

JOINT STATEMENT

The Nelson Lagoon Advisory Committee (NLAC) and Concerned Area M Fishermen (CAMF) have met and discussed issues related to proposals that are before the Alaska Board of Fisheries at this meeting on Alaska Peninsula fisheries, and in particular the fisheries of the North Peninsula. Each group has submitted comments on the proposals, in AC 6 and PC 1. NLAC and CAMF have now reached a mutual understanding and agreement on many of these proposals, as follows:

NLAC and CAMF agree that they have common interests in the management of the fisheries of the North Alaska Peninsula, including assuring that the fisheries are sustainable; that they provide economic opportunity and benefits for the economy of Alaska Peninsula communities and participants in those fisheries; and that they produce a quality product for today's market.

NLAC and CAMF agree that current scientific information, including the WASSIP study, demonstrates that conservation benefits for salmon stocks are best achieved by implementation of management measures in areas nearer to streams of origin, where the harvest rates on those stocks are generally higher. They also agree that the recent FRI study shows that, in the Outer Port Heiden Section, there is little difference in the stock composition of fish harvested in areas closer to the beach, between the shore and 1.5 miles, or between 1.5 and 3 miles.

NLAC and CAMF prefer to resolve disputes over allocation and management of North Peninsula fisheries between themselves, as Area M stakeholders, rather than letting interest groups and individuals outside of Area M try to dictate solutions for fisheries in a management area about which they have little understanding.

NLAC and CAMF therefore jointly state their agreement on the following proposals, and request that the Board of Fisheries take action consistent with their agreement.

Proposals 22-24 – Ilnik, Port Heiden, and Cinder River Sections are part of Area M and should continue to be managed as North Peninsula fisheries. We oppose any effort to move the boundary line between Area M and Area T.

Proposal 147 – This proposal by CAMF should be amended, so that instead of deleting subsection (n) of the Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan, 5 AAC 09.369, that subsection should instead be amended to delete the phrase “and that portion of the Ilnik Section between the longitude of Strogonof Point [] and the longitude of Unangashak Bluffs []...” The amendment would retain the rolling closure provision of the subsection for the southern portion of the Ilnik Section, and the Bear River and Three Hills Sections. NLAC and CAMF agree that subsection (n), as so amended, should sunset after the 2018 season, so that the Board can review whether to retain this provision in the next meeting cycle. NLAC and CAMF representatives will confer prior to the time for submitting proposals for the 2018-19 meeting cycle, to discuss this regulation.

Proposals 148 and 149 – NLAC maintains its neutral position on these proposals, as stated in its minutes.

Proposal 150 – NLAC and CAMF support this housekeeping proposal by ADF&G.

Proposals 151-54, 157, 158, 163, 169, and 171 – NLAC and CAMF maintain their opposition to these proposals.¹

Proposals 155-56 – NLAC and CAMF are united in their opposition to these proposals, which would close the Outer Port Heiden Section.

Proposal 159 – NLAC withdraws its opposition and instead states its support for this proposal. The FRI study shows that in the Outer Port Heiden Section, there is no difference in the harvest of Bristol Bay origin stocks in the area closer to the beach, between the shore and 1.5 miles, and the area between 1.5 and 3 miles. The restriction imposed on this fishery in 2013 should be repealed.

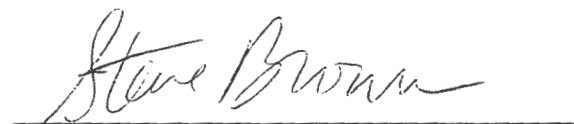
Proposals 160-162 – In light of the agreement on proposal 147, NLAC does not support these proposals or any proposed amendments.

Proposal 166 – CAMF withdraws its support for this proposal. The Caribou Flats Section should remain closed, as provided in the management plan.

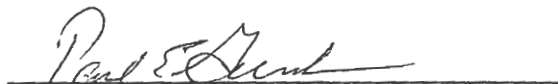
Proposal 170 – This proposal, to define the 1.5 mile line in the Outer Port Heiden Section, will be moot if the Board approves proposal 159.

NLAC and CAMF affirm that this joint statement has been discussed with and approved by their respective members.

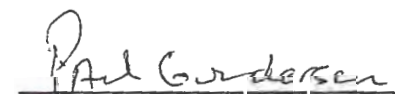
Date: FEBRUARY 26, 2016



Steve Brown, President
Concerned Area M Fishermen



Paul Gunderson, Chair
Nelson Lagoon Advisory Committee



¹ The members of NLAC and CAMF want to express their condolences to the family of Roland Briggs, who submitted some of these proposals. Roland was a tireless advocate for his position on issues pertaining to Area M and Area T, and did his best to contribute to an informed debate on our respective fisheries.