

Alaska Board of Fisheries
Area M Finfish Proposals
Bristol Bay

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Mr. Chairman and members of the Board, for the record my name is Frank Woods. I'm here to testify in behave of myself. I would be too bold to say "Save the best for Last" but I will say "The Best is Yet to Come" with Governor Walker's Fish First Policy and your actions here today.

I Support Proposal 155 close Out Port Heiden. This isn't our first rodeo and if something doesn't change isn't going to be our last. I'm now 50 year old Bristol Bay salmon drift fisherman. In the 2012 -2013 BOF cycle (my age then 47) to the day I was testifying on the same issues. And before at the Westmark 2009- 2010 BOF cycle (age then 44)

5 AAC 39.220. Policy for the management of mixed stock salmon fisheries

(a) In applying this statewide mixed stock salmon policy for all users, conservation of wild salmon stocks consistent with sustained yield shall be accorded the highest priority. Allocation of salmon resources under this policy will be consistent with the subsistence preference in AS 16.05.258 , and the allocation criteria set out in 5 AAC 39.205, 5 AAC 75.017, and 5 AAC 77.007.

(b) In the absence of a regulatory management plan that otherwise allocates or restricts harvest, and when it is necessary to restrict fisheries on stocks where there are known conservation problems, the burden of conservation shall be shared among all fisheries in close proportion to their respective harvest on the stock of concern. The board recognized that precise sharing of conservation among fisheries is dependent on the amount of stock-specific information available.

(c) The board's preference in assigning conservation burdens in mixed stock fisheries is through the application of specific fishery management plans set out in the regulations. A management plan incorporates conservation burden and allocation of harvest opportunity.

(d) Most wild Alaska salmon stocks are fully allocated to fisheries capable of harvesting available surpluses. Consequently, the board will restrict new or expanding mixed stock fisheries unless otherwise provided for by management plans or by application of the board's allocation criteria. Natural fluctuations in the abundance of stocks harvested in a fishery will not be the single factor that identifies a fishery as expanding or new.

(e) This policy will be implemented only by the board through regulations adopted (1) during its regular meeting cycle; or (2) through procedures established in the Joint Board's Petition

Policy (5 AAC 96.625), Subsistence Petition Policy (5 AAC 96.625(f)), Policy for Changing Board Agenda (5 AAC 39.999), or Subsistence Proposal Policy (5 AAC 96.615).

I believe fishing outer Port Heiden goes against the Mixed Stock Policy Outer Port Heiden Hijacked by the BOF at that time was rewritten and implemented in 2007. I question this type of management approach with no science to justify liberalizing and expanding Area M. With Governor Walkers Fish First Policy, Science before Politics Policy, Community Based Management and with WASSIP the scientific data (as you can see) helps scientific decisions justifies passing Proposal 155. For North Peninsula this will terminalize and close Outer Port Heiden and the Ilnik to help the village of Port Heiden meet its subsistence needs. (My past life as Subsistence Coordinator watched the implantation of the subsistence reporting process flop in Port Heiden being managed and implemented from The Subsistence Office ADFG in Kodiak). As the Outer Port Heiden Area M fisherman increased their harvesting efficiency. Subsistence Has Suffered this Board should take a closer look at the sustainable fishery policy has increased harvest and decreased Subsistence use and inefficient returns to sustain even a Biological Subsistence Fishery.

.The management strategy is limited, when the department uses catch per unit effort and escapement strength determined by aerial surveys and weir counts to these under the Fisheries Manager Bob Murphy. My hats off to his valiant efforts to manage from Kodiak. Area M is harvesting capacity is based on run strengths from other areas. Having no safeguards in place to protect the runs that pass through this mixed stock fishery. During the 2006-2007 board cycles, the board rewrote one of Roland Briggs proposals and opened up Outer Port Heiden to Area M fishermen. Against Governors Policy for Community Based management and regulation and BOF Fish Policy. I also support Proposals **169 as amended and 170** with VMS technology.

Concern and reference to the mixed stock, sustainable fish policy: here are some info references

“Alaska’s Salmon Fishery Management 50 Years of Sustainability” by John Hilsinger, Director Alaska Department of Fish and Game Division of Commercial Fisheries

ADFG VIDEO web sight “Genetics for Sustainability Management of Bristol Bay Sockeye Salmon “: The Bristol Bay Management Area includes all coastal and inland waters east of a line from Cape Newenham to Cape Menshikof, including 9 major river systems. Numerous freshwater nursery lakes and shallow estuaries make Bristol Bay the largest commercial sockeye salmon producing region in the world. The Bristol Bay area is divided into 5 management districts (Naknek-Kvichak, Egegik, Ugashik, Nushagak, and Togiak), corresponding to the major river drainages. The management objective for each river is to achieve spawning escapement goals while harvesting fish in excess of the goals through the drift and set gillnet fisheries. Additionally, Togiak District provides spawning grounds for the largest commercial Pacific herring fishery in Alaska

Thank you for your time