**PROPOSAL 62** - 5 AAC 18.350. Closed waters. Close all waters within a 1,000 yard radius of the terminus of Ayakulik River to commercial salmon fishing June 1- July 15, as follows:

Amend 5 AAC 18.359.(a) (A) All waters within 1000 yard radius of terminus of Ayakulik(Red) River closed to Commercial salmon fishing June 1-July 15.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I would like to address King salmon by catch in Kodiak Management Area Inner Ayakulik section. There needs to be a conservation measure to provide a buffer zone for King salmon escapement on the Ayakulik river. The run is severely depleted and has not made even the lower escapement for the last 3 consecutive years.

**PROPOSED BY:** Stig Yngve (EF-F16-026)

(Proposal 63 was submitted by FOUR proposers. The proposal and four justifications by each proposer are provided below.)

**PROPOSAL 63** - 5 AAC 18.350. Closed waters. Close all waters within a 500 yard radius of the terminus of Ayakulik River to commercial salmon fishing, as follows:

**5 AAC 18.350 Closed Waters (a) (2) (A)** all waters within 500 yards of the terminus of the Ayakulik River (Red River) [ALL WATERS EAST OF THE TERMINUS OF THE AYAKULIK RIVER (RED RIVER)]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Fir the past 15 years I have fished the Ayakulik River on the south tip of Kodiak Island. The increase in commercial fishing at the mouth now prevents any King salmon from entering the river. The nets are presently across the entire mouth of the river thus blocking salmon from entering the river. This keeps King salmon from entering the river to spawn. If this continues there will soon be no salmon in the river!

**PROPOSED BY:** Kenneth Blackman

(EF-F16-048)

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Regulation 5 AAC 18.350 Closed Waters (a) (2) (A) states closed waters are only closed east of the Ayakulik River. This leaves the mouth of the river open to seine commercial fishing on the entire ocean side. Seine nets are strung across the mouth of the Ayakulik River thus preventing the successful entry of the ever declining king salmon. While the commercial seine fishery must release any king salmon over 28

inches over in length within the Inner and Outer Ayakulik sections, the mortality rate of king salmon is at risk of ever increasing with the abundant numbers of seine nets present. Restriction of 500 yards of the Ayakulik River terminus for the commercial fishery would assist in alleviating the mortality rate of the king salmon thus helping the king salmon to meet the BEG goal.

## PROPOSED BY: Tom Walters

## (EF-F16-049)

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Closed waters for the Ayakulik River only applies to waters east of the terminus. Commercial seine nets are allowed to place nets directly across the mouth of the Ayakulik River on the ocean waters. This practice greatly increases the mortality rate on the ever declining Ayakulik River king salmon. While the commercial seine fishery must release any king salmon over 28 inches in length, with the ever present seine nets across the mouth of the Ayakulik River, king salmon virtually have no chance of entering the river alive. The BEG of the the Ayakulik River king salmon has not been met for many years. Restriction of commercial salmon fishing within 500 yards of the Ayakulik River stream terminus would greatly help to ensure the king salmon BEG is achieved. I have worked on the Ayakulik River since 1990. Within the 1990's, the regulation of 500 yards within the stream terminus of the Ayakulik River for the commercial seine fishery applied. Would once again like to see this regulation apply to the Ayakulik River to help in anyway the ever declining wild Alaskan king salmon of the Ayakulik River, Kodiak Island.

## PROPOSED BY: Tom Simkowski

(EF-F16-050)

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Having the stream terminus of the Ayakulik River (stream #256-201) continuously open to commercial seine fishing that coexists with the run cycle of king salmon increases the mortality rate of king salmon returning to the Ayakulik River. The commercial seine fishery in the KMA is not allowed to retain king salmon over 28 inches in length from June I't through July 5th with the possible extension from July 6ft through July 30th for the Inner and Outer Ayakulik sections. However, with the high influence of constant seine nets being strung across the stream terminus of the Ayakulik River, king salmon virtually have no chance of successfully entering the Ayakulik River alive. The BEG of the Ayakulik River king salmon has not been met for many years, and yearly escapements since 2006have averaged just22Yo of escapements observed during the previous 10 year period. The 2014 escapement of approximately 900 fish was the 2<sup>nd</sup> lowest on record for this fish stock. Accordingly, the Ayakulik River king salmon run is now being considered for designation as a "Stock of Concern" under the Policy for the Management of Sustainable Salmon Fisheries (5 AAC 39.222). Restriction of commercial salmon fishing within 500 yards of the Ayakulik River stream terminus is imperative to help ensure the king salmon BEG is achieved.

PROPOSED BY: Amy Fredette	(HQ-F16-041)
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**PROPOSAL 64** - **5** AAC 18.350. Closed waters. Close commercial salmon fishing from July 10 to August 10 in all waters north of a line from Ouzinkie Point on Ouzinkie Island to Parokoda Island and then from Paroka Island to the old Alaska Department of Fish and Game marker on Spruce Island near Black Point, as follows:

Create a subsistence only harvest area in Ouzinkie Harbor from July 10th to August 10 north of a line that would run from Ouzinkie point on Ouzinkie Island to Parokoda Is. and then from Paroka Is. to the old ADF&G marker on Spruce Island in proximity to Black Point.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Ouzinkie is a small village on the southwest corner of Spruce Island just north of Kodiak Island. The Ouzinkie harbor is a small cove that encompasses an area about the size of Kodiak's small boat harbor. Kodiak Regional Aquaculture Association has been imprinting and releasing sockeye salmon in Ouzinkie Harbor adjacent to the Ouzinkie Small Boat Harbor for several years. The first return from the stocking program was 2015. Ouzinkie residents enjoyed expanded subsistence harvest opportunities in proximity to their community. As imprinted sockeye continue to return to Ouzinkie Harbor, perhaps in greater numbers in the future, Ouzinkie residents are concerned that a single seine vessel could come in and "scoop up" all of the sockeye the community would anticipate using for subsistence purposes. Ouzinkie understands that these fish are a "common property" resource. Nevertheless, the Kodiak commercial salmon fishery has ample opportunity to intercept and harvest fish returning to Ouzinkie Harbor throughout both Marmot and Kizhuyak Bay. Consequently, it is likely that a high percentage of these fish are already utilized commercially. Surviving fish congregating in Ouzinkie's Harbor are significant for subsistence use, however they remain susceptible to commercial capture as they move in and out with the tide, often beyond current fishing markers. Ouzinkie believes it is better to anticipate the conflict that will occur if Ouzinkie's subsistence fish are taken by a few errant commercial fishermen and to provide a subsistence only use area for a limited time.

**PROPOSED BY:** Ouzinkie Native Corporation (EF-F16-092)

**PROPOSAL 65** - 5 AAC 18.332. Seine specifications and operations. Establish a four and one half inch minimum mesh size for salmon seines from June 1 to July 15, as follows:

We recommend adding a new line under the Seine Specification and Operations. Specifically we recommend the following language be adopted:

(X) Seine mesh size shall be no less than 4-1/2 inches from June 1 to July 15 in all districts within the Kodiak Area.

Justification:

First: Adopting this proposal will allow the juvenile Chinook salmon and chums to pass through the increased mesh size of the seine nets, while allowing the commercial fishermen to more efficiently harvest their intended species and save them from discarding unwanted bycatch.

Second: We are requesting the Department conduct a thorough analysis of the bycatch data to further determine impacts and to recommend additional mitigating measures. The sustainability of the Chinook and chum salmon species into the future justifies positive action on this proposal by the Board of Fish.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The issue this proposal addresses is the bycatch of juvenile Chinook and chum salmon during some commercial purse seine activities in the Kodiak district. Since the early to mid-1990's, fishermen have begun fishing off the outer capes while targeting Cook Inlet sockeye. However, by fishing there, they also intercept juvenile Chinook and chum salmon. The current mesh size of the purse seine nets, of around 2-1/2 inches to 2-3/4 inches entrap, as bycatch, the juvenile Chinooks that result in substantial amount of mortality to the juvenile Chinooks and Chum salmon. Significant numbers of juvenile fish are intercepted with each seine.

As a consequence of these bycatch activities, over the last 15 to 20 years, Chinook and chum salmon populations in areas within Alaska, such as the many watersheds within Cook Inlet, plus most recently the Karluk River and Ayakulik River, have failed to meet escapement goals and there is growing concern about the long-term population viability of these salmon populations.

We believe that we have reached a point of diminishing returns on these species that if mitigating measures are not taken and this practice is allowed to continue, it will have further detrimental effects on these struggling populations and could lead to their total collapse

PROPOSED BY: Jeff Peterson	(EF-F16-058)
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