

Hello Mr. Chair and Board Members, I am Adem Boeckmann. I am the designated representative of the Northern Norton Sound Advisory committee.

The NNSAC met on October 27, 2015 to consider fish and game regulation proposals. During that meeting we considered the June Area M proposals 181 to 184. We focused on these Area M proposals since they address the Fishery on salmon migrating to western Alaska /Bristol Bay. The June fishery targets chum and sockeye bound for locations beyond the boundaries of Area M. Because of that fact the June fishery has allocative impacts on the fishermen of other western Alaskan districts. An increase in fishing time in the Area M fishery has the effect of allocating salmon away from other Alaskans.

On the other hand, a complete closure as suggested in proposal 181 would have dramatic economic affects in communities with a long history of harvest. We in Norton Sound have experienced complete closures and prolonged periods of shortages. For that reason, we could not bring ourselves to inflict that sort of pain on the communities of the Alaska Peninsula. The NNSAC opposed proposal 181 in discussion, but ultimately took no action on it.

Proposals 182 and 183 were also discussed and were found to be obviously self-serving. 182 would increase harvests early in the spring migration (a time when Norton Sound chums move thru the area) and it would impact the set net fishery where the majority of permits are still held by Alaskan residents.

183 would establish a 6 day per week fishery, reducing the escapement window to one day per week. This is an unabashed grab at the allocation of salmon bound for the terminal areas. It will affect reproduction, subsistence, and commercial opportunity in Western Alaska. We took no action on 182 and 183.

The NNSAC did support proposal 184 (13 to 0). This proposal would reduce fishing time in the June Area M fishery, particularly on the drift gillnet and seine fisheries. It would put another migration window in the fishery mid-week. Any commercial fisherman will know that the first six hours of a fishing period are the most productive. The reduction of fishing time in this regulation is partially offset by this early period surge. By refilling the district twice per week fishing effort will be less inclined to stack up on fishing boundaries. Safety may improve with crews and boats having time to rest and do minor repairs. And most importantly, individual AYK and Bristol Bay salmon migrations will be less impacted. The Fisheries management in the terminal districts regulates individual stocks and the local weak stocks are not over-harvested by fisheries targeting strong stocks with coincidental run timing.

Thank You for your attention