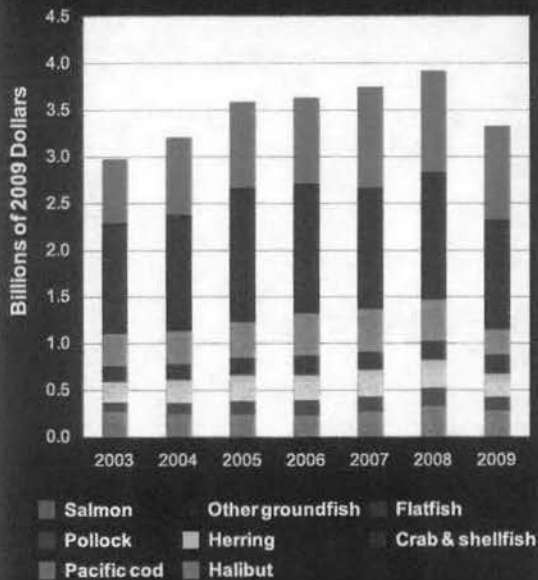
Also follow 'SeaAlliance' on:



POSITIVE TREND

The inflation adjusted wholesale value of Alaska seafood has steadily increased over the past five years from \$2.88 billion in 2003 to \$3.3 billion in 2009, an increase of 15 percent. With continued science-based management, Alaska's seafood industry is a growing, sustainable and vital part of the Alaska economy.

Real Wholesale Value by Species, 2003-2009



Source: Hiett, 2007 and Hiett, 2010b

Alaska's Seafood Industry:

*Global in stature;
Leaders in the Nation;
A Statewide Economic
Engine That Drives Local
Communities*



**MARINE CONSERVATION
ALLIANCE**

Promoting sustainable fisheries to feed the World.



F/V Mar Del Norte, Kodiak, AK
Courtesy of Alaska Groundfish Databank

Alaska's seafood – salmon, crab, pollock, halibut, cod and more – is one of the largest renewable resources in the world. The waters off Alaska produce over 4 billion pounds of seafood annually. If Alaska were a nation, it would be the 14th largest producer of wild seafood in the world. Raised wild and harvested sustainably, Alaska's quality seafood graces the finest white-tablecloth restaurants and satisfies appetites on the go at the corner fast-food outlet.

Alaska's seafood industry traces its heritage to the purchase of Russian America and it remains a vital part of the state economy today. The Alaska Seafood Industry is the state's largest private sector employer and the largest manufacturing sector; a multi-billion dollar economic engine that profoundly affects the state economy and reaches broadly from Alaska's urban centers to its smallest coastal communities.



**MARINE CONSERVATION
ALLIANCE**

Promoting sustainable fisheries to feed the World.

PSPA

Pacific Seafood Processors Association

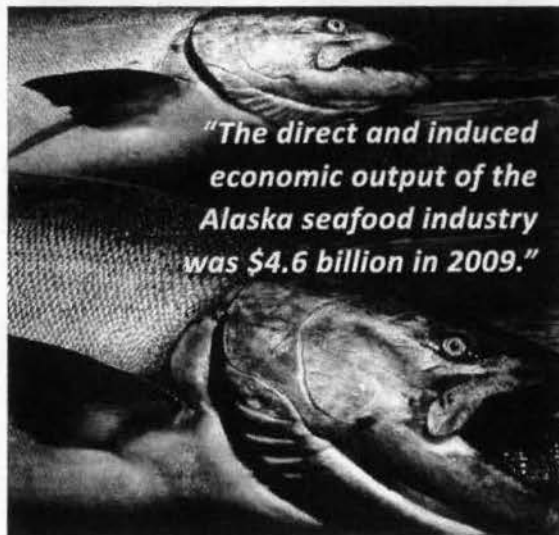


AT-SEA PROCESSORS ASSOCIATION

Partners for Healthy Fisheries

GLOBAL STRUCTURE

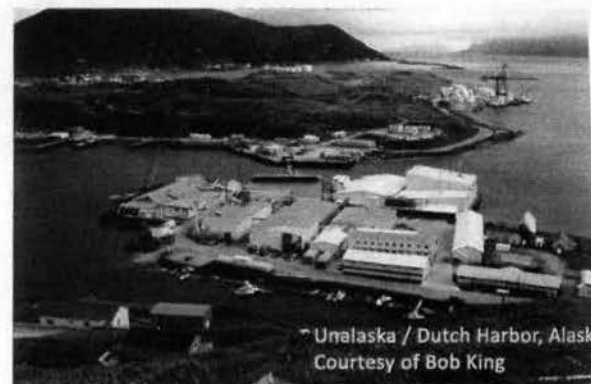
At over 4 billion pounds annually, compared to other fishing nations, Alaska would be the fourteenth largest producer of wild seafood. The harvest of Bering Sea pollock and other Groundfish, capped at 2 million metric tons annually, is among the largest single fisheries in the world. Alaska also boasts 35 percent of the world's harvest of wild salmon. The 2010 salmon season was one of the best on record in terms of harvest and value, the 11th highest harvest since statehood. Alaska exports \$1.6 billion of seafood annually to customers around the world including in Japan, China, Korea, Canada and Europe. Alaska fisheries are global in stature.



"The direct and induced economic output of the Alaska seafood industry was \$4.6 billion in 2009."

NATIONAL LEADERS

Alaska leads the nation in production of seafood with an annual harvest that was 52 of all seafood landed in the United States in 2009. Unalaska/Dutch Harbor has reigned as the nation's top fishing port in terms of volume for decades and it also ranks as the second top port in terms of ex-vessel value, the price paid fishermen for their catch.



Unalaska / Dutch Harbor, Alaska
Courtesy of Bob King

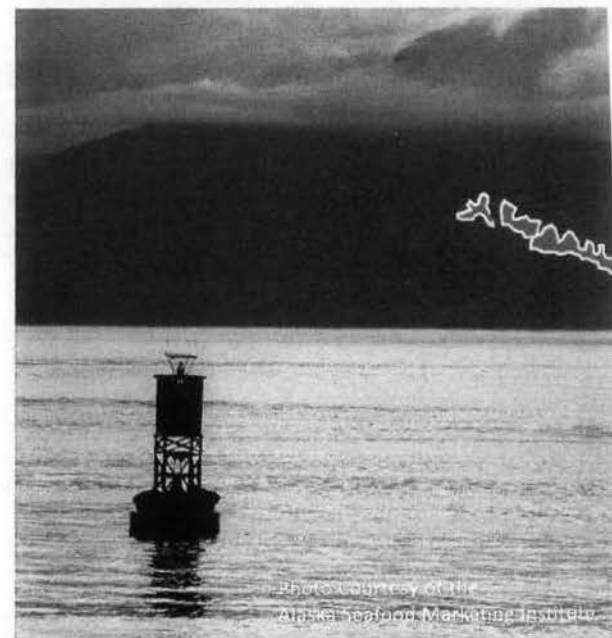


Photo Courtesy of the
Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute

A STATEWIDE ECONOMIC ENGINE

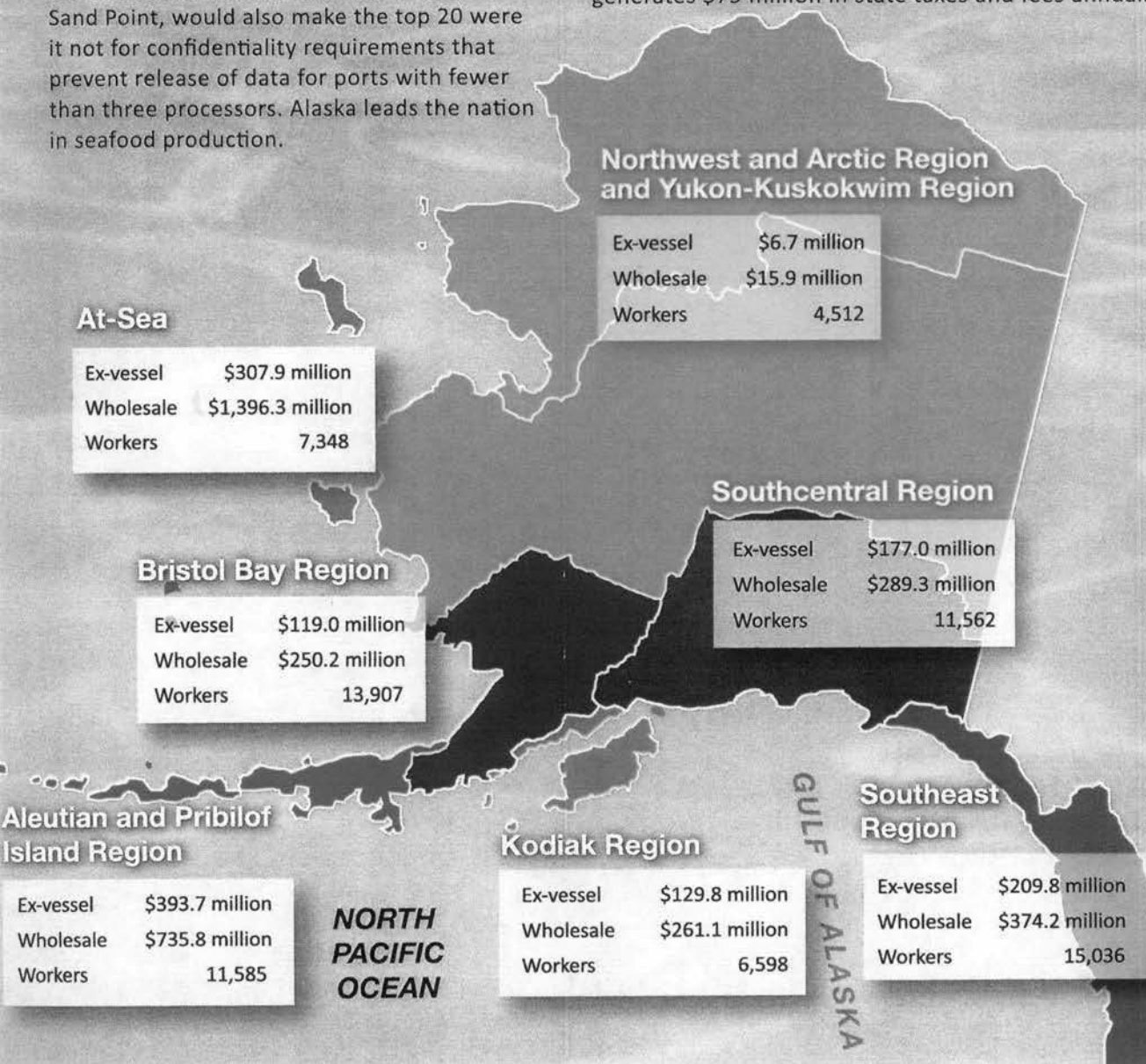
Eight Alaska fishing communities rank among the highest producers of fishery value in the nation including Kodiak (number 3), Naknek-King Salmon (4), Sitka (9), Homer (12), Seward (17), Ketchikan (18), and Cordova (19). Three other Alaska ports, Akutan, King Cove and Sand Point, would also make the top 20 were it not for confidentiality requirements that prevent release of data for ports with fewer than three processors. Alaska leads the nation in seafood production.

The estimated ex-vessel value of Alaska fisheries, the price paid to fishermen, totaled \$1.3 billion in 2009. The wholesale value of Alaska seafood is pegged at \$3.3 billion plus \$1.3 billion in indirect and induced economic output for a total of \$4.6 billion to the Alaska economy. The value of seafood exports from Alaska exceeds that of mining or expenditures by the visitor industry and among other private sector industries is second only to oil and gas. Alaska's seafood industry generates \$79 million in state taxes and fees annually in addition to local fish taxes.

LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Alaska's seafood industry is the largest private sector employer in the state, creating over 70,548 direct jobs – more than oil and gas and mining combined – and another 10,252 indirect jobs. Seafood processing accounts for over 71 percent of all manufacturing jobs in the state. These direct and indirect jobs are spread widely across the state including more than 10,000 jobs each in the Southeast, South Central, the Aleutian Islands, and Bristol Bay; 6,500 jobs in Kodiak and 4,500 jobs in the Northwest, Arctic, Yukon and Kuskokwim region, jobs with a combined annual payroll of over \$1.45 billion. The Western Alaska Community Development Quota program, which allocates a portion of the Bering Sea catch for coastal communities to invest in economic development, generates over \$180 million in revenues annually, employs 1,600 workers, pays over \$22.3 million in wages, and invests millions more in training opportunities afforded local residents.

Note: On-shore regional worker counts do not sum to the statewide workforce total as a single worker may be active in more than one region. NEI uses the sum of the regions as an estimate of total seafood jobs.





Forest
Service

Cordova
Ranger
District

P.O. Box 280
612 2nd Street
Cordova, AK 99574

RC 36

File Code: 1950

Date: December 1, 2011

Route To:

Subject: Ibeck Creek Salmon Habitat and ATV Use Request for Public Comment

To: All Interested Parties

The Cordova Ranger District is analyzing a proposal to address damage caused by all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) on Ibeck Creek, seven miles east of Cordova. Upper Ibeck Creek contains prime coho salmon spawning habitat. However, Forest Service staff has recently observed habitat damage by ATV tracks in some of these prime spawning and rearing areas. This project would occur north of the Copper River Highway between mileposts 8 and 9 (see attached maps).

The Cordova Ranger District is looking at ways to protect coho salmon spawning and rearing areas while maintaining subsistence and recreational uses. Some of the ideas that have been proposed include armoring the stream crossings with rock, directing ATV traffic to a few selected crossing sites through the placement of boulders, re-vegetating streambanks with native plants, and re-routing sections of trail away from streams with salmon habitat. The purpose of this treatment is to reduce the amount of damage to coho salmon spawning and rearing habitat. This project will attempt to reduce the amount of stream crossings, and keep ATV trails in areas that will not impact fish habitat.

Treatments would occur during summer after juvenile coho salmon have hatched and before adult salmon return. Any fish present will be removed from the worksites before project implementation and transported to adjacent areas. Fish will also be excluded from work sites using block nets. As many as 30 stream crossings may be treated either through improvement (armoring crossings and re-vegetation) or exclusion (trail re-routing).

To better understand the nature of ATV use in the Ibeck drainage, a map of the area is attached that can be marked and sent back with your comments. Please mark the map on the last page of this letter using the attached code list in the areas you use. Your comments will help us to balance subsistence and recreational use while protecting fish habitat. The Cordova Ranger District would appreciate your written comments on this proposal by January 30, 2012. We hope to complete the analysis by March 1, 2012. **A public meeting is scheduled for Friday, January 6, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. at the Cordova RD office, 612 2nd Street, 3rd floor courtroom.** This meeting will be separate from the Agnew Beck Travel Access Management meeting planned for early December. The Agnew Beck meeting will focus on travel management throughout eastern Prince William Sound and the Copper River Delta.

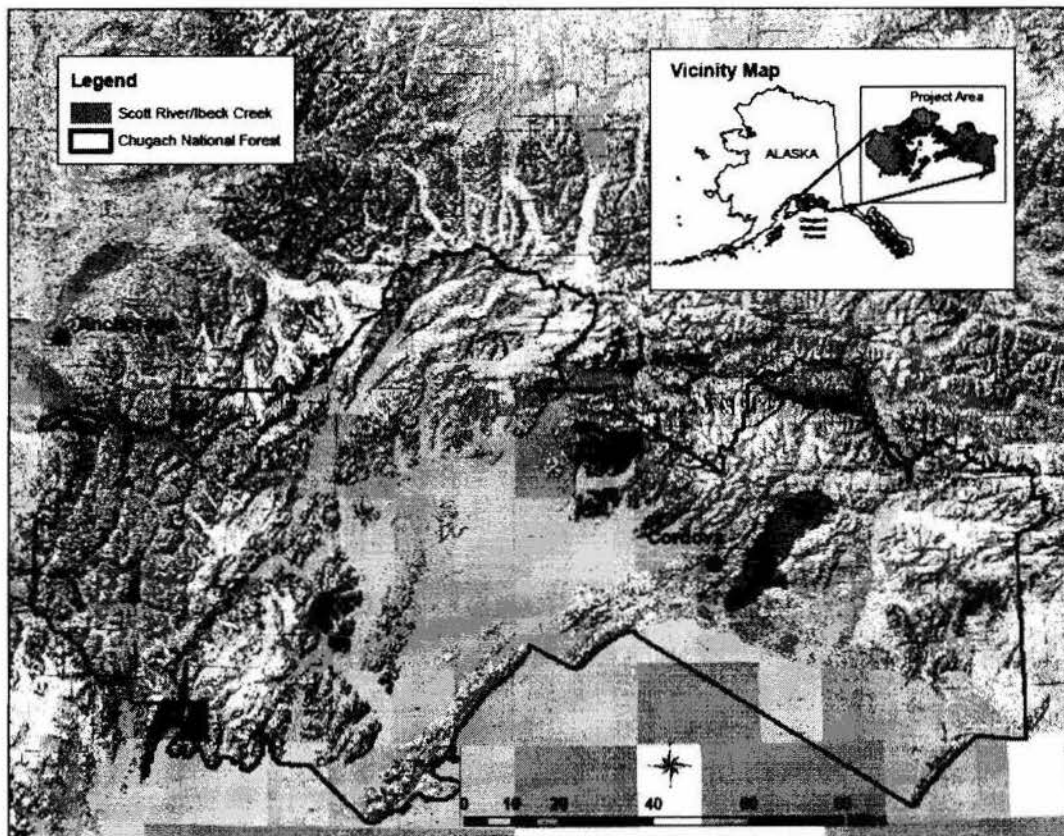
Sincerely,
/s/ *Teresa M. Benson*

TERESA M. BENSON
District Ranger



Please send your questions and any issues or concerns you may have about this project to:

Jeff Jackson
Cordova Ranger District
P.O. Box 280
Cordova, AK 99574
(907) 424-4765
Email: bjackson@fs.fed.us



Guidelines for marking the map on the following page:

The map on the following page will help the Cordova Ranger District determine what areas are being accessed through the use of ATVs and what time of year the use is occurring. The comments of users will be instrumental in helping us to balance different uses in the Ibeck drainage while protecting fish and wildlife habitat. In order to maximize the value of this map, please mark the map with a dot in the approximate location that you access with ATVs and use the following use **code list**:

- SB – spring bear hunting
- M – fall moose hunting
- F – subsistence fishing
- S – other subsistence use
- R – recreational riding
- O – other use not listed



Old Glacier

Little Esch

RC PROPOSAL 127

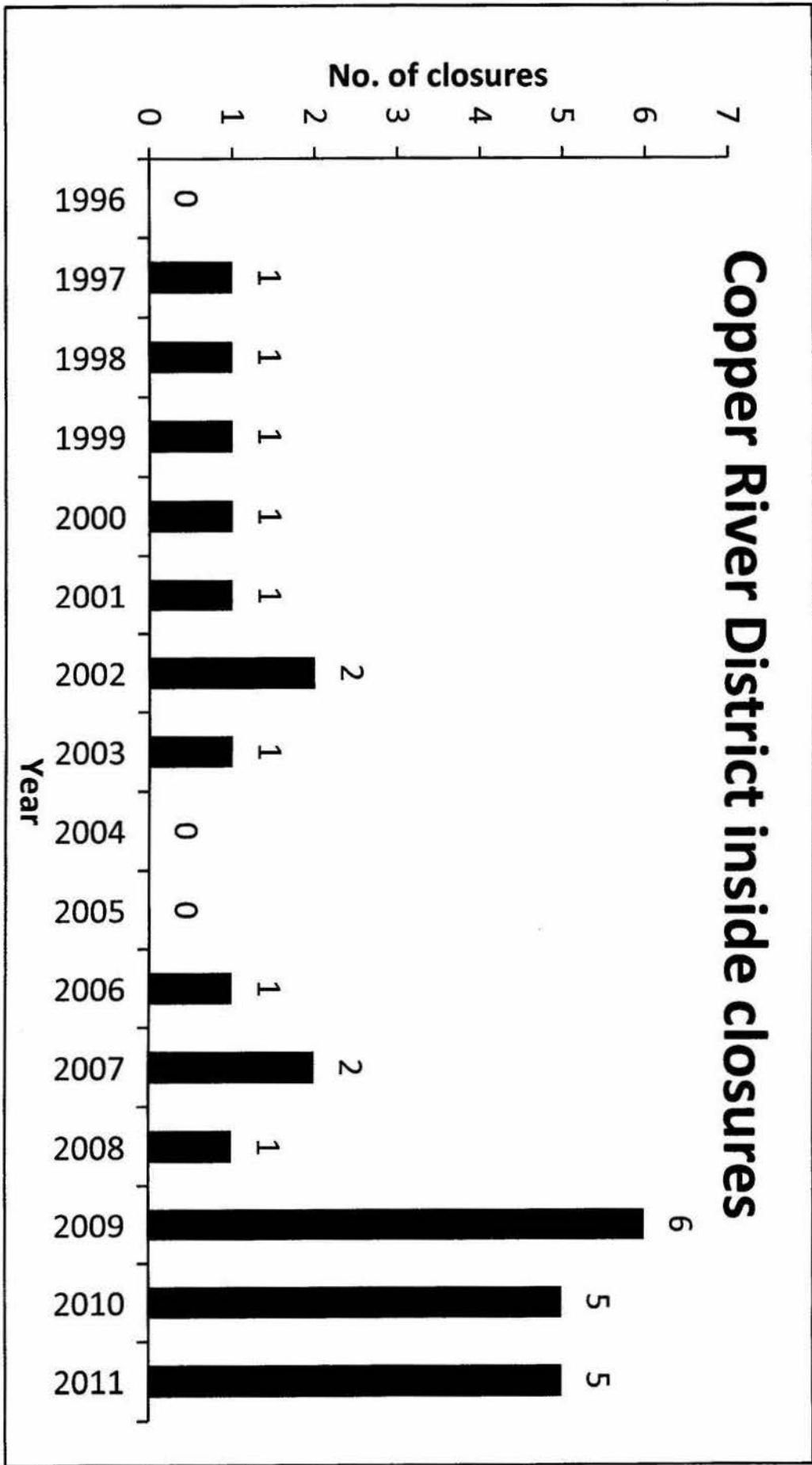
RC 37

The department has supplied me with data on escapement numbers, catch and history records of recent in river management. The fact that there are **no stocks of concern**, as stated in ADF&G's memorandum, on the Copper River and the success of the department in managing these stocks has brought about my decision to withdraw this proposal. The Department themselves are in opposition to mandatory conservation measures that may actually adversely impact their ability to manage for the health and sustainability of the Copper River salmon stocks. The SEG for chinook has been reviewed this past year and found to be scientifically sound. 2011 preliminary estimates from marked capture information put upriver spawning escapement at 28,290.

Submitted by Shawn Gilman

RC38

DR / PWS AC



30 April 2006

RC 39

Affidavit of Virgil L. Umphenour

I arrived in North Pole, Alaska on 15 April 1971. I had recently returned from Viet Nam where I had served as the Division Sniper Officer for the 23rd Infantry Division "Americal". With the exception of one year in Nome, I have lived in the North Pole area since I arrived in Alaska.

In 1984, I bought an Upper Yukon River Fish Wheel permit and started fishing. In 1985 I built a small processing facility and started processing fish. We now do both fish and meat processing in our Fairbanks facility. My son operates a fish wheel permit and fishes on the Tanana River. We buy salmon from fishermen in the Upper Yukon River drainage as well as (occasionally) Dillingham, Unalakleet and Cordova.

In 1990, with the help of then Senator John Binkley, I helped organize the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries association (YRDFA). YRDFA represents all user groups of fish in the Yukon River in Alaska, to include 900 commercial fishermen. I served as the Co-Chair of the Board for YRDFA from 1990 until I was appointed to the Alaska Board of Fisheries by Governor Hickel in 1994. I served on the BOF until 2002. The issue of over harvest of early run sockeye and chinook salmon inside the Barrier Islands, and the lack of monitoring projects in the Upper Copper River was one of the greatest challenges before the BOF. In 1995, the BOF formed the Copper River Salmon Working Group. This group was comprised of commercial fisherman who fish at the mouth of the river, and upriver subsistence, personal use and sport users. The BOF formed this group in preparation for the December 1996 regulatory meeting. Its purpose was to get all user groups to the table to address management issues relating to chinook and sockeye issues. I currently serve as the Chair of the Fisheries Sub-committee of the Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee, and as the Fisheries Coordinating Committee member of the Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council to the Federal Subsistence Board.

I wore two hats at the BOF meeting of December 2005 in Valdez: 1) I was the Fairbanks Advisory Committee representative for Committee A which addressed *subsistence and personal use proposals*, 2) I represented the Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council (RAC) for Committee C which addressed commercial and sport *proposals*. Early in my tenure on the Board of Fisheries, it became obvious to me that different Board members and ADF&G staff interpreted acronyms and terms differently. The one that gave me the most 'heart burn' was 'sustained yield'. One Board member thought that as long as the yield was enough for the bears and sea gulls with none for human harvest in the terminal area, that was sustained yield. This was concerning the Nome and Snake River chum salmon stocks near Nome. The case went all the way to the Alaska Supreme Court. I decided to write a definition of 'sustained yield'. I did just that and brought it to fellow Board members Dr. John White and Dan Coffee. It was at that time we decided to write a Sustainable Salmon Policy. It took us about four years and lots of negotiating with all user groups to finally get it into regulation. The majority of the large commercial fishing groups, such as CDFU were opposed to it.

At the December 2005 BOF meeting, Mike Kramer and I together presented the Fairbanks Advisory Committee's testimony to the BOF. Immediately after, we both gave our personal testimony. To the best of my memory, the following is a summary of my Advisory Committee testimony. I had submitted several record copies (RC's) to the record. Prior to starting, I asked the Board members to get them out as I would be referring to them. I spoke to Agenda Change Request (ACR) 10 which was submitted to the BOF in August 2000 by Stan Bloom, Vice-President of the Chitna Dip Netters Association. The BOF hears ACR's at the first meeting of each regulatory year. The Board evaluates the ACR criteria and then votes to accept the ACR. If accepted, the ACR is scheduled for regulatory consideration at a regular meeting. I spoke in favor of ACR 10 at the November 2000 meeting and it was accepted and scheduled for the January 2001 meeting. The January 2001 BOF meeting was different from any other BOF meeting in the history of the State. The BOF has a three year cycle during which each area is addressed once every three years. The winter schedule for 2000-2001 was for Arctic Yukon Kuskoquim, Bristol Bay, and Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands. This would normally be scheduled for three meetings in duration of 8, 14 and 14 days respectively. The previous year the BOF had addressed Cook Inlet and had passed a number of proposals to reduce over exploitation by the commercial fishery. Senator Torgenson, Co-Chairman of the Senate Finance committee was unhappy with the restrictions placed on the commercial fishery in order to meet the constitutional mandate of sustained yield. He made no bones about it. In retaliation, Senator Torgenson was successful in reducing the ADF&G budget for both the BOF and the Regional Advisory Committee's by approximately 35%. Following the budget cut, the BOF did not have the money to hold three separate meetings. Accordingly, we held what came to be referred to as the 'Mega Meeting'. This meeting went from January 6-February 3, 2001 and averaged between 14-16 hours a day for 25 *consecutive* days. The BOF addressed and took action on approximately 500 proposals plus ACR 10 and a deferred proposal to restrict hatchery production in Prince William Sound and Southeast Alaska.

ACR 10 generated over 800 timely comments. Board member Larry Engle and I read all of them! There was no denying that the commercial fishery had hammered the early part of the chinook and sockeye wild stocks. The ADF&G Commercial Fisheries Division, the same Regional supervisor who manages Cook Inlet, had to admit to "Oops Management" (i.e. "Oops. We let the commercial fishery catch too many fish so we had to restrict the up-river users".) What Mr. Bloom said at the beginning of his ACR was true. Enclosure 1 with escapement figures attached for 1999 and 2000 indicates that the Chinook escapement goals for these two years were not met. Further, escapement for 2002 and 2005 were also not met. I also spoke to the issue of the 'sonar goal' being met with *hatchery* fish in June and July. Note Table X. 2005 BOF Data Files\escapement\Copper River[Timing Curves 2005.XLS]Timing Graphs, RC 71 enclosure #2. I spoke to the milling of the salmon while their system is changing from salt to fresh water mode. I referred to the fact that the ADF&G Commercial Fish Division had promised the Board at the January 2001 meeting, that the Division would implement a test fishery and a milling study to determine when both chinook and sockeye salmon are actually moving up-river. The study was to be done prior to opening the

commercial fishery. This promise is why the board did not take action on ACR 10 in January 2001. Then when I get to the December 2005 meeting, and the same ADF&G Regional Supervisor for Commercial Fisheries Division who made the promise to the BOF in January 2001 and who did not keep his promise, has since retired and is attending the BOF meeting as a *paid consultant for the Cordova District Fishermen United!* I believe that I had the votes in 2001 to pass an amended version of ACR10. The only studies that have been done were by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Office of Subsistence Management. See enclosure 3. Points 5 & 6 in the conclusions to this study indicate the travel time between the commercial fishery inside the Barrier Islands and the sonar is 3-5 days. In RC 71 at enclosure 2, I included some of the announcements from the Commercial Fish Manager in Cordova for 2002.

At the December 1996 BOF meeting, the Board passed what we called a '5% insurance policy' proposal. We directed the Department to have closures inside the Barrier Islands during the first two weeks of the commercial fishery in order to reduce the harvest potential by 5%. We also reduced the sport fishery seasonal limit from 5 to 4 chinook salmon and the dip net fishery from 5 to 4 chinook salmon per household.

Announce #3, May 18, 2002. Enclosure 2 indicates the closure was in effect the first fishing period and will be in effect for the second fishing period.

Announce #4 May 22, 2002 gives the harvest of the second fishing period. Note it was 117,005 sockeye and the Department had anticipated a harvest of 47,725 sockeye. Also note that the sonar goal was 5,856 fish and the actual cumulative count was 705 fish through May 21. The third period is announced with no restrictions for 12 hours.

Announcement #5 May 25, 2002. Harvest 11,410 chinook and 209,189 sockeye versus anticipated harvest of 6,340 chinook and 45,718 sockeye. The sonar objective was 15,900 and the actual count was 5,646. A fourth period is announced.

Announcement #6 May 29, 2002. The Manager gives the harvest but doesn't give the anticipated harvest for the fourth period. The sonar count is 21,418 versus an objective of 43,507 salmon.

I will now compute the exploitation rate for the first three periods of the commercial fishery using a 4 ½ a day lag as determined by the study at enclosure 3,

Harvest @7:00 P.M. May 23 Announcements #4 and #5

21,104 chinook

381,866 sockeye

21,418 sonar count through May 28 Announcement #6

424,388 total run/21,418= .0504% escaped commercial fishery or 94.96%

exploitation by commercial fishery.

I did not go through the math during my testimony. I did go through the announcements and said that the exploitation rate was excessive and then went to announcement #15 June

18, 2002. This announcement closed the fishery and it stayed closed until July 6 to reach the sonar goal. I emphasized the fact that the majority of the sonar goal was met with *hatchery fish and in violation of the Sustainable Salmon Policy*. 5AAC 39.222(c) (2),(D),(E); (5)(A) speaks to uncertainty, and precautionary approach. I spoke to the BOF on these issues.

It should also be noted that at the BOF meeting in January 2003, the Board removed the 5% insurance policy from the commercial fishery, but left it in place for the up-river users. The last two years there have been no inside closures that were mandated prior to 2003. The 'Oops Management' of 2005 by the Commercial Fisheries Division caused an Emergency Order for the sport fishery reducing the seasonal limit from 4 chinook to 1 chinook. In spite of this drastic reduction for the sport fishery, the Chinook escapement still fell short by 10.48%. This short fall was *after* the Board lowered the escapement goal by 14.28% from what it was when I was a member of the BOF.

In my personal and Regional Advisory Council testimony, I spoke to the fact that the up-river subsistence users are not getting their needs met. Katy John lives at Mantasta. We now have Federal Management of our subsistence fisheries in Federal waters because of past commercial fisheries managers at Cordova. I am involved in both systems. We have gone backwards since 2003 as far as responsible management is concerned. Even with lowered escapement goals, the minimum goals have not been met for 2 of the last 4 years for the chinook salmon.

Both the Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council (RAC) and I personally submitted proposals to the BOF to reduce the hatchery production in Prince William Sound. I spoke to this issue by giving a history of the hatchery committee which I served on for five years as a member of the BOF. I submitted two hatchery committee reports from the January 2001 BOF meeting to the record and spoke to them. In December 2000, the hatchery operators had met with the Governor and Chairman of the BOF, Dan Coffee. They promised to reduce hatchery production of chum salmon by 13% if the BOF would not take action on the proposal to reduce hatchery production. The Board accepted the promise in good faith. Prince William Sound Aquaculture Association (PWSAC) was part of this agreement. In 2003 and 2005, PWSAC *increased* production of chum salmon to over 100% of what it had been when they promised the Governor and BOF that they would reduce hatchery production.

All of the affidavits of the Cordova District Fishermen United contain false and misleading information. Three of these individuals currently sit or have been on the Board of PWSAC. In 2000, when I was on the Board's Hatchery Committee, PWSAC owed the State in the neighborhood of 30 million dollars. PWSAC is probably the most irresponsible of the aquaculture associations in the State. They have practically eliminated wild pink salmon stocks in Prince William Sound and the chum salmon are not far behind. In paragraph 5 of R.J. Kopchak's affidavit, he would like you to believe that the Exxon Valdez oil spill caused the decline in the herring stocks. The herring stocks crashed because of two things: 1) 'closed pound' fisheries which caused disease in the herring

which were released after spawning, 2) PWSAC timing the release of their 7 million to 8 million hungry hatchery pink and chum salmon smolt to coincide with the herring hatch

hundred hundred

The vicious attack made on Dr. Bouse by these individuals is typical of CDFU. The committee Dr. Bouse chaired, Committee A, was addressing subsistence and personal use proposals. All Dr. Bouse did was what all good Board members do, meet with the public when requested to hear their side of the issue. In this case it was with subsistence users of Katy John's tribe.

In paragraph 14 of Thea M Thomas's affidavit, she states "Dr. Bouse moved that the proposal to restrict the commercial fleet be accepted for discussion and did not include any recommendation for Committee A for this action." The proposal to restrict the commercial fleet, Proposal 52 from the Fairbanks Advisory Committee, was in Committee C chaired by board Vice Chairman Mel Morris. Mr. Morris brought all Committee C proposals to the table and gave a review of the committee report on each proposal. After Proposal 52 was brought to the table, Mr. Heyano moved to amend Proposal 52 to include closures inside the Barrier Islands during the first two statistical weeks of the season. The motion received a second and then Mr. Heyano spoke to his motion. Mr. Heyano made it quite clear that he was addressing conservation of early run up-river Chinook and sockeye stocks. He also stated his motion was addressing the many concerns he had heard from the public about not getting their subsistence needs for both chinook and sockeye salmon met. He further stated that his motion had nothing to do with allocation. The Board deliberated Proposal 52 for between 2 and 3 hours before voting 5-1 to pass Proposal 52 as amended.

All of the proceeding affidavit is true and correct to the best of my memory.

Respectively submitted

Virgil L. Umphenour
Virgil L. Umphenour



*Sworn before me on May 1 2006.
Michael C. Kramer
My Commission expires 9/26/06*

RC40

Submitted by Michael Bowen Drift Gillnet

December 5, 2011

Proposal 90

5 AAC 24.200. Fishing districts, subdistricts and sections

Due to high concentrations of gear in the north and south ends of this district I would propose that the new line include all of the area that has been available to the fleet in the past. This can be accommodated by moving two of the proposed latitude and longitude coordinates by a minor amount. In the north end of the district move the proposed latitude and longitude coordinate **36.144N 3.72W to 36.87N 3.72W** and in the south end of the district move the proposed latitude and longitude coordinate **24.45N 55.99W to 24.04N 59.90W**. This would take triangles out of the outer corners of the proposed district boundary and allow them to be fished with a less chance of drifting into closed waters.

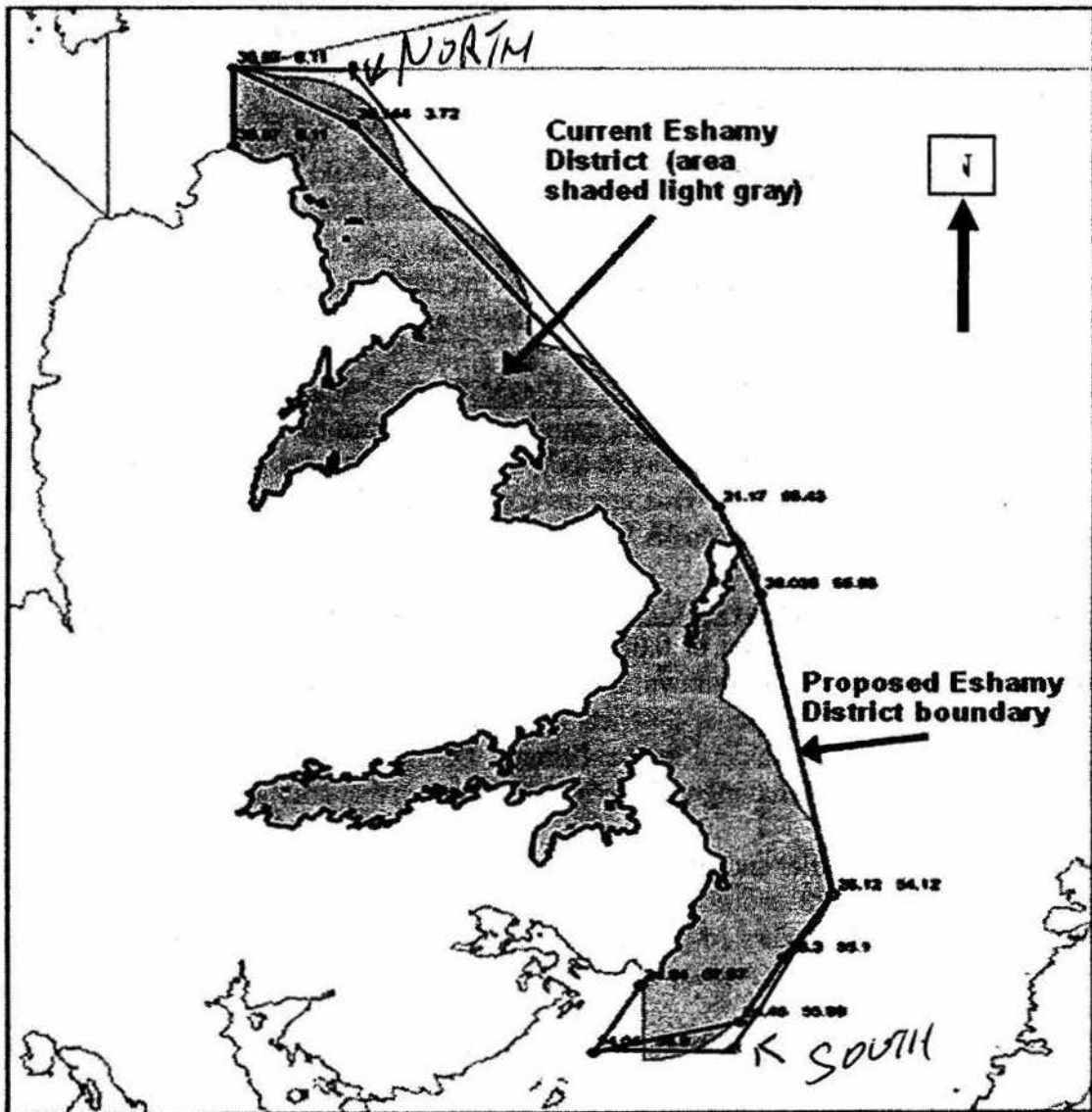


Figure 90-1.—Current and proposed Eshamy District boundary (numbers associated with the points are decimal minutes from the proposed coordinates).

~~24104N 1475950W~~

NOT TO SCALE

RC41

PROPOSAL # 76 - 5 AAC 17.591 Copper River
PERSONAL USE DIP NET SALMON FISHERY MANAGEMENT
FAIRBANKS A.C. WOULD CONSIDER UNDER
PROTEST TO RESTRICT KING SALMON HARVEST
UNTIL JUNE 15th FOR CONSERVATION PURPOSES ON
THE P.U. SALMON FISHERY ON THE COPPER RIVER.
BUT WOULD NOT SUPPORT A DELAY ON
HARVEST OF SOCKEYE SALMON IN THE
COPPER RIVER P.U. FISHERY.



Ray H. Hauer
Chairman, Fairbanks Fish & Game Committee

Table 1. Estimated inriver abundance^a of Chinook salmon above Baird Canyon on the Copper River, 2003-2011

Year	Period (m/d)		Length (mm FL)	Marked (M)	Examined (C)	Recaptures (R)	Abundance (N)	Standard Error (SE)
	From	To						
2003	5/17	7/1	810-1,070	1,723	1,630	97	44,764	12,506
2004	5/22	6/22	> 600	2,477	3,101	185	40,564	4,650
2005	5/9	7/14	> 600	3,379	3,150	315	30,333	1,529
2006	5/21	7/31	> 500	4,035	5,224	377	67,789	4,779
2007	5/18	8/6	> 500	4,456	4,192	459	46,349	3,283
2008	5/19	8/4	> 500	3,931	3,509	342	41,343	2,166
2009	5/13	8/2	> 500	2,484	2,224	171	32,401	2,365
2010	5/15	7/5	>500	1,745	894	69	22,323	2,492
2011	5/15	7/9	>500	2,135	2,832	178	33,889	3,329

^a Upriver escapement may be calculated by subtracting the estimated total inriver harvest (ADF&G) from the abundance estimate presented here. Minimum SEG for Chinook salmon is 24,000.

Inriver harvest

1750 sport
2824 Glennallen
1025 Chitina

UPRIVER SPAWNING ESCAPEMENT

Table 2. Number of tagged Chinook salmon returned from various Copper River fisheries, 2007-2011

Location	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007
Chitina Subdistrict	16	17	8	25	115
Glennallen Subdistrict	52 ^b	36	54	76	134
Sport	18	5	10	14	43
Unknown ^c	27	38	21	41	12
Other ^d	3		2		5
Total Returns	116	96	95	156	309
Tagged	2,135	1,745	2,484	3,931	4,456
% Recovered	5.43%	5.50%	3.82%	3.97%	6.93%

^a Reporting is voluntary, prompted by printed contact details on tags; percentage of participation is unknown

^b In 2011, Glennallen subdistrict reported tags included 45 Fishwheel and 7 Dipnet. Gear type was not distinguished in previous years.

^c Majority of unknown tags are those left in ADF&G tag return boxes and returned with no harvest information. Tag return boxes are strategically located at fishing hotspots in both the Glennallen and Chitina subdistricts.

^d "Other" category includes tags collected on other research projects (eg. genetics, counting weirs, spawner surveys), found in spawned out salmon or bear scat, and commercial gillnet fishery (downstream migrants).

Submitted by the Copper River /Prince William Sound
Advisory Committee

December 5, 2011

CHINOOK
✓

If we take an average of the total catch of the past 4 seasons as compared to the 10 year total, the **commercial harvest is at 38%** of the 10 year average, **Chitina dipnetters are at 44%** of the 10 year average, the **sport harvest is at 54%** of the 10 year average and the **Glennallen district is at a 84%** of the harvest level of the 10 year average. **This demonstrates that ADF&G is using their management tools to appropriately distribute conservation measures by user group.**

CR/PWS AC

Table 4.-Summary of king salmon harvests and upriver escapement in the Copper River, 1990-2011.

Year	Commercial harvest ^a	CRD subsistence harvest ^b	Sport harvest	Glennallen Subdistrict harvest ^c	Chitina Subdistrict harvest ^c	Total harvest	Upriver spawning escapement	Estimated total return ^d
1990	21,702	60	2,302	647	2,708	27,419		
1991	34,787	136	4,884	1,328	4,056	45,191		
1992	39,810	142	4,412	1,449	3,405	49,218		
1993	29,727	120	8,217	1,434	2,846	42,344		
1994	47,812	164	6,431	1,989	3,743	60,139		
1995	67,363	154	6,709	1,892	4,707	80,825		
1996	57,815	276	9,116	1,482	3,584	72,273		
1997	52,516	200	8,346	2,583	5,447	69,092		
1998	70,238	295	8,245	1,842	6,723	87,343		
1999	63,508	353	6,742	3,141	5,913	79,794	16,157	95,951
2000	32,018	689	5,531	4,856	3,168	46,262	24,492	70,754
2001	40,551	826	4,904	3,553	3,113	52,947	28,208	81,155
2002	39,552	549	5,098	4,217	2,056	51,472	21,502	72,974
2003	49,031	710	5,717	3,092	1,921	60,471	34,034	94,505
2004	38,889	1,106	3,435	3,999	2,502	49,914	30,645	80,559
2005	35,764	260	4,093	2,618	2,094	44,829	21,528	66,357
2006	31,309	779	3,425	3,229	2,681	41,423	58,454	99,877
2007	40,276	1,145	5,123	3,939	2,722	53,205	34,565	87,770
2008	17,067	470	3,616	3,218	2,022	21,393	32,487	53,880
2009	10,394	212	1,355	3,036	223	15,220	27,787	43,007
2010	10,582	276	2,409	2,425	718	16,410	16,771	33,181
2011	12,967	0	1,750	2,824	1,025			
Average		573	3,522	3,208	1,948	35,214	34,964	70,178
2000-2009	32,985	675	4,230	3,574	2,250	43,714	31,370	75,084

^a Commercial harvest includes commercial personal use, donated salmon, and educational harvest from 1997-2010.

^b State permitted subsistence harvest in the Copper River District (does not include federal permitted harvest).

^c Harvest numbers from 2002 - 2004 include estimated state harvest and federal reported harvest (not expanded to account for non-respondents) and from 2005 - 2010 they include estimated state harvest and estimated federal harvest.

^d Estimated total return includes the upriver return estimate plus commercial harvest.

^e 2011 data are projected.

TABLE SHOWS THE
REDUCTION IN THE
COMMERCIAL CATCH OF
CHINOOK

Table 3.-Estimated state harvest of salmon in the Glennallen Subdistrict Subsistence Fishery, 1991-2011^a.

Year	Permits issued	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Steelhead	Other	Total harvest	Reported harvest per permit
1991	711	1,328	39,599	232	2	44	41,205	59
1992	655	1,449	45,232	350	24	40	47,095	73
1993	772	1,434	53,252	77	9	83	54,854	73
1994	970	1,989	68,278	60	10	54	70,391	74
1995	858	1,892	52,516	882	18	15	55,323	66
1996	850	1,482	52,052	557	28	171	54,290	65
1997	1,133	2,583	82,807	187	105	61	85,744	77
1998	1,010	1,842	64,463	533	35	78	66,951	67
1999	1,101	3,278	77,369	1,121	31	320	82,119	76
2000	1,251	4,856	59,497	532	52	169	65,106	52
2001	1,239	3,553	83,787	1,154	65	19	88,578	71
2002	1,121	3,653	50,850	611	87	1	55,202	49
2003	1,012	2,538	47,007	619	48	0	50,212	50
2004	956	3,346	55,510	729	76	0	59,661	62
2005	961	2,229	64,213	224	19	41	66,726	69
2006	984	2,769	57,710	212	37	83	60,811	62
2007	1,174	3,276	65,714	238	0	56	69,284	59
2008	1,186	<u>2,381</u>	43,157	493	0	75	46,106	39
2009	1,090	<u>2,493</u>	46,849	227	0	73	49,642	46
2010	1,321	<u>2,099</u>	70,719	293	0	149	73,260	55
2011 ^b	1,306	<u>2,524</u>	62,420	474	12	225	65,655	50
Average 2006-2010	1,079		56,830	293	0	87	59,813	52
Average 2001-2010	1,098		58,552	434	22	46	61,886	56

^a Data do not include federal harvest. The federal government began issuing separate permits beginning in 2002 when federal and state subsistence regulations diverged.

^b Data for 2011 are preliminary based on 60% of issued permits.

TABLE SHOWS VERY
SMALL REDUCTION IN
CHINOOK HARVEST

- Change pink salmon soundwide SEGs for even- and odd-year stocks to district-specific SEGs, currently defined as management targets in Bue et al. (2002). This conversion is necessary because we actively manage pink salmon in PWSMA by district and not on a soundwide basis.

In summary, this comprehensive review of the 15 existing salmon escapement goals in PWSMA resulted in five modifications. Three goals had a change in range and two were modified from soundwide goals to district goals. An oral and written report (Fair et al. *In prep*) concerning escapement goals and specific recommendations for numerous stocks in PWSMA will be presented to the board in December 2011. These reports will list all current and recommended escapement goals for PWSMA, as well as detailed descriptions of the methods used to reach these recommendations.

Stock of Concern Status

The *Policy for the Management of Sustainable Salmon Fisheries* (5 AAC 39.222) directs the department to report to the board on the status of salmon stocks and identify any stocks that present a concern related to yield, management, or conservation during regular board meetings. None of the PWSMA stocks have failed to achieve the lower range of the goal for three consecutive years since the previous board cycle (Munro and Volk 2011). Without a chronic inability to achieve their escapement goals, we recommend that no stocks of concern be established.

have no need to
 alter King salmon SEG of
 24K+ or restrict
 fishing when better blends of
 or fixed date.

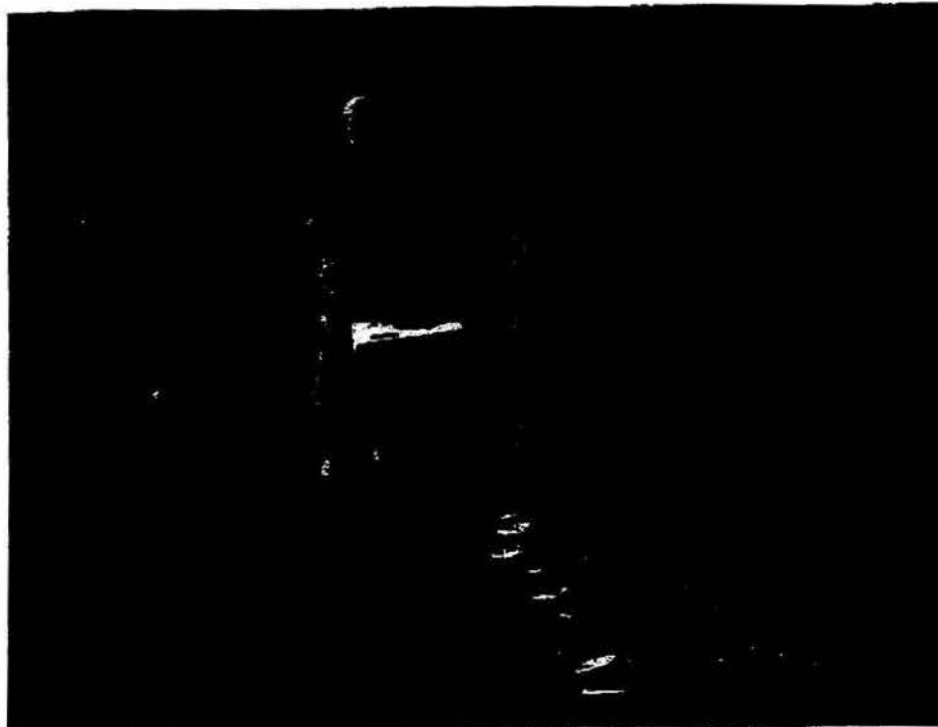
Table 1. – Summary of current escapement goals and recommended escapement goals for salmon stocks in Prince William Sound Management Area.

System	Current Escapement Goal			Recommended Escapement Goal		
	Goal	Type	Year Adopted	Range	Escapement Data	Action
King Salmon						
Copper River	> 24,000	SEG	2002	> 24,000	Mark-Recapture	No Change
Coho Salmon						
Bering River	13,000 – 33,000	SEG	2002	13,000 – 33,000	Aerial Survey	No Change
Copper River Delta	32,000 – 67,000	SEG	2002	32,000 – 67,000	Aerial Survey	No Change
Sockeye Salmon						
Eshamy Lake	13,000 – 28,000	BEG	2002	13,000 – 28,000	Weir	No Change
Coghill Lake	20,000 – 40,000	SEG	2005	20,000 – 60,000	Weir	Change in Range
Bering River	20,000 – 35,000	SEG	2002	15,000 – 33,000	Aerial Survey	Change in Range
Copper River Delta	55,000 – 130,000	SEG	2002	55,000 – 130,000	Aerial Survey	No Change
Upper Copper River	300,000 – 500,000	SEG	2002	360,000 – 750,000	Sonar	Change in Range
Pink Salmon						
Even-Year Broodline (All Districts Combined)						
	1,250,000 – 2,750,000	SEG	2002	discontinued	Aerial Survey	Change to District Goals ^a
Odd-Year Broodline (All Districts Combined)						
	1,250,000 – 2,750,000	SEG	2002	discontinued	Aerial Survey	Change to District Goals ^b
Chum Salmon (by District)						
Coghill	> 8,000	SEG	2005	> 8,000	Aerial Survey	No Change
Eastern	> 50,000	SEG	2005	> 50,000	Aerial Survey	No Change
Northern/Unakwik	> 20,000	SEG	2005	> 20,000	Aerial Survey	No Change
Northwestern	> 5,000	SEG	2005	> 5,000	Aerial Survey	No Change
Southeastern	> 8,000	SEG	2005	> 8,000	Aerial Survey	No Change

^a Recommended district SEGs for even years: Eastern – 250,000 to 580,000; Northern – 140,000 to 210,000; Coghill – 60,000 to 150,000; Northwestern – 70,000 to 140,000; Eshamy – 3,000 to 11,000; Southwestern – 70,000 to 160,000; Montague – 50,000 to 140,000; Southeastern – 150,000 to 310,000.

^b Recommended district SEGs for odd years: Eastern – 310,000 to 640,000; Northern – 90,000 to 180,000; Coghill – 60,000 to 250,000; Northwestern – 50,000 to 110,000; Eshamy – 4,000 to 11,000; Southwestern – 70,000 to 190,000; Montague – 140,000 to 280,000; Southeastern – 270,000 to 620,000.

CR/PWS AC



Otolith collection from carcasses for age sampling at Tanada Lake

Year	Number of sockeye	Number of Chinook
1998	28,992	2
1999	—	—
2000	—	—
2001	1,649	16
2002	6,186	5
2003	5,856	2
2004	17,120	0
2005	4,659 ²	1
2006	4,513	4
2007	11,103	7
2008	2,850 ³	137
2009	38,208	9
2010	5,226	16
2011	8,969	1

out of 12 years,
2011 was higher
than 7 of those
years

Number of sockeye and Chinook counted through the Tanada Creek weir, 1998-2011

¹Estimate based upon mark-recapture sampling; the actual weir estimate was 2,489

²Weir compromised by flooding, estimate from video count; the actual weir estimate was 739

³Weir was in operation from May 28 until July 8 when flooding occurred that disabled it.

SOCKEYE WIER LOCATED AT
THE TOP OF COPPER RIVER

RC 43

Board of Fisheries Meeting, Valdez

December 5, 2011

My name is Paul Holland and I'm a Board Member of the Chitina Dipnetters Association which represents 10,000 Alaskans and their families.

First I would like to commend the Board for meeting somewhere other than Cordova. The last Board Meeting in Cordova there were no rental cars available and a shortage of available rooms. Anchorage is by far a more favorable location due to its ability to handle the influx of people at a Board Meeting but Valdez is doing a fine job as it is much preferable for an open and more accessible Board meeting. Rooms and cars are relatively cheap in Anchorage due to their huge supply from summer tourism and low demand in the off season. Anchorage is also much cheaper to fly to than either Cordova or Valdez.

There may not be many Dipnetters who were able to attend this meeting but do not mistake the difficulty and costs involved with getting here and staying here with a lack of concern and involvement in the Chitina Subdistrict Fishery. The few times even a partial Board invested a day or two in Fairbanks before the full Board meeting in Cordova there were hundreds who turned out to testify. We, as dipnetters, do not make our living from our harvest of Copper River Salmon. It does enrich our lives in a way that could not be called anything less than culturally significant. It is a highly valued and unique opportunity to take part in the hands on harvest of an Alaskan resource. In the *Fairbanks Daily News-Miner* obituaries, there is often the mention that the deceased made the yearly trip to dipnet at Chitina, and this among the very few facts chosen to remember a person by. It is something we and our families spend money, time, and effort on to be able to live richer and fuller lives as Alaskans.

This summer again, for the 3rd straight year, Dipnetters in the Chitina Subdistrict Fishery were not allowed to keep even one King Salmon. It does not make any sense that non-Alaskan Commercial fishers harvest thousands of King Salmon, getting the first shot at the first returning King Salmon, before the Department makes the decision to reduce harvests for other users groups. Putting non-Alaskans on equal or even priority status in the harvest of the Copper River Salmon gives Dipnetters the hard to shake impression that this Board is overlooking Dipnetters, who must be Alaskan Residents, to the benefit of Commercial Fishers, many of whom are Non-Alaskan.

We are thankful that this meeting was not held in Cordova and do not see any reason it should ever be there again unless the full Board also alternates meetings in Fairbanks.

10,000 Alaskans and their Families thank you for listening and your service.

Paul Holland
Chitna Dipnetters Asslociation Board Member
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Fairbanks, AK 99709