

**PROPOSAL XXX - 5 AAC 05.310.**

**5 AAC 05.310**

Except as provided in 5 AAC 05.320 - 5 AAC 05.380, salmon may be taken only as follows:

...

(4) in District 6, the commissioner shall open the season by emergency order and close the season [ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1 AT 12:01 A.M.] by emergency order.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The reason that the request is being made is that the fall chum commercial market in the Tanana Drainage has changed from primarily a roe market to a dog food market and the buyers don't want the fish until the weather cools down so that the fish does not spoil. With the later warmer weather Alaska has been experiencing lately the manager's need more flexibility in the season closure dates so that we, the catchers/sellers, can meet the buyers demand. The run starts in August, and we don't even start fishing until around September 15 because we are waiting for this cooler weather so much of the run has already gone by and it is our understanding that at this time escapement goals probably have already been met in this drainage. When the roe fishery was more popular, there were many more wheels operating in District 6 and the wheels started in August, which is when the closure date was established for the drainage. Now that the fishery has changed, there are only four wheels operating in the district, and as previously stated the wheels don't start turning until the cooler weather of mid-September hits.

**PROPOSED BY:** John Krieg

(EF-F18-001)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**  
**5 AAC .**

Allow enough fish to escape the commercial fleet to satisfy subsistence and personal use needs. Set aside days exclusively for personal use/subsistence and make it publicly known. So that people who make the drive will know that there will be fish available. Extend personal use season into August, which would allow more fishing time

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Regarding Upper Cook Inlet, Kenai River personal use fishery:

Commercial openings did not allow for adequate harvests for personal use. Two full days netting yielded one third of family's allowable salmon harvest did not allow family to get limit due to commercial overharvest.

**PROPOSED BY:** Leonard Peck

(EF-F18-003)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**  
**5 AAC .**

I would like to see a temporary pelagic rockfish commercial opening in the outer PWS area as it was proposed in DEC. 2017 in the pelagic rockfish proposal for PWS outer area. I believe it can be opened under some type of temp. order. I am a permanent resident of Alaska

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Prince William Sound outer area for Pelagic rockfish jig fishery.

I know that I did not comment to the board of fisheries on the rockfish proposal as I gave up hope in that area years ago. I am surprised that no notices were sent out to those that have fished that area in the past. I am wondering if the State of Alaska or the board in PWS can institute that Pelagic rockfish opening (permanent or temp.) for the outer PWS area as proposed in the meeting in DEC 2017. There were no comments from anyone to favor the opening, I wish I had not missed it. But the fishery is an abundant and valuable resource

There are an abundant number of pelagic rockfish on the outer area of PWS, I have fished the western area near Elrington I. and in Federal waters for years until the board closed it because of the numbers of non pelagic rockfish taken. Such as proposed in the recent board of fisheries in PWS. The North Gulf area solved that issue by removing the non pelagic rockfish to by catch only. I have been fishing the pelagic rockfish fishery since 1989 in the North gulf area, as well as the PWS area until it closed.

I started out in a 10' Zodiac, then a 16' Zodiac then a 28' Tollycraft which I extended to 35', now I fish out of my 38' Bayliner in the North Gulf area. Initially had a hard time finding a market for black rockfish but I found a processor in Anchorage (Favco) that would buy all the fish I caught, now I sell to Resurrection Seafood's in Seward, they then sell to Favco and restaurants Seward and other wholesalers and as far away as Philadelphia. There are also fishermen fishing the North Gulf area who deliver to Homer AK. The market and buyers for these paligic rockfish is there and there are fishermen that will fish for them.

Is there a way to open the outer area of PWS by any kind or order, possibly by ADF&G, if so it would only increase the income and market of this valuable resource, there enough fish for both the commercial who have a max quota and season, as well as the recreational/charter fleet.

**PROPOSED BY:** Patrick L. Sterling

(EF-F18-006)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 06.320. Fishing Periods.**

Extend the fishing periods in the Naknek-Kvichak, Egegik, and Ugashik Districts, as follows:

. . .

(c) In the Naknek-Kvichak, Egegik, and Ugashik Districts,

(2) after 9:00 a.m. July 17, salmon may be taken from 9:00 a.m. Monday **through 9:00 p.m. Sunday**, except as specified for the . . .

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Minimal fishing time after the regulatory period reduces opportunity to maximize the use of the fall fishery resource for the following reasons:

1. Fishermen/crewmembers cannot justify staying operational for 4 days of fishing time each week.
2. Processors cannot commit to maintaining personnel and equipment in an operational state when product is only available for 4 days/week.

In addition to the loss of opportunity to fishermen and processors, there is a concomitant loss of control and information in the escapement of late run salmon.

**PROPOSED BY:** Bill Hill

(EF-F18-007)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**  
**5 AAC .**

Thank you Board of Fish and other interested parties for hearing my thoughts and deep concerns pertinent to the issues at hand. I would like first to say that it is of my opinion that the board of Fish based on their science and math and ongoing efforts, have made sound conservative analysis regarding the longevity of the Sitka Sound Sac Roe Fisheries.

My name is Deborah Johns Head. I have been a resident of Southeast Alaska for 60 years. I am the daughter of the late Greg R. Johns Sr. My father was a fisherman in this fishery from the beginning days of Sitka Sac Roe, till his death in 1989. I currently have a brother that is carrying on his legacy. I come from a family that has always made our living from the sea. I myself have commercial fished for a greater part of my life. Many of them in the Sitka Sac Roe Fisheries.

I am also an Alaska Native. From the time Southeast Alaska was incorporated into the United States of America or the time we were made to become civilized or act according to western law, the issue of "Use of resources" for survival has NEVER really been resolved. Better known today as "subsistence". Once again our lawmakers & decision makers stand before us forcing us to make hasty irreparable decisions based on less than the facts.

It is my strongest belief that the cart has been put before the horse. The issues at hand are becoming convoluted, blurred and is causing unrest and resentment among just the groups that needs to be working together as one. The ROOT of the problem needs to be taken care of. At this point or in this meeting today, decisions should NOT be made. To hurry up and make decisions based on anything less than the facts would be reckless and a detriment to all groups here.

To set forth laws and regulations or to set precedence dictating the fair usage of the same resources would be a disgraceful decision, made in haste, or taking steps in a haphazard backwards direction. I encourage all that are here to stand up for our fishing way of life; so that this legacy continues for generations to come. I urge all parties to sit down at the table and come up with a plan that is beneficial to all. Great collaborative decisions take time.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?**

**PROPOSED BY:** Deborah Johns Head (EF-F18-008)

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## **PROPOSAL XXX**

### **5 AAC 27.190. Herring Management Plan for Southeast.**

We would like the Board to consider the rapidly changing ecosystem of the Eastern Gulf of Alaska and Sitka Sound and take management actions to help provide for a robust herring population and sustainable commercial fishery by lowering the harvest rate of the sac roe fishery in Sitka Sound either through a reduced sliding scale (0-10%) and/or through an ecosystem set aside taken off the commercial fishery quota.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** I would like to briefly address the dwindling population of herring in southeast Alaska. Subsistence fishermen and communities rely on this resource as a food source and a traditional cultural practice. The ecosystem including many species of fish, bird, and mammal relies on the resource of herring on many levels. Many other commercial fisheries are also dependent upon herring to sustain populations of other fish. It is important to conserve the herring populations and put priority on our subsistence communities and the ecosystem before commercial and special interests.

The decline in herring populations is due to a myriad of causes including climate change, ocean acidification, predation by whales and squid, and more. Our level of control over these factors is very low. However, the harvest of commercial boats and the management plans governing it is within our control. To conserve herring for future generations, the ecosystem, and to sustain species of other commercial fisheries the Board of Fisheries should move to reduce the annual commercial quota of the Sac Row herring fishery.

I am a commercial fisherman and participate in the commercial harvest of halibut and black cod annually. Even though I depend on fishing for my livelihood, I believe management should always take into account the impact on the environment and on subsistence harvests and keep those factors higher priority than commercial interests.

**PROPOSED BY:** Zak Wass

(EF-F18-009)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 67.022. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means in the Bristol Bay Area.**

Eliminate guiding on the Naknek River drainage during spring from the marker at Lake Camp to the marker at Rapids Camp, as follows:

Amend 5 AAC 67.022(d)

My solution to this issue would be to completely ban guiding on the Naknek during the Spring from the marker at lake camp to the marker at rapids camp. Protecting these fish and their spawn should be of the utmost importance.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The issue I would like the board to address is the issue of Spring guiding on the Naknek river, specifically the area from lakecamp from the marker at Trefons cabin to the marker at rapidscamp.

I firmly believe that there should be a no guiding policy on the Naknek river during the spring spawning period. These trout in the Naknek are overly pursued from the opener on June 8th until the lodges leave mid October or early November. With so much pressure put on this fishery, I believe it is time to implement a no guiding policy during the spring spawn. One only has to look on the many social media sites in the spring to observe what is being done to these rainbows on this river.

These magnificent fish are spawning. It is a time when these fish should be completely left alone unharrassed and allowed to spawn uninterrupted. Not only is it unethical to fish for spawning rainbows it should be against the law.

**PROPOSED BY:** Jason Lazore

(EF-F18-010)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 67.022. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means in the Bristol Bay Area.**

Modify the sport fishing season in the Naknek River drainage, as follows:

5 AAC 67.022(d)(4)(B)

My solution to this issue is to close the river to fishing April 1st instead of April 8th.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The issue I would like the board to address concerns the closing date of the spring fishing season on the Naknek river. Specifically the area from the marker at lakecamp to the marker at rapidscamp.

I believe that these rainbow trout should be protected at all costs and that the closing date of April 8th is way too late into the spawning season to be fishing for these trout. These rainbows should be allowed to spawn uninterrupted and unharassed and if we can ensure that they have more time to spawn without being hooked and handled we should.

**PROPOSED BY:** Jason Lazore

(EF-F18-011)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 67.022. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means in the Bristol Bay Area.**

Limit the hours guides or clients can fish on the Naknek River, as follows:

I suggest as a resolution to this problem, a regulated fishing time that guides and clients are allotted to be on the river fishing from lake camp to rapids camp. This allotted time could start at 8am and end at 6pm. After 6pm no guides or clients will be allowed to trout fish from that area.

This would allow time for residents to enjoy the fishing on an uncrowded river and would also give the trout a much needed break from the constant traffic and pressure.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** An issue I would like the board to address concerns the hours guides and clients are spending on the upper river of the Naknek trout fishing. Specifically the area from the marker at lake camp to the marker downriver at rapids camp.

From the opener June 8th until well into October ,the number of guides and clients trout fishing has exploded in the past few years. Being that the trout fishing mainly occurs in the upper part of the river, this is a very small area and is overrun with guides and clients pretty much all season long from the early hours in the morning until late in the evenings.

Guides are sent out early in the morning to secure spots for the lodges clients who arrive after having breakfast. Guides are left on the river to occupy spots while the clients are brought back to the lodge for lunch and then returned to fish spots secured by the guides "holding" the area for them on the river. When the clients are headed in for the day, now its the guides time to fish. They drop the clients off and head right back out.

I am all for people fishing this river and enjoying its trout but over the last few years this river has become grossly overrun with guides and clients. Venturing upriver after work or on the weekend for people that live here and want to enjoy the rainbow fishing usually results in a wasted trip being that the spots on the river are all occupied by lodges. I myself live here to enjoy what the area has to offer and I'm letting you know that the upper river is and has been out of control for some time now. Something must be done not only to protect this valuable resource but to allow the people that live here to enjoy as well.

**PROPOSED BY:** Jason Lazore

(EF-F18-012)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 67.022. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means in the Bristol Bay Area.**

Limit the days guides or clients can fish on the Naknek River, as follows:

5 AAC 67.022(d)(4)

My proposed solution to this problem is as follows:

No guiding on Sundays or Thursdays. This will mean no clients without guides, no dropping clients off unguided and no lodge guides on the river. The area affected by this would be the area at Lake Camp from the marker at Trefons Cabin to the marker at Rapids Camp.

I believe that it is time to implement such a regulation on the Naknek because it has become obscenely abused and overused by lodges and guides and time should be allotted for folks and families that live here and deserve their time on a river that used to be a place to relax and unwind.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The issue I would like the board to address concerns the extreme overabundance of guides and clients fishing on the Naknek River for rainbow trout.

In the past 20 plus years of living in King Salmon fishing the Naknek river for rainbow trout, Lately I have witnessed the extreme overabundance of guides and clients trout fishing on the Naknek River. Gone are the days of going "upriver" after work or on the weekend to fish and relax. This river is mobbed by guides and their clients starting on the opener June 8th, going well onto October and sometimes November. Gone also is the etiquette on this river. When you are lucky enough to find a spot to fish upriver it usually comes with a consequence being that you will be fishing in a non stop wake zone because of all of the boats going up and down the river - boats carrying 4 to 6 fisherman apiece.

The other consequence that I have witnessed and personally experienced multiple times last fall is the complete and utter lack of etiquette from multiple guides from the multiple lodges that are fishing clients on the river. From having boats float right through the water I am fishing , to having guides drop clients off less than 20 yards below me while fishing - the etiquette has totally disappeared on the river. If you so desire to leave at the earliest hours of the morning to secure a spot - don't bother. You will only find yourself upriver going to each spot only to find a guide waiting there for the lodge to bring clients upriver to the spots that their guides are "holding."

It is very sad what has happened to this trout fishery over the last few years. I am so thankful that I got to enjoy this fishery long ago when there was only a small handful of locals that fished during the fall time and even during the summer when you could go up to the rapids after work and relax. I do not oppose change but I do oppose the abuse of such a beautiful resource that many locals cannot even enjoy anymore.

**PROPOSED BY:** Jason Lazore

(EF-F18-013)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**  
**5 AAC 72.XXX.**

I would suggest a full closure for all king salmon fishing at the following locations/times: Close the Naknek River to all king fishing from “Painter Bob’s Cabin” upstream to the ADF&G marker at “Trefon’s Cabin” near the mouth of Naknek Lake at all times. Close the area of the Naknek main channel within ¼ mile of the projected mouth of Big Creek to king fishing after July 15. Even buoys (similar to King Salmon Creek) may not suffice. I believe Kings actively spawn in the Naknek River itself in the area between Crystal Creek Lodge and the outlet of the “Slide” or “Bluff” hole. I witnessed people back bouncing with spin and glows at this location in mid to late July and pulling red kings out by the dozens, while traditional back-trolling with wiggle warts or quick fish was much less effective. That tells me many kings are preparing to spawn there in the Naknek and not moving up stream from that location. Continue the closure of the area adjacent to King Salmon Creek via buoys. Ensure the area in and adjacent to Paul’s Creek is closed. Obviously king salmon fishing should be closed within all tributaries to the Naknek River. In these closed areas, king salmon may not be targeted at all, and if they are accidentally hooked while targeting other species, they must NOT be removed from the water and shall be released immediately.

I’d recommend decreasing the Naknek specific king salmon bag limit to 2 kings annually, at least for Alaska non-residents. Although it would be difficult to enforce, a limit to ‘rods in the water’ per day per lodge would help the pressure, as well.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** I have been guiding/fishing on the Naknek since 2001. I realize this is a relatively short time, but over that time, I’ve noticed a significant increase in sport fishing pressure on every level. Regarding the king salmon species, I’ve seen the number of large fish decrease and the runs become more volatile over the years. The longest tenured local fishermen who respect the fishery the most tend to stick to the traditional locations and techniques, but more and more people are pursuing the kings closer to their spawning areas and the addition of more and more inexperienced guides/lodges and do-it-yourself outfitters has exacerbated this situation. I believe commercial fishing is the main threat to the future of our king run, but commercial fishing coupled with irresponsible and excessive sport fishing is a nail in their coffin. Assuming this board does not deal with the commercial side, I believe the addition of sport fishing regulations to control the location, harvest and volume of sport fishing “rods in the water” would help delay the further decline of the fishery.

**PROPOSED BY:** Dan Kirsch

(EF-F18-014)

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## **PROPOSAL XXX**

### **5 AAC 67.022. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means in the Bristol Bay Area.**

Establish guide permits in the Naknek River drainage, as follows:

Commercial operations that provide guides and/or boats to trout fishermen from ADF&G markers located ½ mile above Rapids Camp to ADF&G markers at Trefon's cabin at the outlet of Naknek Lake must register with ADF&G to prove their acknowledgment of the need to conserve this resource and enjoy it responsibly. This registration should result in a permit to qualified entities and shall apply to Dolly Varden, Arctic Char and Arctic Grayling, in addition to Rainbow Trout. This permit shall apply year round excluding the spring closure, which should remain in effect. See more detail below:

This permit should contain language stating that all clients shall be briefed on the proper techniques for catching and handling the trout, respecting the river banks/waters and observing river etiquette. For guided operations, the permit shall acknowledge that businesses will not send clients out without licensed/certified guides (including coast guard licensure). For unguided boat rentals, the proprietor will be required to issue operators' certificates to individual clients who prove their boatmanship. Liability for any infraction or accident will be borne by both the business and the individual operating the boat. (Really, I don't think commercial boat rentals should be allowed for this section of the river at all!!)

Between June 8- December 31, this permit shall stipulate that commercial entities will only allow four guests at any time to fish for trout within the aforementioned section of the Naknek River. Each successfully permitted commercial operator will have 4 certificates issued by Fish and Game that will be carried by the persons fishing for trout in this section of the river. Certificates can be transferred to other guests of the same operation during the day but only 4 people total can fish at a time. Between January 1-April 8, only 2 certificates may be used at any one time. Non-compliance will result in a fine for both the angler and the commercial entity. Certificates are not transferrable to other operations. Certificates shall be issued to a "parent company" and subsidiaries will not be issued additional certificates.

This overall permit and the individual certificates must be applied for each calendar year.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** I'm an Alaska resident and I've been fishing the Naknek River for rainbow trout for over 17 years. During that time the sport fishing pressure on the trout fishery has absolutely exploded, especially since 2010. On this remote river where locals and lodge-goers alike could historically expect to enjoy epic fishing in September and October in relative solitude, it is now nearly impossible to find even a speck of space on the riverbank to pull over and fish. I used to fish the river in September with ease and no feeling of over crowding, now I've been pushing my short trips back later and later every year to avoid the massive increase in guided trips that are now extending deep into October. The river is only approximately 5 miles long, and offers about 12-15 legitimate spots for trout fishing. These spots are now stacked with people during all daylight hours for nearly 2 months. That's simply too much fishing pressure on this fragile resource. Anglers are primarily targeting the large trophy class rainbow trout for which the river is famous, but the use of relatively large hooks and heavy

gear will likely result in higher mortality rate for the smaller fish that are considered "bycatch" by most fishermen. This fact coupled with the unavoidable mortality of large fish due to long fights and picture taking is a double-edged sword that will likely result in an overall decrease in the numbers of large fish and the quality of the fishery overall. Fish with hooking scars were once rare and now it's common.

A major factor in this over fishing is the lodges' ever increasing focus on volume and money. First, this leads to a high percentage of inexperienced and often unlicensed guides, as well as, do-it-yourself operations that put people and fish in great danger. These do-it-yourself operations are the worst offenders. This river is dangerous and unguided fishermen likely don't understand the true power of the river or the fragility of these large trout. Second, many of the new outfitters are out of state commercial businesses who don't understand or have lost sight of the sustainability of this fishery. Now that fly fishing has become a fad and social media and reality tv has put us on the map in a big way, the world has become smaller and people are flocking to Alaska. The number of hungry anglers wanting to notch a trophy rainbow will continue to increase exponentially and these businesspeople will cash in as quickly as possible until the resource is depleted. It's human nature. One need only look to the rivers on the road system, such as the Kenai, to see what can happen when fishing pressure is allowed to explode, unchecked. I've all but quit fishing the Kenai for trout, as it's become combat fishing in every way.... even worse than the famous combat sockeye fishery. This Naknek resource is NOT limitless.

The other effect of this sad exploitation is that the small, sustainable local guides are being pushed out of the market to some extent. I've personally know perennial guests, who have been fishing the Naknek for years, that have given up due to the rodeo that this fishery has become. Likewise, locals can't really go out and find a reasonable spot to fish in peace until late October.

Luckily the fishing on the Naknek is still fantastic and we are fortunate to have the opportunity to save it. Preservation will rely on combining the full might of the local stewards and regulatory agencies to implement a meaningful management plan NOW. It has to happen now.

**PROPOSED BY:** Dan Kirsch

(EF-F18-015)

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## **PROPOSAL XXX –**

### **5 AAC 67.022 Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means in the Bristol Bay Area.**

Close waters to king salmon sport fishing in the Naknek River drainage, as follows:

I would suggest a full closure for all king salmon fishing at the following locations/times:

Close the Naknek River to all king fishing from “Painter Bob’s Cabin” upstream to the ADF&G marker at “Trefon’s Cabin” near the mouth of Naknek Lake at all times.

Close the area of the Naknek main channel within ¼ mile of the projected mouth of Big Creek to king fishing after July 15. Even buoys (similar to King Salmon Creek) may not suffice. I believe Kings actively spawn in the Naknek River itself in the area between Crystal Creek Lodge and the outlet of the “Slide” or “Bluff” hole. I witnessed people back bouncing with spin and glows at this location in mid to late July and pulling red kings out by the dozens, while traditional back-trolling with wiggle warts or quick fish was much less effective. That tells me many kings are preparing to spawn there in the Naknek and not moving up stream from that location.

Continue the closure of the area adjacent to King Salmon Creek via buoys.

Ensure the area in and adjacent to Paul’s Creek is closed.

Obviously king salmon fishing should be closed within all tributaries to the Naknek River.

In these closed areas, king salmon may not be targeted at all, and if they are accidentally hooked while targeting other species, they must NOT be removed from the water and shall be released immediately.

I’d recommend decreasing the Naknek specific king salmon bag limit to 2 kings annually, at least for Alaska non-residents.

Although it would be difficult to enforce, a limit to ‘rods in the water’ per day per lodge would help the pressure, as well.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** I have been guiding/fishing on the Naknek since 2001. I realize this is a relatively short time, but over that time, I’ve noticed a significant increase in sport fishing pressure on every level. Regarding the king salmon species, I’ve seen the number of large fish decrease and the runs become more volatile over the years. The longest tenured local fishermen who respect the fishery the most tend to stick to the traditional locations and techniques, but more and more people are pursuing the kings closer to their spawning areas and the addition of more and more inexperienced guides/lodges and do-it-yourself outfitters has exacerbated this situation. I believe commercial fishing is the main threat to the future of our king run, but commercial fishing coupled with irresponsible and excessive sport fishing is a nail in their coffin. Assuming this board does not deal with the commercial side, I believe the addition

of sport fishing regulations to control the location, harvest and volume of sport fishing “rods in the water” would help delay the further decline of the fishery.

IF NOTHING IS DONE WE WILL CONTINUE TO SEE A DECLINE IN OUR OVERALL KING SALMON RETURNS. Like the Kenai, Susitna and many other Alaskan rivers, the Naknek River will cease to be a premier destination for sport fishermen. Local subsistence users who depend on king salmon for an important food source may also suffer.

**PROPOSED BY:** Dan Kirsch

(EF-F18-016)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 06.331. Gillnet specifications and operations; and 5 AAC 06.333. Requirement and specification for use of 200 fathoms of drift gillnet in Bristol Bay.**

Modify provisions for drift gillnet permit stacking and create provisions for set gillnet permit stacking, as follows:

The ability to stack and own 2 permits, fish together on one vessel for Drift Net Fishers and 2 permits for Set Net Fishers.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The ability to stack own and Fish Two (2) Limited entry permits in one name for either Drift or Set Gill net fishing. This would help the fishery towards the optimum number of fishers and boats previously identified. This would reduce risk for vessel owners who fish 2 permits already who have to have 2 permit holders on the vessel. This will give the vessel owner and permit holder all of the responsibility. This would give all Fishers the chance to operate with 2 permits or maintain 1 permit. Cook inlet has approved stacking of permits in a single name.

**PROPOSED BY:** Bruce Skolnick

(EF-F18-017)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 01.220. Lawful gear and gear specifications.**

Require a minimum distance of 300 feet between all set net gear and limit net gear to 350 feet per eddy on the Yukon River between the marker at Waldron Creek and Hess Creek, as follows:

Between Waldron Creek marker and Hess Creek, all set net gear should be 300 feet apart, and there should be no more than 350 feet of net allowed in an eddy.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Increased public participation and access to the Yukon River at the Haul Rd Bridge. Changing the current regulation will help eliminate user conflict due to easy public access. Especially in times of conservation, the current regulations do not fit the area due to the easy public access and increased pressure on this fishery.

**PROPOSED BY:** Randy Mayo

(EF-F18-019)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**  
**5 AAC.**

During the Salmon season, allow the COMFISH to be limited to preferably a Monday for 24 hours until the 50% escapement is met then add COMFISH time as the season progresses and escapement is met. These actions will keep supply down in the lower 48 and prices higher, all the while allowing Alaska Citizens and Natives to fill their freezers faster, allowing the Alaskan Citizen to concentrate on hunting sooner. The tourists would also come in higher numbers if they could say they caught x number of fish in a week and released what is over the limit.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Commercial fishing in lower/upper Cook Inlet: There is an over harvesting of Salmon of every species in the Cook inlet leaving little for local fishermen and tourists who spend a lot of money for the experience.

**PROPOSED BY:** Ryan J. Christian

(EF-F18-020)

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**PROPOSAL XXX - 5 AAC 5 AAC.**

Limit the number of COMFISH permits to 15% Non Resident Fishermen on the boats and the processing plants. If an Alaskan Resident really wants to work and feed their family, the jobs are there. COMFISH Processors routinely higher people from the lower 48, Flying them up here, giving room and board, and then paying well in the process. Why not allow this to be advertised on TV and the Radio about how much they could make. Gives College and High School students a summer job to help pay for tuition instead of going in debt. Furthermore for people not interested in an education career they can learn a skill and become Commercial fishermen themselves.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Unemployment rate in Alaska:

**PROPOSED BY:** Ryan J Christian (EF-F18-021)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC .**

All holders of a State of Alaska commercial, charter, subsistence, or personal use permit or license shall be required to report the number, species and location of salmon taken in the State of Alaska weekly (unless a shorter time period is required by regulation) by phone, by e-mail, or on an ADF&G provided report form or commercial fish ticket.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The need for timely data necessary to make effective decisions in the management of the salmon resources in the State of Alaska.

**PROPOSED BY:** Ralph Lohse

(EF-F18-022)

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## **PROPOSAL XXX**

### **5 AAC 74.010. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Tanana River Area.**

Remove the size requirement on lake trout for Fielding Lake, as follows:

#### **5 AAC 74.010 (c)(9)(B)**

Modify the special regulations, for Fielding Lake as follows:

Lake trout may be taken only from October 1 through August 31, with a bag and possession limit of one fish.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Since 2007 a 26-inch length limit was instituted for Fielding Lake, concurrent with a bait restriction. This was based on an allowable yield of 78 fish including a 10% hooking mortality.

When you look at the 5-year harvest average and include a 10% hooking mortality of the 5-year catch, the yield has been near the allowable threshold. Without a length limit allowable harvest increases to approximately 200 fish.

The current minimum 26-inch limit concentrates the fishing pressure on the oldest and largest fish which are also the most fecund or fertile, producing the most offspring. Foul hooked fish that are less than 26 inches must be released. If a fisherman is looking for a lake trout to eat, finding one under 26 inches will be more probable.

Length limits were removed for several lakes such as Paxson, Summit, Louise, Crosswind and Susitna. The 5-year averages for these lakes indicate that this did not result in a noticeable increase in harvest.

Removing the 26-inch limit would ensure that harvest/mortality do not exceed prescribed yield targets. Regulations would be simplified and prevent possible further restrictions such as catch and release only, denying fishing opportunity.

#### **Other options considered:**

keeping current regulations intact: Several nearby lakes have gone to a 1 fish any size limit and stayed well within allowable yield limits. The existing regulations indicate that we have stayed near the current allowable yield – a concerning issue for maintaining a healthy population of large fish.

Catch and release only. While many fishermen have moved to catch and release, this would deny fishing opportunity and unnecessary.

Revising the regulation to allow harvest under a 28" limit. This is my personal preference (see my other proposal) This would allow the most fecund fish to survive, significantly increase the allowable harvest of the most commonly caught fish and ensure a healthy population of high quality fish.

**PROPOSED BY:** Ethan Birkholz

(EF-F18-023)

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## **PROPOSAL XXX**

### **5 AAC 74.010. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Tanana River Area.**

Modify the size requirements in Fielding Lake to allow retention of lake trout less than 28 inches, as follows:

#### **5 AAC 74.010 (C)(9)(B)**

Modify the special regulations, for Fielding Lake as follows:

lake trout may be taken only from October 1 through August 31, with a bag and possession limit of one fish, which must be less than 28 inches in length; all lake trout caught that are greater than 28 inches in length must be released immediately;

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Since 2007 a 26-inch length limit was instituted for Fielding Lake, concurrent with a bait restriction. This was based on an allowable yield of 78 fish including a 10% hooking mortality. When you look at the 5-year harvest average and include a 10% hooking mortality of the 5-year catch, the yield has been near the allowable threshold. Without a length limit allowable harvest increases to approximately 200 fish.

The current minimum 26-inch limit concentrates the fishing pressure on the oldest and largest fish which are also the most fecund or fertile, producing the most offspring. Foul hooked fish that are less than 26 inches must be released. If a fisherman is looking for a lake trout to eat, finding one under 26 inches will be more probable.

Regulations in Yukon, Canada have gone to a possession limit under 26 inches, releasing anything longer – or including a protected slot limit.

Removing the 26-inch limit would ensure that harvest/mortality do not exceed prescribed yield targets. Limiting fish harvested to a maximum size limit of 28 inches would protect native brood stock and create a high-quality special management water. Unlike Paxson, Summit and Louise, Fielding is a smaller lake with limited spawning areas, susceptible to over fishing of the larger lake trout.

The benefits are several:

The allowable yield will be substantially higher than the current 78 per year increasing to approximately 275;

the larger more fecund fish important to spawning will be protected and thrive;

The smaller more prevalent caught fish can be kept, if desired for eating;

A high quality “special management water” would be created;

Fishing opportunity for larger fish would be protected.

Other options considered:

keeping current regulations intact: Several nearby lakes have gone to a 1 fish any size limit and stayed well within allowable yield limits. The difference between Louise, Paxson and Summit lakes is they have much larger populations of lake Trout. Fielding Lake has a significantly smaller acreage and sustainable yield. Preserving the larger spawning fish is important to maintaining a high-quality sport fishery. The existing regulations indicate that we have stayed near the current

allowable yield – a concerning issue for maintaining a healthy population of large fish.

Catch and release only. While many fishermen have moved to catch and release, this would deny fishing opportunity and unnecessary.

Revising the regulation to allow harvest for 1 fish with a bag and possession limit of 1 fish. This significantly increases allowable harvest, increases the chance for fishermen to catch and keep a fish and would allow foul hooked fish to be kept. However, this will allow the most fecund fish to be caught. If fishing pressure increases due to the higher allowable harvest, this very well could impact the number of large fish available to catch in this lake. Releasing fish under 28 inches would ensure a high-quality special management water for the lake trout fishery.

A modified maximum size limit: this is where anglers are permitted to harvest only one fish over the designated size. Essentially a protected slot limit where no fish can be retained. This is more common in lake trout management and may be more acceptable to the angling public. I am not opposed to this option. I think a 32” minimum size (as a starting point) for allowable harvest would be acceptable to me – though not my favorite option. My reasoning here is you don’t need to keep a 30 inch plus lake trout to eat. If you wish to have it mounted it is now quite common to take a couple measurements and a picture for a trophy mount.

**PROPOSED BY:** Ethan Birkholz

(EF-F18-024)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 01.244. Minto Flats Northern Pike Management Plan.**

Open the Chatanika River drainage downstream of the Fairbanks Nonsubsistence Area boundary to subsistence fishing through the ice for northern pike, as follows:

Open all of the Chatanika SHA for subsistence ice fishing. Close the fishery when the ADFG quota for pike has been met. The daily bag limit of 10 northern pike per day, with 20 in possession should remain the same.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** A portion of the Chatanika River is closed to subsistence ice fishing for pike in the Chatanika SHA. The closed portion is from the confluence of the Chatanika River and Goldstream Creek to the regulatory marker about one mile upstream on the Chatanika River. This diminishes the fishable area and ability to harvest pike for subsistence use.

**PROPOSED BY:** Dan Moody

(EF-F18-025)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 01.010. Methods, means, and general provisions.**

Prohibit the intentional waste or destruction of subsistence-caught fish, as follows:

The intentional waste or destruction of any species of subsistence-caught fish is prohibited.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The waste of subsistence-caught fish in northwest Alaska. (Note: The reason for the request is that over the last decades, I've seen countless sheefish, Dolly Varden, northern pike, etc. fish caught and left on the ice near fishing holes, and along the trails- abandoned fresh, so to speak. See the example photos provided.

Separately, also, fish are dumped in the spring as weather warms and folks realize they don't want that heap of fish rotting in their yards or their freezer space used up on so many huge and unwanted fish- discarded still whole.

Separate from ice fishing, in June/July along the Kobuk it is also population to go out boating and hook countless huge adult sheefish heading up to spawn, and upon arriving home to toss them on the shore under a blue tarp, where at times a lot remain until they turn into maggots.

This splendid fishery is important locally, and I think we all can agree should be treated in a manner that's respectable and sustainable.)

**PROPOSED BY:** Seth Kantner

(EF-F18-026)

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## **PROPOSAL XXX**

### **5 AAC 59.122.**

Allow fishing for trout and dolly varden in the Twenty Mile River drainage, as follows:

#### **Solution:**

Amend excerpt from 5 AAC 59.122 to as follows:

(16) in the Twenty Mile River drainage

(A) the waters from its mouth upstream approximately 10 miles to ADF&G regulatory markers and the Glacier River drainage from its confluence with Twenty Mile River upstream to ADF&G regulatory markers located at its confluence with Carmen Lake outlet stream are open to sport fishing, except for king salmon;

(B) from January 1 - July 13, the waters upstream from ADF&G regulatory markers located approximately 10 miles upstream from its mouth, and the Glacier River drainage upstream of its confluence with the Carmen Lake outlet are open to **sport fishing for salmon** [sport fishing], except for king salmon;

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** **Issue:** From January 1 - July 13, the waters upstream from ADF&G regulatory markers located approximately 10 miles upstream from its mouth, and the Glacier River drainage upstream of its confluence with the Carmen Lake outlet are open to **sport fishing**, except for king salmon

**Why:** This season eliminates the ability to fish for Trout and Dolly Varden in Twentymile and Carmen Lake due to the definition of “**Sport Fishing**” instead of **salmon**; the adjacent fishable waters in Portage Glacier Valley do not have as restrictive regulations on Trout and Dolly Varden.

**Impact:** If the regulation is not changed, the state will continue to lose revenue attained from recreationists through fishing licenses. Resident as well as non-resident recreationists frequently utilize the Twentymile River drainage as well as Lake Carmen. The "Sport Fishing" designation prohibits recreationists from being able to take advantage of trout & Dolly Varden fishing during the popular Summer and Fall seasons.

**PROPOSED BY:** Justin Jay (EF-F18-027)

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## **PROPOSAL XXX**

### **5 AAC 07.365. Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Plan.**

Allow dipnetting in the subsistence fishery for salmon on the Kuskokwim River during emergency closures, as follows:

Dipnetting will be an allowable year round fishery method on the Kuskokwim River, even in times of an Emergency Order.

5 AAC 07.365(c)(2)

...

(A) the commissioner shall close, by emergency order, the commercial, sport, and subsistence king salmon fisheries, and after June 11, to the extent practicable, the commissioner shall open, by emergency order, at least one fishing period per week for a directed subsistence king salmon fishery, **the commissioner shall keep open, even during an emergency order, dipnetting as an allowable method.** to provide harvest opportunity on surplus king salmon in excess of escapement needs;

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Dipnetters of the Kuskokwim River are requesting to keep dipnetting an open fishery year round in the regulation book. They specifically would like to emphasize that dipnetting will be allowed even during an Emergency Order (EO).

Dipnetting is not dangerous to any fishery. Therefore, not dangerous or harmful to Chinook Salmon. Dipnetters will be able to catch other species of salmon, while still conserving for Chinook to let go any accidental caught Chinook go, unharmed.

Allowing for a open ended dipnetting harvest method, even during an EO to close the fishery, will validate the opportunity for harvest. While still allowing conservation implementation to continue in preservation of rebuilding Chinook Salmon abundance.

This is an ineffective method for catching large quantities of salmon at once, provides opportunity for fresh salmon other than Chinook Salmon to be caught. Families of the Kuskokwim River, where dipnetting is effective, would have the opportunity to catch freshly caught salmon for dinner, some drying, and storing.

This method would greatly help out the Kuskokwim River communities. Even though dipnetting is not a custom traditional practice of the Kuskokwim River. Families can learn to use this method of fishing effectively. This method has been practiced by a few folks from the Bethel area and have reported to improving their skills at catching salmon. It takes practice, patience, and planning.

Many dipnetters reported were targeting whitefish and reds, letting go chums when they caught enough. One dipnetter reported that they were also trying to target silver (Coho) salmon and found dipnetting effective was also effective way of harvesting Coho.

The request is to also have dipnets open as a fishing method even during gillnet only restrictions on Coho season. Dipnetters wanted to emphasize that if they are needing more chums during the silver salmon run, they would have the opportunity to target chums and not Coho. This would allow for specific salmon target of a species than swamping a gillnet with unnecessary amounts of Coho. Therefore, families would still be able to catch Chum for dryfish. Chum is preferred salmon for dryfish during the rainy season, because they dry faster than other salmon species.

Due to the Chinook Salmon conservation restrictions, subsistence harvesters had to change their methods of gathering, processing, and harvesting of subsistence caught salmon. They were forced into these changes by Emergency Orders, Special Actions Requests, and Federal Management take over. Over the past 8 years of method change. It is time to change regulations that best work to the benefit of the people and the resource.

Dipnetting helps control how much salmon you need and what kind of fish you want to keep.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alissa Nadine Rogers

(EF-F18-028)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 01.010. Methods, means, and general provisions.**

Prohibit the intentional waste or destruction of sheefish, as follows:

**5 AAC 01.010.**

**...**

**The intentional waste or destruction of inconnu (sheefish) is prohibited.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** People catching inconnu (sheefish) and abandoning them piled on the ice near where they were caught or letting them go to waste after bringing them back to town – leaving in the sun, warm weather, flies, to spoil. This is offensive to local customs and violates Iñupiaq values, besides being wanton waste of a valuable resource that feeds a lot of people in the region and throughout the State. While these incidents are not common, when they occur there is no regulation for enforcement purposes to address this.

Other solutions are to include all subsistence fish species. This was rejected because it would get complicated when you start dealing with baitfish and other small fishes (saffron cod) that are used for a variety of purposes, including as plant fertilizer, and other uses where waste is not so easily defined. In addition, waste of other fish besides sheefish, at least in the Kotzebue Sound region, is rare. This issue is unique because sheefish are large and at times are easily caught in quantities right near Kotzebue with little investment of effort, equipment, or cost. The effort comes in transporting them from the fishing grounds and putting them away properly and at times some people catch more than they are prepared, or willing, to process. Sheefish are a high value subsistence species and worthy of conservation regulations, at a minimum to prohibit intentional waste. Use of sheefish for dog food and as crab bait (both of which are traditional uses) should continue to be allowed and not be considered waste.

**PROPOSED BY:** Kotzebue Fish and Game Advisory Committee

(EF-F18-029)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 71.030. Methods, means, and general provisions – Finfish.**

Close sport fishing and rafting on the Kwethluk, Kasigluk, and Kisaralik Rivers from May 1 to October 31 in times of conservation for any species of salmon, as follows:

Closure of sports fishing and rafting at prime salmon spawning tributaries of the Kuskokwim River, namely the Kwethluk, Kasigluk and Kisaralik Rivers that flow into the Kuskokuak Slough and Kuskokwim River starting May 1 to October 31st of each year conservation of salmon species (Chinook, Chum, Sockeye and Coho) is warranted.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Rafting and sports fishing in times of salmon conservation (Chinook, Chum, Sockeye and Coho) on the Kuskokwim River and its tributaries. Rafters and Sports Fishers will contaminate the headwaters and lakes where all salmon species spawn in the tributaries of the Kuskokwim River.

**PROPOSED BY:** Chariton Epchook

(EF-F18-030)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 01.270(a). Lawful gear and gear specifications and operation.**

Allow the use of dipnets in the subsistence salmon fishery on the Kuskokwim River drainage, as follows:

5 AAC 01.270. Lawful gear and specifications and operation. (a) Salmon may be taken only by gillnet, beach seine, a hook and line attached to a rod or pole, handline, **dip net**, or fish wheel subject to the restrictions set out in this section and 5 AAC 01.275, except that salmon may also be taken by spear in the Holitna River drainage, Kanektok River drainage, Arolik River drainage, and the drainage of Goodnews Bay.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Add the gear type dip nets to the list of gear that can be used to catch salmon in the Kuskokwim River drainage. Currently dip nets can only be used during times of king salmon conservation. There is a history of dip net use in various locations of the Kuskokwim.

If we wish to encourage dip net use during this time of conservation it makes sense to allow dip net use during other times when the density of other types of salmon is greater and provides a better opportunity to be successful with the use of dip nets. although we know there has been use of dip net in the past, dip nets are a method that has long been out of use, so successful use needs to be relearned. Being able to dip net when there are higher concentrations of salmon in the river, such as sockeye and chums, would be a more successful experience for the new dip netter and would encourage use of this method during times of king salmon conservation.

**PROPOSED BY:** Stony Holitna Advisory Committee

(EF-F18-031)

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## **PROPOSAL XXX**

### **5 AAC 06.331. Gillnet specifications and operations.**

Allow stacking of set gillnet permits in the Naknek-Kvichak, Egegik and Ugashik districts, as follows:

5 AAC 06.331 (U). Gillnet specifications and operations.

(U) In the Naknek-Kvichak, Egegik, and Ugashik districts, a CFEC permit holder who holds two Bristol Bay set gill net permits may stack those permits and operate additional set net gear as described in this subsection. The CFEC permit holder may not operate more than four set gillnets. A single set gillnet may not exceed 50 fathom in length, and the aggregate length of the set gillnets operated by the CFEC permit holder may not exceed 100 fathoms. the buoys must be marked as specified in 5 AAC 06.334 and 5 AAC 39.280 with both of the CFEC permit holder's five-digit permit numbers followed by the letter "S" . All identifiers must be displayed in a manner that is plainly visible, unobscured, and in a color that contrasts with the background.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Setnet operations in the Naknek-Kvichak, Egegik and Ugashik districts are predominantly multigenerational family operations. Over time, in order to maintain economic viability, two or more permits have been purchased and operated in these operations. Over time, as parents age and aren't consistently physically able to work the sites every year or as children grow up and need to miss a summer due to college, one or more permit holders may be unable to fish every season. The ability to stack setnet permits would enable these longtime family fishing operations to maintain economic sustainability and remove the risk and expense of potentially losing the permit by transfer outside of the family to a crew member. For the most part, these permits are not going to be sold outside of the family operation because their value to these families is in the ability to pass them along to the next generation and not in their resale value. There isn't a legitimate justification for disallowing the stacked use of permits in a family operation since disallowing them isn't going to result in more permits being available for purchase in the public marketplace. Or by allowing stacking the permits value would raise significantly-that didn't happen. And now as stacking is permitted by only the one user group. After researching why the West side of the bay doesn't like set gillnet stacking-it sounds like one person has abused the situation-one person.

**PROPOSED BY:** Eddie Clark

(EF-F18-032)

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## **PROPOSAL XXX**

### **5 AAC 41.070.**

I am writing to request a species inclusion of Geoduck clams to section Ak. 5 AAC 41.070. I was advised that the same wording used to allow Weatervane Scallops would be appropriate to include Geoduck clams for hatchery spawning in established hatcheries outside of Alaska. I would like to propose a section F to this list, adding Geoduck clams.

#### **5 AAC 41.070. Prohibitions on importation and release of live fish**

(a) Except as provided in (b) - (d) of this section, no person may import any live fish into the state for purposes of stocking or rearing in the waters of the state.

(b) Live oysters native to and originating from the Pacific Coast of North America may be imported for aquaculture purposes, under a permit required by this chapter, and may be released into the waters of the state only if the

(1) broodstock is derived from oysters commercially cultured on the Pacific Coast of North America through three or more generations; and

(2) disease history or an inspection indicates no incidence of disease that is not indigenous to the state or is not considered to be a risk to indigenous stocks, and oyster health or marketability.

(c) Ornamental fish not raised for human consumption or sport fishing purposes may be imported into the state, but may not be reared in or released into the waters of the state. Fish wastes and waste water from ornamental fish may not be released directly into the waters of the state.

(d) Weathervane scallops originating from wild stocks or cultured stocks in the Southeastern Alaska and Yakutat Areas may be imported for aquaculture purposes and may be released only into the waters of the Southeastern Alaska and Yakutat Areas under a permit required by this chapter only if the

(1) broodstock was taken under the provisions of a permit issued by the department;

(2) broodstock was certified by the department's fish pathology section before transport out of the state;

(3) broodstock was held continuously in a department-approved isolation facility;

(4) weathervane scallops proposed for import have been held continuously in a department-approved isolation facility before import into the state;

(5) disease history, or an inspection, of the weathervane scallops proposed for import indicates no incidence of a disease of transport significance.

(e) A person may not import, own, possess, breed, transport, distribute, release, purchase or sell within this state any species listed under 50 C.F.R. 16.13, as revised as of October 1, 2002, as an injurious live, or dead fish, mollusk, crustacean, or their eggs.

(f) Geoduck Clams originating from wild stocks or cultured stocks in the Southeastern Alaska and Yakutat Areas may be imported for aquaculture purposes and may be released only into the waters of the Southeastern Alaska and Yakutat Areas under a permit required by this chapter only if the

(1) broodstock was taken under the provisions of a permit issued by the department;

(2) broodstock was certified by the department's fish pathology section before transport out of the state;

(3) broodstock was held continuously in a department-approved isolation facility;

(4) Geoduck clams proposed for import have been held continuously in a department-approved isolation facility before import into the state;

(5) disease history, or an inspection, of the geoduck clams proposed for import indicates no incidence of a disease of transport significance.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Ak. Fish & Game Board

I am writing to request an a species inclusion of Geoduck Clams to section Ak. 5 AAC 41.070. Alaska hatcheries have so far been unable to reliably produce viable geoduck seed in State for Alaskan shell-fish farmers. I have had a clam farm for over 12 years and have only received healthy stock twice and they were not in sufficient quantity to support a commercial operation. It is impossible to grow this important shellfish resource and industry without reliable, consistent, seed stock. I realize it would be preferable for in State hatcheries to meet this need but until they do we need a back up option.

Thank you for your consideration,

Tom Manning, Krestof Clam Company

**PROPOSED BY:** Tom Manning, Krestof Clam Company (EF-F18-033)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 09.360. Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan.**

Change the estimate of sockeye salmon destined for the Chignik River from 80 percent to 66 percent of harvest in the *Southeast District Mainland Salmon Management Plan*, as follows:

5 AAC 09.360

...

(f) The estimate of Sockeye Salmon destined for the Chignik River has been determined to be **66** percent of the Sockeye Salmon harvested in the Southeast district mainland and before July 1 in the Northwest Stepovak Section. Beginning July 1 all Sockeye salmon taken in the Northwest Stepovak Section are considered to be destined for Orzinski Bay

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The estimate of Sockeye Salmon destined for Chignik River has been determined to be 80 percent of the Sockeye Salmon harvested in the Southeast district mainland and before July 1 in the Northwest Stepovak Section. Beginning July 1 all Sockeye Salmon taken in Northwest Stepovak Section are considered to be destined for Orzinski Bay.

The estimate of Sockeye Salmon destined for Chignik River should be adjusted to the 66 percent as was found in the WASSIP study of the Sockeye Salmon harvested in the SEDM And before July 1 in the Northwest Stepovak Section. The lower percent which was found in the WASSIP study will give the sedm fisherman more opportunity to fish their traditional setnet sites.

**PROPOSED BY:** Jim Smith

(EF-F18-034)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 09.331. Gillnet specifications and operations.**

Allow the shoreward end of a set gillnet to be anchored other than on the beach above low tide, as follows:

5 AAC 09.331(5). In the Unimak Southwestern South Central and Southeastern Districts 25 fathoms of seine webbing may be used on the shoreward end of a set gillnet. The shoreward end of the seine **lead can be anchored behind a rock or in a kelp patch.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** In the Unimak Southwestern Southcentral and Southeastern Districts 25 fathoms of seine webbing may be used on the shoreward end of a set gillnet; the shoreward end of the seine webbing must be attached to the beach above low tide.

I would like to have the shoreward end of the lead not have to be attached to the beach above low tide as it is impossible to get ashore when the swells are normally too large breaking over the rocks but instead, anchored on the shoreward end of the set gillnet.

If this isn't changed I am unable to use my lead in the large bull kelp patches which extend offshore and ruin gillnet webbing making them too dirty and visible to salmon.

**PROPOSED BY:** Jim Smith

(EF-F18-035)

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## **PROPOSAL XXX**

### **5 AAC 01.310. Fishing seasons and periods.**

Allow subsistence fishing for salmon in the Egegik Salmon District unless closed by emergency order, as follows:

#### **5 AAC 01.310 Fishing seasons and periods**

(a) Unless restricted in this section and 5 AAC 01.325, or unless restricted under the terms of a subsistence fishing permit, fish, other than rainbow trout, may be taken at any time in the Bristol Bay Area.

(b) IN EGEKIK COMMERCIAL SALMON DISTRICT, SUBSISTENCE FISHING FOR FISH, INCLUDING SALMON, IS ALLOWED AT ANY TIME, UNLESS CLOSED OR RESTRICTED BY EMERGENCY ORDER. FROM MAY 1 THRU SEPTEMBER 30.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Current regulations restrict subsistence fishing for salmon in the Bristol Bay Area, particularly the Egegik Salmon District, and do not allow ample opportunity for subsistence fishers to harvest enough salmon for their home use. This proposal would allow subsistence fishing for salmon in the Egegik Salmon District at all times, unless closed by emergency order.

Subsistence is the priority consumptive use of the resource. However, current regulations severely restricts subsistence fishing opportunity in commercial salmon districts during the months when salmon are most abundant:

(b) From June 1 through September 30, within the waters of a commercial salmon district, salmon may be taken only during open commercial fishing periods. We believe this level of subsistence fishing does not provide reasonable opportunity for Alaskan residents to meet their subsistence needs, particularly in the Egegik Salmon District. Residents who either live or have fish camps adjacent to waters of the Egegik Salmon District must travel upriver by boat, beyond the upper District boundaries, to subsistence fish for salmon when commercial fishing is closed. Resident subsistence fishers are displaced by this regulation and are no longer able to fish in their traditional fishing locations, except during commercial fishing periods. My Mother and Father moved to this location on the beach in 1947-and I am still there-same location. However during commercial fishing periods, competition with commercial fishers is extreme and this competition severely hampers their opportunity to harvest fish for subsistence. The subsistence fisher should not be in direct competition with the commercial fishers. The subsistence fishery should be treated as a PRIORITY fishery.

\* As written in the ADFG Subsistence Regulation- Alaska state law directs the Board of Fisheries to provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence users FIRST, BEFORE providing for other uses of any harvestable surplus of a fish or game population [ AS 16.05.258 (b)] This is often referred to as the "subsistence preference " or sometimes the " subsistence priority." While it's true that subsistence fishers have the option of traveling upriver beyond the commercial salmon district boundaries to subsistence fish when commercial fishing is closed within the district, traveling by boat is hazardous, because of numerous sandbars in the river, and is also extremely time consuming. Additionally, the upriver fishing locations are not traditional locations for subsistence fishing. Even the Elders of the City of Egegik fish on their local beach in front of town-they do not boat up to the end of the district. Subsistence fishers should be able to fish in their traditional fishing grounds unimpeded by competition from commercial fishers. Because of the consumptive priority designation of subsistence, subsistence fishing should be given the Priority. Currently, it is not. We are not asking to change the commercial fishing schedule, we are requesting that subsistence fishing be allowed before, during, and after commercial fishing periods within commercial salmon district waters. The relatively small amount of subsistence sockeye salmon taken within this District, less than 1,000 fish in several surveys, should not warrant such extreme current restrictions on subsistence fishing.

If nothing done, subsistence fishers who wish to fish their traditional fishing grounds within the Egegik commercial salmon district must compete with commercial fishers for their subsistence. One viable alternative would be to allow subsistence fishing at anytime throughout Bristol Bay, by repealing 5 AAC 01.3109 (b). This would prioritize the subsistence fishery over the commercial fishery in all commercial salmon fishing districts by allowing subsistence fishing for fish at any time in the Bristol Bay Area, as stipulated in 5 AAC 01.3109 (a). We believe that this may be the proper approach but we are hesitant to propose an Area-wide proposal since we are only concerned with our subsistence in the Egegik Salmon District. We understand that enforcement may be a problem with subsistence-caught salmon being sold commercially if this proposal is passed. In the Egegik District we have State Troopers

stationed on the North Shore, having access to 4x4 truck-4 wheeler-boats-airplanes and helicopter. They are very visible-and jog in the evenings. But we are not opposed to marking subsistence caught salmon some way- caudal lobe (one of the fins) cut to identify subsistence caught salmon from commercial caught salmon.

**PROPOSED BY:** Eddie Clark

(EF-F18-036)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 34.600. Description of Registration Area O.**

The commissioner may open and close, by emergency order, a season for the harvest of all species crab west of 170 degrees. Vessels under 60 feet may participate in this fishery. The crab fishery will be operated on a size and sex management system.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The crab West of 170 degrees is not biologically related to the North American crab stocks and should be operated on a size and sex management system for three years so that the Alaska Department of Fish and Game can find out what the crab population structure is out there. This would be done with private investment. Due to decreased availability of state funding this would allow the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to obtain information on the abundance, sex distribution, and population of crab without increased expenses. This can be done for a three-year period.

**PROPOSED BY:** Clem Tillion

(EF-F18-037)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 06.358. Wood River Sockeye Salmon Special Harvest Area Management Plan.**

Establish a lottery system for the first four downriver setnet sites in the Wood River Special Harvest Area, as follows:

We recommend that a lottery system be developed for the first four downriver setnet sites in the Wood River Special Harvest Area. Each setnet permit holder can enter the lottery to fish a tide or opening at one of four setnet sites. If a permit holder is the winner of the lottery, he/she can fish that designated site for that designated tide/opening. This solution would be simple, fair, established well ahead of time and easy to enforce.

Draft language:

5 AAC 06.358 (d) (1) (E) For the first two downriver setnet sites on the east and west sides of the WRSWA, a lottery draw will be held before the area is opened to any commercial setnet fishing. Any Nushagak/Igushik setnet permit holder may enter the lottery. If successful, the permit holder will be assigned one of the four sites and specific opening to fish. If that permit holder declines their designated turn, the option is lost and goes to the next permit holder in the lottery draw.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Under 5 AAC 06.358, the Wood River Special Harvest Area may be opened by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game by emergency order when conditions meet a number of circumstances outlined in sections 1-5. However, fishing sites for setnets are on a first-net-in-the-water basis during these openings. The first two downriver sites on both the east and west sides of the river are extremely productive given the nature of the salmon passage, and catch drops off substantially at sites going upriver. As a result, the vast majority of the harvest is shared by only four permit holders.

Given that the Nushagak/Igushik areas have a significant number of setnetters, many of whom participate in the Wood River Special Harvest Area openings, it makes sense to establish a mechanism for more permit holders to gain value from the Wood River openings in a fair and orderly manner. If this regulation is not adopted, many setnetters will not benefit from the harvest in the Wood River.

Another solution would be to lease these setnet sites similar to how this is done in the main district, but since the WRSWA is opened only intermittently, it seems burdensome to use this option and it does not open up the harvest to more setnetters as the process outlined here does.

**PROPOSED BY:** Paula Cullenberg and Peter Crimp

(EF-F18-038)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 06.333. Requirements and specifications for use of 200 fathoms of drift gillnet in Bristol Bay.**

Allow individuals owning two Bristol Bay salmon drift permits the same access to permit stacking as two separate permit holders, as follows:

Adopt and allow one person owning two permits the extra compliment of gear up the 50 fathoms, equaling a total of 200 fathoms per vessel.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Under the current regulation 5 AAC 06.333, the option of "permit stacking" is only allowed for two separate permit holders. I recommend the Alaska Board of Fisheries amend the current regulation under 5 AAC 06.333 to include individuals owning two Bristol Bay Salmon drift permits the same access of "permit stacking" as two separate permit holders.

Under the current regulation, two Bristol Bay drift gillnet CFEC permit holders may concurrently fish from the same vessel and jointly operate 200 fathoms of drift gillnet gear. In 2002, the Alaska Legislature passed House Bill 286, amending Alaska Statute 16.43.140 (c). This law allows individuals the ability to concurrently hold two salmon limited entry permits in the same permit fishery. House 46 Bill 251 provided the Alaska Board of Fisheries the authority to grant fishing privileges to the second permit held by an individual, otherwise known as permit stacking.

**PROPOSED BY:** Abe Williams

(EF-F18-039)

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## **PROPOSAL XXX**

### **5 AAC 28.648. Dutch Harbor Subdistrict Pacific Cod Management Plan.**

Increase the guideline harvest level to 20 percent of the Bering Sea Total allowable catch, as follows:

The Area O under 60 pot cod fishery would be increased to 20% of the Bering sea TAC

The state has been behind in every season except 2014. In 2015 we were closed early. In 2016 we were closed early. We've lost tens of millions of pounds of cod that could have been harvested by pots, thus significantly reducing bycatch in the Bering sea both of Bering sea salmon and halibut but also in salmon and halibut originating as far away as Washington and Oregon. Even saving a few southeast alaska Kings seems to be putting an enormous financial burden on other commercial fishermen and sports and charter users as well. Long gone are the days we can ignore the rampant impacts of drawling and factory longlining in the Bering sea and impacts across the entire state of Alaska and the Pacific Northwest.

Any underutilized quota would be transferred to the over 60 pot fleet.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The pot cod quota for area O needs to be raised to 20% of the total Bering sea TAC. The current state waters season was closed March 1. In 2014, we fished the inaugural state waters season until May 1 and it remained open long after that. While I and my crew and fishing partners have been grateful for the privilege of harvesting pacific cod in a way that creates a de minimus bycatch. This has been the single most economic expansion for Alaskan small boat fishermen since limited entry or the advent of IFQs. Every pound of cod we catch will produce benefits far beyond that single pound. For it negates the bycatch impact that another pound of cod caught with any other gear type.

**PROPOSED BY:** Robert Magnus Thorstenson Jr

(EF-F18-040)

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## **PROPOSAL XXX**

### **5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan, and 5 AAC 09.366. Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula.**

Repeal Dolgoi Area related regulations from the *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan* and the *Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula*, as follows:

**REPEAL 5 AAC 09.365(f)** of the South Unimak & Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan and **5 AAC 09.366(j)** of the Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** We would like the Board to repeal the ‘Dolgoi area’ regulations in the South Unimak & Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan and in the Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula [5 AAC 09.365(f) & 5 AAC 09.366(j)] that would close statistical areas 283-26, 284-37, 284-38, 284-39 after the trigger of 191,000 sockeye are harvested in a larger area including statistical areas 283-15, 283-17, 283-20, 283-21, 283-23, 283-24, 283-25, 283-26, 284-36, 284-37, 284-38, 284-39, 284-42, based on fish ticket information.

According to WASSIP harvest rate data, the ‘Dolgoi area’ catch of Chignik bound salmon had a minimal (from less than 1% to a maximum of 7.4%) impact on the overall Chignik run for years 2006-2008.

The salmon fishing area impacted by these regulations is situated directly between the communities of King Cove and Sand Point.

While the department carried out the new 2016 regulations as written, and fishermen followed them, the closure that was predicted to happen only 3 or 4 times out of every 10 years, based on historical data, occurred every year since implementation as of this date. We believe that the attainment of the trigger of 191,000 sockeye each year has more to do with the recent 50,000,000+ Bristol Bay runs than Chignik sockeye intercept.

We have reviewed the Chignik daily harvest reports over the past years since the 2016 implementation of the ‘Dolgoi area’ regulations. Looking at the data we see a direct connection between Chignik Management Area commercial harvest and CMA sockeye escapement, however we do not find a definitive link with the annual Dolgoi closure and an increase in Chignik sockeye escapement.

The regulations are being implemented as intended but are not accomplishing the intended purpose to increase Chignik escapement/harvest. The regulations are unnecessary and overly burdensome on Area M fishermen.

**PROPOSED BY:** King Cove Advisory Committee

(EF-F18-041)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 28.629. Lawful gear for Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands Area.**

Close waters in Area O to bottom trawling during the pacific cod pot fishery, as follows:

A total closure to trawling in Bering Sea state waters while the Area O state waters pot cod season is open.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Our boats continually lose pots to draggers in the Bering sea pot cod fisheries. In the federal fishery this can perhaps be mitigated but it seems less avoidable.

Within state waters and in our very own Alaskan Area O pot cod fishery we shouldn't have to contend with super huge trawlers using us as bait stations and circling our gear.

There should be no trawling in state waters while our fishery is being prosecuted.

**PROPOSED BY:** Robert Magnus Thorstenson Jr

(EF-F18-042)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 28.648. Dutch Harbor Subdistrict Pacific Cod Management Plan.**

Expand the Dutch Harbor Subdistrict, as follows:

5 AAC 28.648. Dutch Harbor Subdistrict Pacific Cod Management Plan.

(a) This management plan governs the harvest of Pacific cod in the Dutch Harbor Subdistrict. For the purposes of this section, the Dutch Harbor Subdistrict is comprised of the state waters in the Aleutian Islands District east of 170° W. long. and the state waters of the Bering Sea District that are west of **162° 30' W. long.**[164° W. long.], east of 170° W. long., and south of 55° 30' N. lat., except that the waters of the Dutch Harbor Subdistrict south of 53° 06.11' N. lat. are closed to taking Pacific cod during a state-waters season.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** We would like to provide local BSAI vessels expanded opportunity to harvest Pacific cod in State-waters more accessible to the local fishing communities. The Dutch Harbor Subdistrict Pacific Cod fishery has been tremendously successful, in that the GHL has been easily achieved, and the fishery gives the local under 60 foot vessel pot gear fleet an opportunity to fish locally. Expanding the fishing area up the beach northeast to Moffet Point will create more opportunity for local vessels, and provide much needed cod for the local shore-based processors.

**PROPOSED BY:** King Cove Advisory Committee

(EF-F18-043)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 74.010. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Tanana River Area.**

Repeal the bag limit for northern pike in the Chisana River drainage upstream of the Northway Bridge, as follows:

~~5 AAC 74.010 (c)

[(4) IN THE CHISANA RIVER DRAINAGE UPSTREAM OF THE NORTHWAY BRIDGE, (A) IN ALL LAKES, THE BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT FOR NORTHERN PIKE IS TWO FISH, OF WHICH ONLY ONE FISH MAY BE 30 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH; (B) IN ALL FLOWING WATERS, THE BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT FOR NORTHERN PIKE IS TWO FISH, OF WHICH ONLY ONE FISH MAY BE 30 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;]

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The Chisana River drainage is in the upper headwaters of the Tanana River drainage. Most sport fishing can occur only along the Alaska Highway after Northway Junction and before crossing the border to Canada.

The most road accessible northern pike fishing locations are Scottie and Desper Creek that cross the highway, Deadman Lake in the Tetlin NWR, and the Chisana river accessible from Northway village. This regulation seems unnecessary as all other pike fishing in the Tanana River drainage, more accessible to the public, has a bag and possession limit of 5 northern pike. Removing this regulation will simplify the regulations for the northern pike sport fishing in the Tanana drainage and provide additional harvest opportunity. Very few pike are harvested in the drainage and this change should not affect sustainability.

**PROPOSED BY:** Upper Tanana Fortymile Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-F18-044)

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## **PROPOSAL XXX**

### **5 AAC 01.220. Lawful gear and gear specifications; and 5 AAC 05.331. Gillnet specifications and operations.**

Restrict gillnet mesh to a maximum of 6 inches in Districts 4, 5 and 6 for subsistence and commercial fisheries, as follows:

Restrict gillnet mesh to a maximum of 6 inches in Districts 4, 5 and 6 for subsistence and commercial.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** ~6" mesh maximum: Large mesh net fishing has had a detrimental effect on the stock composition and quality of escapements for Yukon River Chinook salmon and targets the larger and female Chinook salmon. There continues to be poor returns of Yukon River salmon since 1998. This has led to conservation concerns on the spawning grounds. Many of these returns have not allowed subsistence users a reasonable opportunity to meet their subsistence salmon needs. The use of the larger gillnets has changed, and will continue to change the composition of the Chinook stocks harvested. Fishermen in Canada and the U.S. Yukon River have repeatedly noted that the returning Chinook salmon are getting smaller and conservation measures are needed to protect the larger fish that in turn protects the genetic variability and loss of the older age classes of the Yukon River Chinook salmon stocks. Despite some better numbers of Chinook salmon in the last few years there is little data at all able to indicate scientifically where our decline in the older age classes of Chinook has been heading. Ocean abundance of juvenile king salmon has been proving to be one of our best indicators and that is predicting lower runs for 2019 and 2020. The use of the current 7 ½" gillnets is targeting the largest Chinook left in any significant number in the Yukon River. These are the fish with the best potential to bring back the larger fish with the most eggs and therefore the run sizes of past years. 6" nets still catch some large fish but does not target them near to the same extent as 7 ½" does. The differences in catches in the two net sizes are readily apparent for all to see.

Some lower river District 1, 2 and 3 representatives have not expressed support for this proposal for themselves but have stated they would back the upper districts in getting this passed for themselves. Our AC has gotten support from most representatives of Districts 4, 5, and 6 talked to so far. Having it apply to all districts was rejected due to lack of support. Nets in the 7" range were considered in past Board cycles however a number of reasons were discovered why they were not suitable.

1. A USFWS study (An Investigation of the Potential Effects of Selective Exploitation on the Demography and Productivity of Yukon River Chinook Salmon, Bromaghin, Nielson, and Hard) showed 7.5" mesh to be ineffective at reversing declining size trends and can actually contribute to the problem.

2. Current ongoing mesh size studies by ADF&G and anecdotal info from fishermen river wide show nets of the 7" range actually catching more fish and more lbs of Chinook than the more normally used 8-9" nets and the smaller 6" range nets. Fishermen in the upper river commonly are reporting most Chinook going through the larger nets. This is clearly because of the lack of the larger fish at present. Targeting the next available largest Chinook age class with 7" range nets will only further damage the run.



**PROPOSED BY:** Tanana Rampart Manley Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-F18-045)  
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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 01.210. Fishing seasons and periods.**

Allow subsistence salmon fishing without restrictions on days open when commercial salmon fishing is occurring, as follows:

**5 AAC 01.210(d)(2)**

...

In District 5 once the fall chum run is determined healthy enough to have commercial openings on it in other districts then no subsistence restrictions on days open should be placed on it. It is to be open 7 days a week unless a biological concern arises at which time fishing will be restricted or stop.

Issues of subsistence and commercial opening conflicts have never been a problem in this area but sometimes are a problem for other districts so for that reason we ask for this in District 5 only and will let others propose as they choose. Also we are only trying to increase opportunity in situations where it would not be detrimental to any species, so any concerns that the BOF or management would have over this proposal, TRM would be happy to adjust the proposal wording to meet those concerns.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? 7 Day Fall Chum Fishing:**

Fall chum salmon fishing in this area comes late in summer. The weather is cooling and often the rains start making drying of fish difficult if not impossible on many days. Over the years we have tried to point out to management that the current reduced subsistence schedules of 4 days or 5 days a week that we find ourselves in, often do not coincide with days able to put up fish. This is especially true at the beginning of the run where the best people quality fish are found. For example we have documented times where fishers have waited almost an entire open period of fishing only to have the sun come out on the closed days. Fall season is too short and lately because of the king crisis it has become too important to lose opportunity.

TRM has repeatedly been told by some at ADF&G that while the proposal has merit and they try to open the season as soon as possible to 7 days they want to maintain the flexibility to open and close as they wish. At the last BOF meeting the State's own lawyer had to contradict ADF&G management by stating that no matter what, they always have the ability to shut down fishing if necessary. We are simply trying to get it into regulation so we are not at the mercy of different managers with different opinions on when we should be allowed to go to 7 day a week fishing once the run is being fished on commercially.

**PROPOSED BY:** Tanana Rampart Manley & Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee  
(EF-F18-046)

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## **PROPOSAL XXX**

### **5 AAC 01.220. Lawful gear and gear specifications.**

Allow the use of drift gillnets for subsistence throughout the Yukon River, as follows:

Allow subsistence driftnet fishing in those areas of the Yukon River currently not allowed. All districts allowed to subsistence driftnet. ADF&G management claims to be able to effectively manage for the current situation where approx. 90% of the commercial and about 50% of the subsistence king salmon are harvested using drift gillnets on a non-restricted year. If that is so it should be reasonable to manage for a small amount of driftnet fishing more. Many fishermen on the Yukon have long standing set net or fishwheel sites and this would probably only be used by fishermen with poor sites or no sites and younger, new fishermen.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Drift Gillnetting: Drift gillnetting is a fishing method that does not need ownership of a set net eddy or fish wheel site. Each Board of Fisheries cycle some District or sub district applies for this right basing their need on a number of reasons mostly related to crowding and/or gas costs to travel far from home areas. Over the years some are chosen and some are denied. Currently because of the piecemeal and political nature of much of the allocation of this right to driftnet for so long we have arrived at a place where the majority of it is allowed in the heaviest areas of commercial fishing (for commercial and subsistence fishing) and in districts with the easiest ability to catch fish already, due to an earlier crack at catching the migrating fish. Ironically, you have most of the best areas to catch Chinook and chum having been given the right to driftnet and most of the poorest areas to catch them being denied the right. An extreme example of this is the lower districts of the Yukon versus the Koyukuk River drainage or the Yukon Flats district. A decent set net spot in the Koyukuk drainage might produce say six Chinook for the entire season or even less according to Huslia fishermen at a past YRDFA meeting. Koyukuk River fishermen and the Yukon Flats fishermen (Ft Yukon Area) are not allowed to drift net. Presently management of our allowable fishing gear types has no rhyme or reason to it. When one hour of fishing a season in one of these driftnet districts can produce more and bigger fish than a non-driftnet district can get if allowed to fish seven days a week all season then we have a situation that is totally unfair and impossible to insure any degree of equitable distribution of fish to meet subsistence needs, especially in years of poor runs. Lastly subsistence gear use abilities should take priority over commercial. This is clearly not taking place.

Note: At the last BOF cycle TRM AC submitted a fishing gear fairness proposal similar to this one. We felt we had gained a fair degree of Board member support for it then. During deliberation a sympathetic board member asked ADF&G managers if he voted for this how much of an impact it would have on fisher's harvest. The reply from an ADF&G manager was that there were 150+ commercial fishing permits in District 5 alone. Our AC had to sit there not being able to speak up while the board member and others clearly felt that was way too much impact and then voted the proposal down. All this knowing that even in the heyday of our best commercial fishing in the past only a tiny fraction of those permits were ever fished and knowing that this was a subsistence proposal not a commercial one. We bring this up in case this happens again.

**PROPOSED BY:** Tanana Rampart Manley & Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committees  
(EF-F18-047)

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## **PROPOSAL XXX**

### **5 AAC 01.220. Lawful gear and gear specifications.**

Require closely attended fish wheel harvest during times of conservation for any species, as follows:

Fishwheels must be manned at all times when any catch and release of King salmon or other species is required in an executed fishery. There is to be no livebox holding and release of restricted species required to be not kept, river wide. Restricted species are defined as ones for which a biological concern exists in an area for them and no harvest is allowed. (Recent example would be the King Salmon and area being Yukon River.) (Note: This was written as to not interfere with more sound fish wheel release practices being considered and/or used at present by management such as live chute releasing of King salmon which does not use any live box holding methods.) TRM committee supported this proposal submission unanimously.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Fishwheel Liveboxes: TRM is concerned about present regulations allowing and further attempts to increase fish wheels as a legal means of targeting one species (such as chum salmon) while releasing another species (such as King salmon). Many of the methods of holding, release and equipment used are being portrayed as non-harmful ways of dealing with bycatch. TRM members come from an area of high fish wheel use and many are very familiar with the number of studies (mostly USFWS in this area) done on fish wheel live box holding and general fish wheel operation and how it affects caught and released fish. We feel these issues have been sufficiently neglected in management and BOF actions in the past, despite the literature presented to them and concerns voiced to management, and at YRDFA and BOF meetings, that a regulation against it needs to be clearly on the books. Note: This exact proposal was submitted at the last BOF cycle. It had what seemed to be much board support especially when the studies associated with liveboxes were discussed. The night before deliberation ADF&G changed the wording of the discussed proposal to essentially allow for what we were proposing against and the BOF passed their changed proposal – I believe not realizing what had been done. We had to sit there and accept it unable to speak.

**PROPOSED BY:** Tanana Rampart Manley Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-F18-048)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 01.XXX - 5 AAC 77.XXX.**

Require biweekly reporting of all sport, personal use, and subsistence chinook salmon catch, as follows:

All personal use, sport, and subsistence fishermen must report their catch numbers to the department within 14 days of harvesting chinook salmon through the ADF&G website or other appropriate methods provided by the department.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** A lack of in season data on chinook salmon catch numbers by sport, personal use, and state subsistence users.

At a time when the state of Alaska is attempting to understand chinook run strength numbers, the Department of Fish and Game needs every tool available. Timely in season reporting coupled with the fish ticket numbers of the commercial fleet would create a clear and real time picture of the amount of chinook salmon harvested in season. In a time when smart phones and internet are easily accessible, timely reporting should be achievable. Most game hunters are required by state regulation to report a successful hunt within two weeks of harvest, there is no reason to treat our salmon resource any differently.

**PROPOSED BY:** Cordova District Fishermen United

(EF-F18-049)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 06.361. Nushagak-Mulchatna King Salmon Management Plan**

Establish subdistricts on the Nushagak River, as follows:

In this case of lagging Chinooks and over abundance Sockeye run. My Solution would be to divided Nushagak into two different section lower and upper section, just for emergency order fishing periods in the early parts of Sockeye season to take some harvest out of an abundant Sockeye run.

Not knowing the lat/lon numbers, i was thinking maybe the from church south of EKUK to markers at the snake river following the Igushik section boundaries. ADFG can make that decision if they agree with my thought.

There need to be some kinda tool take some early Sockeye in the Nushagak system when there is an abundance.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Do to the protection of the Nushagak King salmon. 2017 salmon season found the late run kings lagging to enter the upper Nushagak river into the Portage creek drainage. At the same time millions of Wood river and Nushagak were entering Nushagak commercial fishing district. ADFG waited for on coming storm to help push those king salmon on their way to their spawning grounds. At the same time those on time sockeye came into the district unharvested into their river of origin, leading to over escapement and loss of income in the fishery.

**PROPOSED BY:** Darryl Pope

(EF-F18-050)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 15.357. Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan.**

Amend the *Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan* so that pink, chum, and coho salmon stocks in the Western and Perryville sections of Area L will be managed based on the strength of the pink, chum, and coho salmon stocks in the Stepovak and Shumagin Islands section of Area M as follows:

A. From July 9 through September 30, (1) the department shall manage the Chignik fishery of the Perryville and Western Districts of the fishery based on the abundance of pink, chum, and coho salmon stocks in the Stepovak area of the SEDM and the Shumagin Islands; (2) When fish stocks of pink, chum and Coho Salmon have low escapement in the Stepovak Area of the SEDM and the Shumagin Islands during July, August and September the Perryville District 275-40, 275-50, 275-60 and the Western District 273-74, 273-80, 273-90 will be closed there are significant returns of salmon in the streams and Area M fishermen are able to commercial salmon fish in these areas; (3) In July and August in the Perryville District and Western District there shall be at least one 48 hour closed period within a seven day period in order to maintain healthy fish stocks in the SEDM.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Local Set Net and Seine fishermen have been denied access to harvesting salmon in August and September these past few years due to low numbers of westward returning chum and pink salmon in the Stepovak Area and Shumagin Islands. At the same time the Area M fishermen are shut down Chignik fishermen are fishing 7 days a week after day catching and producing high numbers of Pink Salmon and Chum Salmon destined for the Stepovak Area and Shumagin Islands while the Area M fishermen are shut down and salmon are not returning to the local streams. When fish stocks of Pink Salmon and Chum Salmon have low escapement within the Stepovak Area of the SEDM and Shumagin Islands during July, August and September the Perryville District and the Western District will be closed until there are significant returns of salmon in the streams and Area M fishermen are able to commercial fish in these areas. In early July and August in the Perryville district and Western district there shall be at least one 48 hour closed period within a seven day period in order to maintain healthy fish stocks in the SEDM and Shumagin Islands.

**PROPOSED BY:** Jack Foster Jr and Amy Foster

(EF-F18-051)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 06.370. Registration and reregistration.**

Modify the registration requirements for the drift gillnet fleet, as follows:

A fisher that would like to train new crew and test their equipment would drop their card. that fisher would have until the third Saturday @ 9am in June to transfer into purgatory. Purgatory meaning that state of nowhere, just as if you haven't drop your card? Third Saturday 2018 is the 16 of June. understanding that this date will change when the Saturday a week later. This would take the stress out training your crew and testing your equipment.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Dropping your blue card in early June, when a drift fisher want to fish that person has to drop there blue card in the river district that there not sure they really want to fish. Then having to wait 48 hours when they want to change fishing districts. Having new crew, wanting to test your fishing gear, new drum, engine etc.,etc. Egegik, Ugashik and Togiak have no mechanics and is very expensive to fly one down. Nushagak is in Chinook protection and doesn't have early opening, those drift fishers would have to travel to Eastside districts to train new crew and test fishing gear. Before the main salmon run arrives, Port Moller test data isn't out yet and other tools to make the right decision in picking a starting fishing district.

**PROPOSED BY:** Darryl Pope

(EF-F18-052)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 09.360. Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan.**

Revise the Southeastern District Management Salmon Plan to allow commercial salmon fishing with set gillnet gear concurrent to the Chignik Area commercial sockeye salmon fishery, as follows:

Revise the Southeastern District Management Salmon Plan to allow commercial salmon fishing with set gillnet gear concurrent to the Chignik Area commercial sockeye salmon fishery as follows: Conduct concurrent fishing periods between Area L (Chignik) and Southeastern District Mainland (SEDM). (a) the elimination of the harvest of 300,000 red salmon in the Chignik area before set net fishermen in the SEDM can harvest salmon; (b) to fish concurrently while Area L (Chignik) fishermen are fishing Area M set net fishermen are fishing in the SEDM area.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The SEDM Salmon Management Plan guidelines are currently being based on a fictitious assumption that 20% of the fish caught in the SEDM are local stocks, while the other 80% are Chignik bound. This 80% figure needs to be eliminated from the SEDM Management Plan. SEDM set net fishermen are only allowed to harvest 7.6% of what Chignik fishermen harvest. Before any fishermen in the SEDM can harvest any fish Chignik fishermen have to harvest a minimum of 300,000 red salmon before we can begin to put our nets in the water and harvest our local stock of red salmon. We rarely catch or come close to catching the 7.6 allocation, which is a low number for a historical fishery. We seldom fish on the SEDM because of the restrictions set forth upon the fishery. This allocation needs to be eliminated. During 2014 fishermen in the SEDM weren't allowed to harvest any salmon in the SEDM area and are being denied access to their historical fishery which is affecting the viability of set netting in the area. The harvest of 300,000 red salmon in the Chignik area before set netters on the SEDM can harvest salmon needs to be eliminated and done away with. When Chignik area fishes, we as set netters would like to fish at the same time on the SEDM District.

**PROPOSED BY:** Jack Foster Jr. and Amy Foster

(EF-F18-053)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 15.332. Seine specifications and operations.**

Increase the maximum length of purse seines to 250 fathoms in the Eastern, Central, Western, and Perryville Districts, as follows:

Change the regulation concerning maximum purse seine length in Chignik in the Eastern, Central, Western and Perryville Districts to match those allowed in Kodiak and Area M. The new regulation would read:

5 AAC 15.332 (a) In the Eastern, Central, Western and Perryville Districts no purse seine less than 100 fathoms or more than **250** (225) fathoms in length may be used.

(b) In the Eastern, Central, Western and Perryville Districts no hand purse seine less than 100 fathoms or more than **250** (225) fathoms in length may be used.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The current regulations in effect in Chignik under 5 AAC 15.332 (a), (b) which restricts purse seine length to a maximum of 225 fathoms in the Eastern, Central, Western and Perryville Districts. This limitation hampers efficiency and results in lost harvest opportunity for Chignik fishermen. The heavy interception that occurs on Chignik bound sockeye at Cape Igvak and throughout Area M often results in drastically lower numbers of sockeye entering the Chignik area in the days immediately after those interception fisheries are prosecuted. The gaps in the Chignik sockeye run created by those interception fisheries moves through the Chignik area from the outer districts inward toward Chignik Lagoon, resulting in reduced harvests and thus even further reduced harvest efficiency. To add insult to injury, the Kodiak and Area M seine fisheries are allowed to use purse seines that are 250 fathoms in length while fishing for Chignik bound sockeye within plain sight of Chignik fishermen who are restricted to 225 fathom purse seines.

**PROPOSED BY:** Axel Kopun

(EF-F18-054)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 05.200. Fishing districts and subdistricts.**

Include the Pastolik and Pastoliak Rivers in the Lower Yukon District Y-1, as follows:

5 AAC 05.200. Fishing districts and subdistricts (a) District 1 consists of that portion of the Yukon River drainage from the latitude of Point Romanof extending south and west along the coast of the delta to the terminus of Black River upstream to the northern edge of the mouth of the Anuk River and all waters of the Black, **Pastolik and Pastoliak** Rivers.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** I would like the Board to include the Pastolik and Pastoliak Rivers in the Lower Yukon District Y-1. These two rivers are similar in nature to the Black River (located in the southern boundary of Lower Yukon District Y-1) and should be included in the Lower Yukon District Y-1.

**PROPOSED BY:** John H. Lamont

(EF-F18-055)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 01.244. Minto Flats Northern Pike Management Plan.**

Extend waters closed to harvest of northern pike in the Chatanika River drainage downstream of the Fairbanks Nonsubsistence Area boundary and modify the bag limit, as follows:

We would like to see the board reinstate the 3-mile closure that you put in place during the last in cycle meeting. We would like to see the board instate a bag limit of 5, of which only one can be over 30.” We would also like to see no catch and release, but we realize that this might be difficult if there was a size restriction.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The Minto Nenana AC is concerned that the northern pike that overwinter in the Chatanika do not have enough protection from overfishing through the ice. We believe that the large female spawners cannot take this pressure. We are concerned that the few individuals that utilize this fishery could jeopardize the health of the population that others also depend on.

**PROPOSED BY:** Minto Nenana Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-F18-056)

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## **PROPOSAL XXX**

### **5 AAC 09.360. Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan.**

Increase the allocations of sockeye salmon harvest in the Chignik Area in the *Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan*, as follows:

Modify the SEDM Management plan to allow for a higher minimum sockeye harvest for Chignik that is more in line with current economic conditions. The regulation would read as follows:  
5AAC 09.360 Southeast District Mainland Salmon Management Plan.

(b) In years when a harvestable surplus for the first (Black Lake) and second (Chignik Lake) runs of Chignik River system sockeye salmon is expected to be less than **1,000,000** [600,000] fish, a commercial fishery is not allowed in the East Stepovak, Southwest Stepovak, Balboa Bay, and Beaver Bay Sections, and in the Northwest Stepovak Section, excluding Orzinski Bay north of a line from Elephant Point at 55° 43.18' N. lat., 160° 01.13' W. long., until the department projects that a harvest of **600,000** [300,000] sockeye salmon **will occur** in the Chignik Area described in 5 AAC 15.100. After July 8, if at least **600,000** [300,000] sockeye salmon have been harvested in the Chignik Area, and if escapement goals are being met, the department shall manage the fishery so that the number of sockeye salmon harvested in the Chignik Area will be at least **1,000,000** [600,000] fish and the number of sockeye salmon destined for the Chignik River that are harvested in the East Stepovak, Stepovak Flats, Southwest Stepovak, Balboa Bay, and Beaver Bay Sections, and before July 1 in the Northwest Stepovak Section, approaches as near as possible 7.6 percent of the sockeye salmon harvested in the Chignik Area.

(c) In years when a harvestable surplus beyond escapement goals for the first and second runs of Chignik River system sockeye salmon is expected to be more than **1,000,000** [600,000] fish but the first run fails to develop as predicted and it is determined that a total sockeye salmon harvest in the Chignik Area of **1,000,000** [600,000] or more fish may not be achieved, the commercial salmon fishery in the East Stepovak, Stepovak Flats, Southwest Stepovak, Balboa Bay, and Beaver Bay Sections, and in the Northwest Stepovak Section, excluding Orzinski Bay north of a line from Elephant Point at 55° 41.92' N. lat., 160° 03.20' W. long., to Waterfall Point at 55° 43.18' N. lat., 160° 01.13' W. long., shall be curtailed until the department projects a harvest in the Chignik Area of at least **600,000** [300,000] sockeye salmon through July 8 if that number of fish are determined to be surplus to the escapement goals of the Chignik River system. After July 8, if at least **600,000** [300,000] sockeye salmon have been harvested in the Chignik Area, and if escapement goals are being met, the department shall manage the fishery so that the number of sockeye salmon harvested in the Chignik Area is at least **1,000,000** [600,000] fish and the number of sockeye salmon destined for the Chignik River that are harvested in the East Stepovak, Stepovak Flats, Southwest Stepovak, Balboa Bay, and Beaver Bay Sections, and before July 1 in the Northwest Stepovak Section, approaches as near as possible 7.6 percent of the sockeye salmon harvest in the Chignik Area.

(d) In years when a harvestable surplus beyond the escapement goals for the first and second runs of Chignik River system sockeye salmon is expected to be more than **1,000,000** [600,000] fish and the department determines that the runs are as strong as expected, the department shall manage the fishery so that the number of sockeye salmon destined for the Chignik River that are harvested in the East Stepovak, Stepovak Flats, Southwest Stepovak, Balboa Bay, and Beaver Bay Sections,

and before July 1 in the Northwest Stepovak Section, approaches as near as possible 7.6 percent of the sockeye salmon harvest in the Chignik Area.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The minimum Chignik sockeye harvest assurances of 300,000 and 600,000 prior to any opening in the SEDM is woefully inadequate. In 1985 the Board modified the SEDM Management Plan based on the Cape Igvak Salmon Management Plan from the Kodiak Management Area that was enacted in 1978. The Board insisted on a minimum sockeye harvest threshold for Chignik when it enacted the Cape Igvak Management Plan in 1978, and the Board smartly adopted that requirement when it modified the SEDM Management Plan in 1985. While the argument was made by the Board that a 600,000 minimum sockeye harvest assurance for Chignik was adequate when it adopted the Cape Igvak Management Plan in 1978, and subsequently in the SEDM Management Plan in 1985, it is indisputable that a minimum sockeye harvest assurance of 600,000 in Chignik today is woefully inadequate due to the dramatic change in economic conditions since the Cape Igvak Salmon Management Plan and the SEDM Management Plan were adopted a whopping 40 and 33 years ago, respectively.

**PROPOSED BY:** Axel Kopun

(EF-F18-057)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan.**

Repeal the current *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan* and readopt the management plan in place prior to 2001, as follows:

Return the South Unimak District to it's pre-2001 status. Remove the entire Southwestern District and the West and East Pavlof Bay Sections of the South Central District from the South Unimak District. Return the Southwestern District and the West and East Pavlof Sections of the South Central District to their pre-2001 June South Peninsula management plan for those areas.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** In February 2004, the BOF modified the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Fisheries Management Plan (5 AAC 09.365). The Board established a new, expanded fishing schedule, removed previously enacted chum salmon harvest restrictions, and the *South Unimak fishery was expanded to include the entire Southwestern District and the West and East Pavlof Bay sections of the South Central District*. The inclusion of the entire Southwestern District and West and East Pavlof Bay Sections into the South Unimak June Fishery Management Plan has had a severely detrimental impact on Chignik Fishermen due to high interception rates of Chignik bound sockeye in areas historically closed during the South Unimak June fishery. In essence, the Board created a new, expansive interception fishery on fully allocated Chignik stocks that has severely damaged all Chignik fishermen and the entire Chignik region.

**PROPOSED BY:** Axel Kopun

(EF-F18-058)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 05.350. Closed waters.**

Repeal closed waters within 500 yards of the mouth of the Pastolik River and the Pastoliak River, as follows:

**5 AAC 05.350. Closed waters**

(11) repeal

It would just repeal the language in 5 AAC 05.350 Closed waters (11)

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** repeal (11) the waters within 500 yards of the mouth of Pastolik River and Pastoliak River, as specified in 5 AAC 39.290 (a)(2);

So that the Yukon River District Y-1 commercial fishers can commercially fish within these two rivers located within Yukon District Y-1.

**PROPOSED BY:** John H. Lamont

(EF-F18-059)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 74.010. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Tanana River Area.**

Allow catch and release fishing-only for Arctic grayling on the Chatanika River, as follows:

The last assessment of the Arctic grayling population in the Chatanika River occurred during 2007.

If a new Arctic Grayling population assessment can be done now or in the near future and the results show a decline please consider making the Upper Chatanika River strictly Catch And Release year round for Arctic Grayling - like the Chena River.

This also includes Lower Chatanika River at the Elliot Highway bridge camping area. That area is "fished out" It would very beneficial to consider making that area Strictly Catch and Release for Arctic Grayling also. Try it for 15-20 years and see what happens to the population and sizes of the larger older grayling.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The Arctic Grayling population in the Upper Chatanika River between 38 mile and 58 mile (approximate) on the Steese Highway seem to be in a steady decline for the last 10-15 years.

**PROPOSED BY:** Robert Marks

(EF-F18-060)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 05.331. Gillnet specifications and operations.**

Decrease the mesh depth for gillnets fishing in Districts 4-6, as follows:

**5 AAC 05.331. Gillnet specifications and operations.** (f) In District 4 - 6, gillnets with (1) greater than six-inch mesh may not be more than 45 meshes in depth; (2) six-inch or smaller mesh may not be more than 50 meshes in depth.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The Yukon River is quite wide at all mouths (south, middle and north) and salmon are quite spread out (Yukon District Y-1), as salmon travel up the Yukon River there is less area for them to swim where the Yukon River narrows (Yukon Districts Y-2 through Y-6); therefore, gillnet depth restrictions should be more restrictive not less as they currently are as salmon travel up the Yukon.

**PROPOSED BY:** John H. Lamont

(EF-F18-061)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 05.333. Fish wheel specifications and operations.**

Create fish wheel specifications for basket size and depth of fishing, as follows:

5 AAC 05.333 Fish wheel specifications and operations.

(a) (1) fish wheel baskets may not be larger than 5' X 8' or 40 square foot total area and cannot dip deeper than six feet into the river.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Implementing fish wheel basket size and depth limitations during times of Chinook Salmon conservation on the Yukon River. Fish wheels are self propelled large dipping baskets and paddles that dip salmon and other fish species out of the river that are lead into the baskets by way of leads, leads lead salmon from the shore (shallow water) directly out to the baskets where they are captured and dumped automatically into holding bins without human exertion.

If nothing is done, commercial fishers in districts 4 - 6 using fish wheels will continue to commercially harvest large numbers of summer chum salmon with little or no physical effort. I don't think it is equitable for commercial fishers from districts 1 - 3 to have to manually dip baskets into the river with only a 5' diameter hoop and basket to try and commercially harvest surplus summer chum salmon while allowing chinook salmon to pass up the river to spawning grounds.

**PROPOSED BY:** John H. Lamont

(EF-F18-062)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 15.357. Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan.**

Expand fishing area in the *Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan*, as follows:

(d) In the Western and Perryville District,

(1) during June, the commercial salmon fishery shall open concurrently with the Chignik Bay and Central Districts, and the Inner Castle Cape Subsection of the Western District, and the openings shall be based on achieving the Black Lake sockeye salmon escapement goals;

(2) from approximately June 26 through July 8,

(A) the department shall evaluate the strength of the sockeye salmon late run; and

(B) in order to continue managing the Black Lake sockeye salmon harvest and escapement, while assessing the Chignik Lake sockeye salmon run strength, commercial salmon fishing in the Western District will, in the department's discretion, be disallowed or severely restricted;

(3) from the end of the transition period, described in (b)(2) of this section, until the end of the fishing season, the department shall manage the commercial salmon fishery based on its evaluation of local pink, chum, and coho salmon runs, and the escapement objectives of the Chignik Lakes' system sockeye salmon.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Chignik Fishermen have little to no access to half of their fishing area prior to July 6. By regulation, Chignik Fishermen are only allowed a maximum of two 48 hour openings in the Western District between June 1 and July 5.

Chignik bound sockeye are being aggressively harvested in Area M beginning June 7 of each year, yet Chignik Fishermen are only allowed two 48 hour openings to harvest sockeye in their own Western Districts prior to July 5, just a few miles northeast of where the Area M Fishermen are allowed to harvest practically non-stop. With interception fisheries on both sides, Chignik Fishermen need all the fishing area available to them to be open to fishing when escapement goals are being met. When Cape Igvak is open, fishing in the Eastern District in Chignik drops off almost immediately. This compresses the Chignik fleet and reduces fishing opportunities for the entire fleet, especially when coupled with reduced sockeye abundance due to the sockeye intercepted just a few miles away. Opening the Western District would allow Chignik Fishermen more area to move to when fishing is negatively impacted by interception, as well as providing more opportunity for harvest of Chignik bound sockeye that is currently unavailable under the current regulations.

**PROPOSED BY:** Axel Kopun

(EF-F18-063)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 28.647 Aleutian Islands Subdistrict Pacific Cod Management Plan.**

Limit fishing for Pacific cod in the Adak section of the Aleutian Islands Subdistrict to vessels 60 feet or less OAL, amending the Aleutian Islands Subdistrict management plan to read, as follows:

“In the Adak Section, vessels using trawl, pot, and jig gear must be 60 feet or less OAL and vessels using longline gear must be 58 feet or less OAL.”

STRIKE the following language: "When the state-waters season is open in all state waters west of 170° W long, vessels using trawl gear may not exceed 100 feet OAL, vessels using groundfish pot gear may not exceed 125 feet OAL, and vessels using mechanical jig or longline gear may not exceed 58 feet OAL."

In addition, establish a rollover provision that would open fishing to other vessel lengths through Emergency Order if there is not meaningful participation from the under-60 fleets by a date certain. This provision should give adequate time for under-60 fleets to show intent to harvest the GHL through active participation in the early season. Through coordination between industry, and state and federal managers, distinct alternatives for dates and trigger amounts will be developed and submitted to the Board for consideration via Record Copy.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Maintain opportunity for boats under 60 feet to harvest Pacific cod in the Aleutian Islands Subdistrict state-water fishery.

This fishery was established in 2006 to provide economic opportunity to small boats and local processors in the Aleutian region, but lack of in-region processing capacity has often made it difficult for the small boat fleet to prosecute this GHL. Due to underharvest, the management plan was recently amended to include larger vessels in the Adak section once all state-waters west of 170° W long open for Pacific cod. However, recent changes have improved effort by and processing capacity for under-60 vessels, and over time they have demonstrated that given opportunity and a viable market, the under-60 fleets can successfully harvest this quota. Therefore it is important that inclusion of the larger vessel fleets be an optional condition predicated on a significant lack of participation from the under-60 fleet, not a guaranteed opening.

Precedent for these state-water fisheries establishes priority opportunity for small-boat harvests and delivery to shore-based processors, which generates an important benefit for the region and the state of Alaska. Upholding the initial vessel length limitations, with the inclusion of a rollover provision, maintains the original intent of these state-water fishery resources, recognizes the increased capacity for harvest and processing by small boats and shore-based plants, and provides reasonable contingencies that will prevent underharvest.

**PROPOSED BY:** Under Sixty Cod Harvesters

(EF-F18-064)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 28.648. Dutch Harbor Subdistrict Pacific Cod.**

Increase the Dutch Harbor Subdistrict state-waters Pacific cod fishery guideline harvest level from 6.4% to 10% of the acceptable biological catch for Pacific cod in the federal Bering Sea subarea and expand the area eastward, as follows:.

Increase the Dutch Harbor Subdistrict state-waters Pacific cod fishery guideline harvest level from 6.4% to 10% of the acceptable biological catch for Pacific cod in the federal Bering Sea subarea. Increase the area of the Dutch Harbor Subdistrict eastward, to include state waters to Longitude line 163 degree 30 minutes west (False Pass sea-buoy).

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Provide additional harvest opportunity for the 58-foot and under pot cod fleet, in order to better capture the value this fleet offers to Alaska through harvest of its near-shore resources.

The Dutch Harbor Subdistrict state-waters Pacific cod fishery is a fully utilized fishery that has provided meaningful economic benefits to boats and businesses operating in Western Alaska since it began in 2014. The modest 3% initial allocation to this fishery in its pilot stages allowed managers to test the fishery's viability and industry effort. After showing strong participation from the under-58 pot cod fleet, this fishery received another modest uptick in GHL during the 2016 board cycle. In keeping with this precedent for step-up development, a GHL increase at this time is an appropriate next step in the evolution of this successful state-water fishery. In addition, an area increase is a valuable tool for spreading out the effort of an expanding fleet, which has grown steadily from its 2014 pilot stages into a vibrant and promising fishery. This new area can and should be established with appropriate considerations for marine mammal protected areas and other important habitats, in collaboration with industry representatives, and state and federal managers.

The under-58 pot cod fleet is largely comprised of vessels that are owned, crewed and maintained by Alaskans. They utilize gear with very low bycatch rates, and through their economic activity, provide a high value directly to the state, Alaskan communities and Alaskan fishermen. Interest in the fishery has consistently increased, and its ongoing success offers a meaningful opportunity for the state and its residents. The potential and strengths of this fishery have outgrown the modest allocations that they started with, warranting an allocation increase and area expansion.

**PROPOSED BY:** Under Sixty Cod Harvesters

(EF-F18-065)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan.**

Establish mandatory closures on all gear types in the *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan*, as follows:

Amend regulation 5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan to allow for at least a 24 hour closure between the openings for each gear type in the Southwestern District and the West and East Pavlof sections of the South Central District so Chignik bound sockeye have an opportunity to pass through the area. The regulation would read like this:

5 AAC 09.365 **(g) notwithstanding (d) of this section;**

**(1) For set net gear,**

**(A) Beginning June 7, commercial fishing periods in the Southwestern District and the West and East Pavlof Bay sections of the South Central District will begin at 6 a.m. and run 42 hours until midnight the next day; commercial fishing will then close for 54 hours and reopen at 6 a.m. three days later.**

**(2) For seine and drift gillnet gear,**

**(A) Beginning June 10, commercial fishing periods in the Southwestern District and the West and East Pavlof Bay sections of the South Central District will begin at 6 a.m. and run 42 hours until midnight the next day; commercial fishing will then close for 54 hours and reopen at 6 a.m. three days later.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan, as written, adopted and implemented in 2004, results in fishing gear being in the water continuously from June 7 to June 29. When the set-netters are closed, the seiners and drifters are open. Then when the seiners and drifters close, the set-netters are fishing. The result is continuous fishing from June 7 through June 29. When coupled with the fact the Board expanded the South Unimak fishery to include the entire Southwestern District and the West and East Pavlof Bay sections of the South Central District at the same time, the result is Chignik bound sockeye are harvested continually throughout the month of June as they pass through the Southwestern District, the West and East Pavlof Bay sections of the South Central District and the Shumagin Islands. This has resulted in a tremendous surge in the interception of Chignik bound sockeye, which are abundant in the area at this time.

**PROPOSED BY:** Gary Anderson

(EF-F18-066)

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## **PROPOSAL XXX**

### **5 AAC 06.361. Nushagak-Mulchatna King Salmon Management Plan.**

Add restrictions on the commercial fishery in the *Nushagak-Mulchatna King Salmon Management Plan* when the sport fishery has restrictions due to king salmon conservation, as follows:

#### **Nush Chinook Option 1**

When the Nushagak Chinook run is not meeting minimums and the Sport Fishing user group has in season Emergency Orders for stepping down (example: no bait, catch and release, or closures), then the Commercial fishery must also participate in the conservation effort for protecting the Chinook run. The ComFish Department shall not open the Nushagak district to more than 12 hours time total of commercial drift and set fishing in a 24 hour period when the Department has issued EO's restricting the sport fishing user group. The department can break the 12 hours up into two 6 hour openers or any other combination as long as the open commercial fishing time does not total more than 12 hours in a 24 hour period. Additionally, the Department shall not run two 12 hour openers back to back--meaning there can not be a 12 hour opener starting at 12:00 Noon and ending at Mid-night and then another opener starting at 12:00 Midnight and running to 12:00 Noon. The Drift and Set user group openings do not have to be at the same time periods. However, the total for each group can not exceed 12 hours each when the Sport Fish EO's are in place. Thus, Drift could be open for 12 straight hours from 1:00 AM to 1:00 PM and Set could be open from 3:00 AM to 9:00 AM and again from 4:00 PM to 10:00 PM. The definition of a 24 hour period would start at 12:00 Midnight and end at 11:59 PM on that same day. Once the Sport Fish biologist removes all EO's restricting effort of the Sport Fishing user group in the district the Commercial openings can go back to as directed by the ComFish Biologist with no time restrictions.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The burden of conservation of the Nushagak Chinook Salmon run is 100% on the shoulders of the Sport Fishing industry. There are efforts made by Com Fish with mesh sizing that try to eliminate the by-catch of Chinook when targeting sockeye but there is still a large enough by-catch that it has an impact on the fishery. Sport Fish is not trying to prevent the Com Fish industry from catching sockeye and making a living. The impact on the number of Chinook making it in river is immediately diminished when commercial openers happen. This is not intended by the Com Fisher, but it happens. We need help in preserving the Nushagak Chinook run. When the Chinook run falls below acceptable escapement numbers, the sport fishery is restricted or potentially closed, yet com fish openings remain aggressive. The commercial fishery in the Nushagak district, although targeting sockeye, certainly has a by-catch or interception of Chinook bound for the Nushagak. At low estimates of 3 Chinook intercepted per vessel in a 12 hour opener and 400 vessels in the district we are talking about 1,200 Chinook. Many time the district is open for 23.5 or 24 hour periods thus hitting both tides and intercepting double that amount per day--2,400 Chinook in our example. That equates to 16,800 Chinook harvested via by-catch in one 7 day period. The Board is encouraged to take preventive measures to ensure that the Nushagak Chinook run survives.

**PROPOSED BY:** Brian Kraft

(EF-F18-067)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 06.361. Nushagak-Mulchatna King Salmon Management Plan..**

Add restrictions on the commercial fishery in the *Nushagak-Mulchatna King Salmon Management Plan* when the sport fishery has restrictions due to king salmon conservation, as follows:

**Nush Chinook Option #2**

When the Sport Fishing user group has had effort reduced by in-season EO's that restrict the group (ex: no bait, catch and release, closures, etc) Com Fish Biologist shall not permit Commercial Fishing, Drift or Set, on two consecutive high tides. Once the EO's are in force and restrictions applied to the Sport Fishing user group and the Com Fishers have fished a high tide, the district shall close to all commercial fishing 4 hours prior to the next published high tide at Clark's Point. The district can reopen 4 hours after that published high tide at Clark's Point.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The burden of conservation of the Nushagak Chinook Salmon run is 100% on the shoulders of the Sport Fishing industry. There are efforts made by Com Fish with mesh sizing that try to eliminate the by-catch of Chinook when targeting sockeye but there is still a large enough by-catch that it has an impact on the fishery. Sport Fish is not trying to prevent the Com Fish industry from catching sockeye and making a living. The impact on the number of Chinook making it in river is immediately diminished when commercial openers happen. This is not intended by the Com Fisher, but it happens. We need help in preserving the Nushagak Chinook run. When the Chinook run falls below acceptable escapement numbers, the sport fishery is restricted or potentially closed, yet com fish openings remain aggressive. The commercial fishery in the Nushagak district, although targeting sockeye, certainly has a by-catch or interception of Chinook bound for the Nushagak. At low estimates of 3 Chinook intercepted per vessel in a 12 hour opener and 400 vessels in the district we are talking about 1,200 Chinook. Many time the district is open for 23.5 or 24 hour periods thus hitting both tides and intercepting double that amount per day--2,400 Chinook in our example. That equates to 16,800 Chinook harvested via by-catch in one 7 day period. The Board is encouraged to take preventive measures to ensure that the Nushagak Chinook run survives.

**PROPOSED BY:** Brian Kraft

(EF-F18-068)

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## **PROPOSAL XXX**

### **5 AAC 28.170. Sablefish possession and landing requirements for Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area.**

This proposal would be written primarily as an addendum on 5 AAC 28.170, the Sablefish possession and landing requirements for Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area. Thus, 5 AAC 28.170 would read exactly as it currently reads through part (k). It would continue with part (l) as follows:

(l) Notwithstanding 5 AAC 28.170 (a)-(k) and 5 AAC 28.106,

(1) A person fishing for D class halibut IFQ aboard a vessel in the NSEI area between the dates of 8:00 a.m. August 15 and 12:00 noon November 15 may retain and sell, or retain for personal use, sablefish caught in that area. Such a person must retain all dead or visibly injured sablefish, and may release all other sablefish unharmed to the water. All live releases must be recorded in a logbook, and this information must be transferred to an ADF&G fish ticket at the time of sale.

(2) All sablefish retained in this way must be weighed and reported as bycatch on an ADF&G fish ticket. All sablefish retained in this way in excess of 10 percent, round weight, of the D class halibut sold at a given landing must be weighed and reported as bycatch overage on an ADF&G fish ticket. All proceeds from the sale of excess sablefish bycatch shall be surrendered to the state, and may be prosecuted under AS 16.05.722 or AS 16.05.723.

(3) The operator of a vessel participating in this program must retain aboard that vessel and present for inspection a copy of each completed fish ticket that cites sablefish landed and retained in this way aboard the vessel during the current season. The operator of such a vessel shall provide each buyer with the total round weight of sablefish landed and retained in this way to date on board that vessel for that year. In the event that the total round weight of sablefish landed and retained in this way exceeds 50 percent of the current NSEI sablefish equal quota share, all proceeds of sale from this excess shall be surrendered to the state as bycatch overage, and may be prosecuted under AS 16.05.722 or AS 16.05.723.

(4) Notwithstanding the provisions of this subsection, the commissioner may establish sablefish bycatch limits for the halibut fishery described in this subsection if the commissioner determines it is necessary to manage the sablefish bycatch harvest within total catch limits described in this chapter.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The current NSEI sablefish fishery is structured in such a way as to prevent small boat (D class) fishermen, and many young fishermen, from participating in the fishery. This is inconsistent with the ADF&G's mission statement, viz., "...to ensure that...the use and development of [Alaska's renewable fish resources] are in the best interest of the economy and well-being of the people of the state."

Allow me to explain. The permits associated with this fishery are on lockdown: there are only some 78 permits (but fewer than 78 vessels actually participate in the fishery, due to permit "stacking"), and the permits rarely come up for sale. In the event that one does appear on the

market, there are cash buyers with deep pockets who can pay an inflated price for the permit. And even if a NSEI sablefish permit came on the market and a cash buyer didn't sweep in and take it, the permits are cost-prohibitive. This is because the fishery is managed on an equal quota share (EQS) program, as opposed to an individual fishing quota (IFQ) program. There is no way for a young small boat fisherman to participate in the harvest of this resource in a minimal way, or to enter the fishery by degrees (as, for example, with halibut, where you can purchase small amounts of quota to gain entry to the fishery by degrees). Finally, even if a small boat fisherman were able to acquire one of these permits at huge expense, it may not be a wise choice, due to issues pertaining to vessel range, capacity, and the weather during the NSEI sablefish season.

As a result of all this, owners of small vessels are prevented from participating in this fishery. This is an age where diversification is key to maintaining a small fishing business, and the current regulations prevent small boat fishermen from diversifying to this public resource. (This problem of diversification for small boats is particularly acute in Southeast AK, due to difficulties with Dungeness crabbing, king salmon trolling, and herring gillnetting.) This is one more fishery where young fishermen do not stand much of a chance to gain entry. This proposal is a concrete idea that would be a small step toward solving this problem.

Other alternative actions are unacceptable. One alternative is to do nothing. This would result in more consolidation of this resource, as larger vessels that are already established in the fishery continue to "stack" permits. As I obviously see it, it would be unhealthy for industry to allow this trend to continue: success of the young small boat fisherman is an essential ingredient to a healthy fishing fleet. Another alternative is to dismantle the NSEI sablefish program and restructure it along the lines of the halibut IFQ program. A final alternative would be to grant small boat fishermen "half-share" or "quarter-share" NSEI sablefish permits. Neither of these suggestions is politically tenable. In addition, there is no catch history that we might use as a basis for granting these IFQs or permits. The fishery has been limited entry for longer than I can remember; I have been playing catch-and-release with sablefish for my entire adult life.

**PROPOSED BY:** Casey Knight

(EF-F18-069)

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## **PROPOSAL XXX**

### **5 AAC 75.077. Sport fishing guide vessel registration requirements.**

Allow a fishing guide vessel to de-register after registration in a calendar year, as follows:

We propose a simple fix to allow Charter Vessels to be de-registered prior to the end of the end of the year, and then re-registered with ADFG the following calendar year to allow for the vessel owners to bring friends for subsistence fishing. Here is our proposed draft language to 5 AAC 75.077:

### **5 AAC 75.077. Sport fishing guide vessel registration requirements**

(a) Before being used to provide sport fishing guide services, a vessel must be registered annually with the department. A business owner, or the owner's authorized agent, shall register each individual vessel operated by the business to provide sport fishing guide services by completing a form provided by the department. At the time of registration, the business owner, or the owner's authorized agent, must provide the current division of motor vehicles boat registration number, issued under 2 AAC 70, or the current United States Coast Guard vessel documentation number of each vessel being registered.

(b) A person may not engage in sport fishing guide services from a powered or unpowered vessel unless the vessel is registered under (a) of this section and displays a sport fishing guide vessel decal with a current annual sticker issued by the department as follows:

(b)(1) upon initial registration of a vessel, two sport fishing guide vessel decals will be issued by the department for that vessel; one decal must be securely affixed on each side of the vessel and must be displayed in plain view at all times the vessel is used to provide sport fishing guide services;

(b)(2) for the years following the year of initial registration of a vessel, two current year renewal stickers will be issued by the department for that vessel; one current year renewal sticker must be securely affixed on each decal over the previous year renewal sticker and must be displayed in plain view at all times the vessel is used to provide sport fishing guide services.

**(b)(3) De-registration of a sport fishing guide vessel is allowed prior to Dec. 31st. This would be permanent for the rest of the year and vessel could not be registered to sport fish charter guided anglers again until after Dec. 31st, of current year. [OR see (e)]**

(c) If a decal or current year renewal sticker is lost or damaged, a replacement must be obtained from the department and affixed and displayed as required in this section before the vessel is used to provide sport fishing guide services.

(d) A float tube used to provide sport fish guide services is exempt from the registration and decal requirements of this section. For the purposes of this subsection, "float tube" means a tubular floating device designed to support one person in the water and propelled only by power from the arms or legs of the operator.

**(e) De-registration of a sport fishing guide vessel is allowed prior to Dec. 31st. This would be permanent for the rest of the year and vessel could not be registered to sport fish charter guided anglers again until after Dec. 31st, of current year.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Recreational Charter Fishing Passenger Vessels and Subsistence Fishing:** Under current rules, Federal regulation states that "once a charter vessel is registered with the ADFG, only the vessel owner and/or

immediate family may be on board the vessel while subsistence fishing for halibut." Many charter boat owners with SHARC cards would like to take friends with cards as well. The problem is that many family members with SHARC cards may be unable to fish, and friends with SHARC cards may not have a safe vessel to use to provide their winter pack of halibut. Using multiple vessels when a charter boat is available is inefficient, wasteful and presents serious safety concerns. There is no similar prohibition of friends fishing subsistence on commercial vessels; this would provide parity and fairness to make the change we are proposing.

We propose to allow charter vessels to de-register their vessels in the winter and then re-register them the next spring, to conform with federal rules and still be able to take family AND friends with SHARC cards to subsistence fish. Friends can help out on the trip when family is unable or unavailable to make a trip.

Changing federal regulations to allow for this fix would be much more cumbersome and time consuming, and as the state registers the vessels, this seems like a more direct solution. Without this change, charter boat owners and their friends will be denied safe access to their subsistence rights.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Charter Association

(EF-F18-070)

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## **PROPOSAL XXX - 5 AAC .**

If an operator of a vessel is found (in a court of law) to have intentionally rammed another vessel with his boat, or used his vessel as a weapon, that person shall forfeit his limited entry permit and his right to participate in the fishery.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Recent Bristol Bay salmon seasons (and salmon and herring seasons statewide) have seen an increase in vessel collisions and rammings, which have resulted in injuries to crew and costly damage to boats and equipment. This trend puts crews in grave danger of injury or death and increases costs for fishermen to insure their vessels and crew. While intentional ramming is a clear violation of the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea (COLREGs) and corresponding US Navigation Rules which the US Coast Guard is charged with enforcing, the Coast Guard is rarely present during fishing and has failed to enforce these rules. The Alaska Department of Public Safety should be given additional tools to keep people safe in our fisheries. Current regulations should not preclude additional penalties from being prescribed by the Board of Fish, which can help ensure the safety of the salmon fishery in Bristol Bay and of fisheries around the state.

### **What would happen if nothing is changed?**

The wild-west attitude that is too prevalent in the Bristol Bay salmon fishery (and fisheries statewide) will continue. Resulting insurance claims will continue to penalize responsible operators as costs from claims are passed to the whole fleet. Fishermen will continue to be put at risk of injury or death.

### **What other solutions have you considered? Why did you reject them?**

There are laws in place to prevent this reckless behavior, but they have not been effective in stopping or reducing this problem. Our fisheries are gaining a reputation as a place where this is tolerated. Adopting this proposal would be a strong statement from the Board that Alaska's fisheries are not an acceptable place for behavior that is tantamount to vehicular assault.

**PROPOSED BY:** Naknek/Kvichak AC (EF-F18-071)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 74.044. Minto Flats Northern Pike Management Plan.**

Modify gear specifications for the Minto Flats northern pike sport fishery, as follows:

A more sportsman and humane solution would be to use single hooks only for sport fishing in the Minto area. Casting baits can be easily modified to resent a single hook.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Northern Pike in Minto Flats are being caught with large baits, many containing multiple treble hooks, thereby causing serious damage to the fish's mouth during hook retrieval, usually using a pliers. Therefore, the fish cannot feed and will probably end in their demise.

**PROPOSED BY:** Candace Tucker

(EF-F18-072)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 06.341. Vessel specifications and operations.**

Modify the length for drift gillnet vessels, as follows:

This proposal is to strike the number 32 and replace it with **42** in the first paragraph of the referenced code section.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The 32 foot vessel length restriction must be changed. This issue addresses the issue of quality output, safety, and financial viability of Bristol Bay gillnet vessel owners. 32 feet of vessel length is not enough to meet modern standards required by the seafood industry. PRODUCT QUALITY requires robust refrigeration equipment for any cooling system used on a vessel. To achieve this larger chillers are need, and the power to run them efficiently is a generator. SAFETY at sea is a prime consideration for the maritime community. A larger, more stable work platform will keep fishers more efficient workers and lessen injuries related to slips, trips, and falls. A larger vessel can also accommodate bulwarks and hand rails to ensure a physical barrier to falling overboard. FINANCIAL EFFICIENCY is needed to afford maximum profitability - especially to watershed residents - who can use a larger vessel to more safely fish the other bounty of other species in Bristol Bay. As it is financially ridiculous to double down on old, legacy 32 foot gillnetters, the Bristol Bay fleets must recapitalize on a platform that has durable value, is safer for the crew, and has value beyond the salmon season. With the evolution of 'stacked' permits, the limit makes even less sense. Stacked boats have more gear and handle more fish, and effectively every argument presented is 33% stronger. If this regulation **is not** changed, fishermen will be forced to cram more and more required equipment into the already cramped 32 foot platform. It is a fact that the fleet is become increasingly "square" with each new generation of vessels. This investment can now easily cost more than \$500,000 and other than meeting the Bristol Bay length requirement, the vessel is comparatively worthless in any other fishery. That is an egregious waste of money.

**PROPOSED BY:** Mark Smith

(EF-F18-073)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 01.244. Minto Flats Northern Pike Management Plan.**

Extend waters closed to harvest of northern pike in the Chatanika River drainage downstream of the Fairbanks Nonsubsistence Area bounday, as follows:

In order to save approximately 50% of these spawner females, the closed area needs to be extended back to three miles. This still leaves 9 miles upstream, 28 miles downstream, all of Goldstream Creek and almost all of Minto Flats, including the Tolovana and Tatalina Rivers, open to subsistence fishing year round. There is no limitation on the number of fish taken, or their size, in these other areas.

If adopted, the new regulations would include 3 miles instead of 1 mile: 5 AAC 01.244(b)(2)(F)(modified by ACR01) "in the Chatanika River drainage, from the confluence of the Chatanika River and Goldstream Creek to an ADF&G regulatory marker approximately three river miles upstream of the confluence, subsistence fishing through the ice is closed;

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Large (over 30"), mature, female spawner pike that concentrate in an overwintering area in the Chatanika River upstream from the confluence of Goldstream Creek and the Chatanika River (known as the Chatanika River Harvest Area) are being overharvested. It is very important to maintain these large fish. The 2017-2018 regulations closed the first three miles to fishing through the ice in order to save approximately 50% of these spawner females, but that closure was reduced by ACR01 to one mile, where almost no fish overwinter per the last study conducted by Fish and Game.

**PROPOSED BY:** Marvin Hassebroek

(EF-F18-074)

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## **PROPOSAL XXX**

### **5 AAC 75.020. Sport fishing gear.**

Require rockfish to be released at depth, as follows:

**[x] Beginning January 1, 2020, a person sport fishing from a vessel when releasing a species of rockfish shall immediately use a deep water release mechanism to return the fish to the depth it was hooked or to a depth of at least 100 feet. In this subsection, “deep water release mechanism” means a device designed to return a rockfish to the depth of capture, or to a specified depth.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The Seward Fish and Game Advisory Committee has always been proactive in response to protection of our valuable fish and game resources.

Catch data shows an increase in sport harvest of rockfish between 1996 and 2016. The catch varies by port and some areas catch more of pelagic than nonpelagic and vice versa. Valdez & Whittier catch more yellow eye while Homer, Kodiak and Seward catch more black and dusky. We anticipate the harvest of rockfish to increase with the corresponding decline in harvest from the sport halibut fishery.

Rockfish morphology and physiology make effective release of rockfish difficult. Catch data shows the preferred method of release for pelagic rockfish is the surf method. The DRM is more widely used in the non-pelagic fishery. The DRM is already being utilized by the charter and private fleets as a preferred release method for yelloweye.

Two day cage studies in PWS found that >84% of dark, dusky, silvergray, copper, quillback, and yelloweye can survive after recompression back down to depth. Making the DRM mandatory statewide would reduce rockfish mortality during an era of increased harvest pressure.

**PROPOSED BY:** Seward Fish & Game Advisory Committee

(EF-F18-075)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 07.365. Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Plan.**

Allow non-salmon subsistence harvest in certain waters during times of king salmon conservation, as follows:

**5 AAC 07.365 (d) (5)**

**During subsistence salmon fishing closures, that portion of the Tuntutuliak, Tagayarak, Kialik and Johnson rivers upstream from a line between ADF&G regulatory markers 100 yards upstream from its confluence with the Kuskokwim River, shall remain open to subsistence fishing with gillnets that are eight-inch or smaller mesh, with a maximum length of 50 fathoms.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The Kuskokwim River has experienced main stem and tributary subsistence closures in recent years in order to conserve Chinook salmon. The Tuntutuliak, Tagayarak, Kialik and Johnson rivers are non-salmon spawning tributaries located in the lower portion of the Kuskokwim River and are important and traditional subsistence fishing locations for the residents of Tuntutuliak. People from this area have a long history of fishing in these locations for species such as pike, lush, chum salmon, and whitefish and rely on these rivers to meet their physical needs and to sustain their subsistence way of life and culture. With increased regulations during the Chinook salmon season these tributaries may be negatively impacted and could become closed to subsistence harvest of fish.

Since the Tuntutuliak, Tagayarak, Kialik and Johnson rivers are non-salmon spawning tributaries of the Kuskokwim River, residents would like to see the subsistence fishing in these tributaries protected in regulation even in times of Chinook salmon conservation since Chinook salmon do not typically spawn in these locations. Keeping these tributaries open would also relax pressure on subsistence users when the Kuskokwim River mainstem is closed to fishing by allowing users to easily harvest other species in nearby tributaries.

**PROPOSED BY:** Native Village of Tuntutuliak

(EF-F18-076)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 01.244. Minto Flats Northern Pike Management Plan.**

Extend waters closed to harvest of northern pike in the Chatanika River drainage downstream of the Fairbanks Nonsubsistence Area boundary and modify the size and bag limits, as follows:

Set the ice fishing closure area at two miles and all fish over 30" are returned unharmed with a bag limit of 5 fish. This is not more restrictive than sport fish limits because this is just one small area of the subsistence fishery- the rest of the area is open year round with no limits on size or take.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** In the overwintering area of the Chatanika River, the existing 1 mile restriction is not acceptable as this area is a critical overwintering spot for female Northern Pike that are capable of spawning. This is a state subsistence fishery area and not a traditional use area. This area has only been subsistence since the mid 90's.

**PROPOSED BY:** Evan Wheeler

(EF-F18-077)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 01.244. Minto Flats Northern Pike Management Plan.**

Modify emergency order closure requirements in the *Minto Flats Northern Pike Management Plan*, as follows:

Decrease the emergency closure in 5 AAC 01.244(b)(2)(G)(ii) from 1,500 to the number that will maintain an exploitation rate for fish larger than 30" below 10% of the existing population of these large fish.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The emergency closure limit is unreasonably high for this small fishery for Northern Pike in the Chatanika River Harvest Area. Records show that the majority of the harvest in the winter from this area is large, egg-bearing female pike who spawn in the spring. All pike over 30" are female. Because of this, the number of these large 30"+ female pike are in decline. These large pike are extremely important to the fishery. This is not overly restrictive on the subsistence fishery because, outside this small Chatanika River Harvest Area, subsistence users can fish year round through the ice and in the summer with gillnets, and there are no limits.

**PROPOSED BY:** Denis and Andree Porchet

(EF-F18-078)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 01.244. Minto Flats Northern Pike Management Plan.**

Extend waters closed to harvest of northern pike in the Chatanika River drainage downstream of the Fairbanks Nonsubsistence Area boundary and modify the seasonal bag and possession limits, as follows:

Increase the closure to the first two miles upstream of the Chatanika/Goldstream confluence, with a seasonal bag and possession limit of the first ten fish caught with only tow of those over 30". This will don't adversely affect the subsistence fishery since this will adversely affect the Chatanika River Harvest Area - the rest of the Chatanika upstream 10 miles, 28 miles downstream, Goldstream Creek, Minto Flats, and the Tatalina and Tolovana Rivers are still open to subsistence fishing year-round.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The Alaska Board of Fisheries recently changed the regulations from a 3 mile closure in the Chatanika River Harvest Area to a 1 mile closure due to an ACR initiated by the Fairbanks Advisory Committee. This is causing an excessive number of the large spawning fertile females in this area to be harvested.

**PROPOSED BY:** John Morack

(EF-F18-079)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 67.022. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means in the Bristol Bay Area.**

Restrict the use of certain gear in the Naknek River drainage sport fishery, as follows:

5 AAC 67.022 (d) (XXX).

Naknek River Drainage:

Upstream from ADF&G markers located ½ mile above Rapids Camp to ADF&G markers at Trefon's cabin at the outlet of Naknek Lake:

**Closed to the use of all salmon egg imitation patterns, including all hard and soft beads, glo bugs, spin and glows and any other stand alone egg imitation, unless the egg imitation is a fixed part of a fly or lure longer than 1 inch in length (for example egg sucking leeches).**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** During the past 5-10 years we have witnessed our rainbow population being directly impacted by the use of beads. We are beginning to see an alarming trend of missing age classes of our smaller rainbows. The bead technique while being very effective, is having an extremely harmful impact on the health of the rainbows being released. A popular practice is to peg the bead a couple of inches up the line above the bait hook. The trout see this drifting by and attempt to swallow the bead but inadvertently miss and get the trailing bait hook in the eye, under the chin, etc. We are now seeing so many dead and injured trout that is directly impacting the behavior of our eagle population in the Rapids Camp area on the Naknek River.

What would happen if nothing is changed? The health and future of our rainbow population would continue to be jeopardized, not allowing future generations of anglers the opportunity to catch and release beautiful, healthy and pristine rainbows that this watershed has always been known for.

**PROPOSED BY:** Naknek/Kvichak Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-F18-080)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 67.022. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means in the Bristol Bay Area.**

Restrict the practice of chumming by guides in certain portions of the Naknek River drainage sport fishery, as follows:

5 AAC 67.022 (d) (XXX).

**Naknek River Drainage:**

**All waters of the Naknek River watershed closed to chumming including the Naknek River main stem, Pauls Creek, King Salmon Creek, Smelt Creek and Big Creek, and all of Naknek Lake and its tributaries. Applies to guided, self-guided, boat rentals, and those transported by commercial entities.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** We would like to address the issue of “chumming” on the Naknek River and its tributaries. Cleaning your daily catch and disposing of the entrails is one thing but targeting a species in an attempt to increase an angler’s odds is both unnatural and defies all avenues of fair chase for sport fish. Any attempt to lure fish to a designated area by chumming should not be allowed. We must not alter our fish’s natural predatory instincts on the Naknek River. The Naknek River has been an artificial lure or fly only river for many years since the elimination of bait. Chumming is in many ways like using bait to target fish, especially rainbow trout, which are easily lured in by fish entrails and eggs.

What will happen if nothing is done? If nothing is done the rainbow trout of the Naknek will suffer the most. This river is world renown as a premier destination for wild rainbows, and chumming should have no part in that. The mortality rate of these fragile fish will go up, because they are more prone to swallow hooks or flies when they are lured in by chumming, especially with eggs. Chumming with salmon eggs frequently causes rainbow trout to go into feeding frenzies, and the fish become far less cautious, increasing the likelihood of them taking an artificial lure, and swallowing it, getting it caught in their gills eye or some other part that could prove fatal. Fish in certain areas may even become accustomed to being fed. The regulation would help ensure healthy populations of rainbow trout in the future.

**PROPOSED BY:** Naknek/Kvichak Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-F18-081)  
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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 74.010. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits and methods and means for the Tanana River Area.**

Allow retention of Arctic grayling in the Chena River drainage, as follows:

5 AAC 74.010(c)(3)(B)

...

This proposal would allow a limited harvest of Arctic grayling less than 12 inches from June 1 to July 15 from a marker placed by the department 500 yards downstream of the Nordale Road Bridge to the confluence with the Tanana River including Piledriver Slough. From June 1 – July 15 the Chena River would remain closed to grayling retention above the Nordale Bridge. From July 16 to May 31 the entire Chena River would be closed to all grayling retention. The normal gear restrictions would apply. This regulation will sunset after three years.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means in the Tanana River Management Area.

Retention of grayling in a portion of the Chena River drainage. The Chena River has been catch and release for Arctic grayling since 1991 (by EO and then regulation). The department has conducted virtually no studies on the population of Arctic grayling since 2005. The last stock assessments and abundance estimates are now 10 years old. The department has no funding for new work. The fishery is touted as one of the best “large” grayling streams on the road system and users report large congregations of fish on several stretches of the river.

The Fairbanks AC has supported the restriction to catch and release but it was with the expectancy that the department would keep track of this population so that some harvest of grayling could be allowed without harm to the population. Anglers now concentrate the catch and release fishing at access points. The estimated mortality for the c & r fishery is 5% to 7%. Because a large number of anglers on the lower river are children, visitors and new sports fishermen, some of the fish are treated pretty roughly in the c&r fishery.

Our proposal would allow a very limited harvest. The limits would be both by season, size and bag limit and a sunset to the harvest regulation. The AC would like the department to have some information on the harvest because it has been so long since harvest was allowed, there is no data on the impact of limited harvest to the population. A three year “trial” would give the managers some information to work with. If this waterway is so popular it can be advertised in numerous “fish alaska” type publications it should be studied for the potential for a return to some harvest. There is absolutely no need for the entire Chena River to catch and release forever. For example, the new Fairbanks hatchery can add fish to the system if the population starts to drop again.

**PROPOSED BY:** Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee

(EF-F18-082)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC .**

The solution I recommend is to increase the minimum escapement to 2500 in the Chignik River from current escapement goals.

**The minimum escapement for the Chinook salmon in the Chignik River above the weir is 2500 a year.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Chignik River Chinook Escapement Goals

The current minimum escapement goals for Chinook salmon in the Chignik River are too low. If the regulation is not changed, the numbers of Chinook salmon will continue to decline. There is more use of the Chinook salmon than in previous years.

**PROPOSED BY:** Tom R. Corr (EF-F18-083)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 01.244. Minto Flats Northern Pike Management Plan.**

Extend waters closed to harvest of northern pike in the Chatanika River drainage downstream of the Fairbanks Nonsubsistence Area boundary, as follows:

In order to protect, restore, and promote the long term health of the pike fishery and habitat, and to prevent overfishing and rebuild the stock, several years of 3 mile protection will be required; therefore I propose that we reinstate the three mile restriction.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The Board of Fisheries just reduced the new three mile closure in the overwintering area of the Chatanika River Harvest Area adopted in 2017 to one mile. Fish and Game records reflect that there are almost no pike that overwinter in that first mile, and they estimate that approximately 50% of those local fish are upstream between miles 1 and 3. The majority of the fish that are caught through the ice are the large pre-spawning egg-bearing females that need to be protected. It takes 15 to 20 years to grow a 40" pike, and all pike over 30" are female. It seems prudent to return the three mile restriction so that 50% of the stock of large females are protected. It will take several more years for the beneficial effects of the closure to be observed in the affected population. A reasonable opportunity for subsistence fishing is available year-round in the rest of the Tolovana River drainage- this is only a three mile protected overwintering area for the Minto Lakes drainage.

**PROPOSED BY:** James Dieringer

(EF-F18-084)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 67.022. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means in the Bristol Bay Area.**

Disallow staking out fishing locations in the Naknek River sport fishery, as follows:

5 AAC 67.022 (d) (XXX).

**-Naknek River Main Stem**

**The staking out or marking of areas along the Naknek River using boats, guides or lodge employees or other individuals, ice chests, buckets, fishing gear, etc for the purpose of holding a fishing hole or zone for fishermen not yet present is not allowed.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** We would like to address the issue of so called “pilot” boats being used to hold or stake out fishing zones or holes until fishermen or clients arrive. It has become common in recent years during the peak fishing times, most notably during the height of the red salmon run, to see a boat or multiple boats from a given lodge with just the driver holding a prime fishing spot on the bank of the river until another boat or boats from the lodge can bring the groups of clients up to fish. This prevents other fishermen from getting to these sought-after fishing locations first. They also lay out 5 gallon buckets and ice chests to make the impression that somebody is fishing there. In doing this, one or two boat drivers from a lodge can hold down and entire section of river bank until clients arrive.

What will happen if nothing is done? If nothing is done quality of experience for all anglers, both guided and local residents, will continue to suffer. Access to prime fishing zones will be greatly restricted.

**PROPOSED BY:** Naknek/Kvichak Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-F18-085)

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## **PROPOSAL XXX**

### **5 AAC 67.022. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means in the Bristol Bay Area.**

Prohibit the harvest of king salmon in certain portions of the Naknek River drainage sport fishery, as follows:

#### **5 AAC 67.022(d)(11).**

King salmon fishing is closed on the Naknek River from “Painter Bob’s Cabin” upstream to the ADF&G marker at “Trefon’s Cabin” near the mouth of Naknek Lake and on all major creek tributaries draining into the Naknek River, including Big Creek, King Salmon Creek, and Pauls Creek. (These are all areas where king salmon actively spawn). In these closed areas, king salmon may not be targeted at all, and if they are accidentally hooked while targeting other species, must NOT be removed from the water and will be released immediately.

#### **Naknek River Drainage:**

##### **-Naknek River main stem**

**King Salmon: Closed year round to all king salmon fishing from Painter Bob’s Cabin” upstream to the ADF&G marker at “Trefon’s Cabin” near the mouth of Naknek Lake.**

##### **-Big Creek – upstream of its confluence with the Naknek River to its headwaters.**

**King Salmon: Closed year round to all king salmon fishing**

##### **-King Salmon Creek – upstream from the ADF&G markers at the confluence of the Naknek River to its headwaters**

**King Salmon: Closed year round to all king salmon fishing**

##### **-Pauls Creek - upstream of its confluence with the Naknek River to its headwaters.**

**King Salmon: Closed year round to all king salmon fishing**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Over the years the Naknek River has seen a drastic increase in the number of guided sport fisherman. At the same time, we have seen a notable decrease in the numbers of king salmon in our river. Recognizing this decrease, ADF&G has already closed fishing of king salmon in certain areas, including the mouth of King Salmon Creek to the King Salmon Creek Bridge, and the mouth of Pauls Creek up past the Pauls Creek Bridge. However, this does not stop anglers from fishing the remaining portions of the tributaries king salmon actively spawn.

Currently the upper Naknek River, above the first ADF&G marker located half mile upstream above Rapids Camp, is open to catch and release king fishing. These areas are fished very hard, and it takes a significant toll on the kings when they are most vulnerable. Even catch and release fishing while kings are near or at their spawning stage results in high mortality rates. Anglers end up removing the fish from the water to release them, which is in violation of the law, either because of the difficulty of releasing one of these big powerful fish, or to take pictures. This can easily result in the death of the fish. We are not able to enforce catch and release king fishing and evidence

of this is shown on numerous lodge social media sites, web sites, brochures, tv shows and promotional material.

It can be argued that the Naknek River is no longer a premier destination for king fishing, as it once was. Once king salmon reach the spawning grounds, the point at which they are most exhausted from their long journey home and therefor the most vulnerable, they should be left alone to spawn, and ensure a viable fishery in future years

What will happen if nothing is done? If nothing is done we risk the health of the world famous Naknek River king run. Future generations will not be able to enjoy our salmon for which the area is world famous for. The Naknek River will cease to be a premier destination for sport fishermen. Local subsistence users who depend on king salmon for an important food source may also suffer. IF THESE CHANGES ARE NOT IMPLEMENTED WE WILL CONTINUE TO SEE A DECLINE IN OUR OVERALL KING SALMON RETURNS. The added pressure of sport fishermen catching king salmon on their spawning grounds will in no way help the future of the Naknek River's once great king run.

**PROPOSED BY:** Naknek/Kvichak Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-F18-086)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 67.022. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means in the Bristol Bay Area.**

Prohibit the retention of rainbow trout to non-resident sport anglers in the Naknek River drainage sport fishery, as follows:

5 AAC 67.022 (d) (XXX).

Naknek River Drainage:

Rainbow Trout Limits:

-Upstream from ADF&G markers located ½ mile above Rapids Camp to ADF&G markers at Trefon's cabin at the outlet of Naknek Lake and to include Naknek Lake:

**Closed to the harvest of rainbow trout year round for non-residents. Catch and release only.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The rainbow trout population on the Naknek River is undergoing excessive and unsustainable fishing effort. This is causing increased hook mortality and reduction of quality of experience. Hook mortality on catch and release rainbows has grown incrementally as a result of unsustainable commercial effort which is primarily non-resident based. This has resulted in a biological problem which needs to be addressed. The proposed regulatory changes are not arbitrary. They are based on historical knowledge of the Naknek River sport fishery by not only conservation-oriented guides, but also local residents who have had enough of loss of opportunity and abuse of the fishery resource.

Unlike other major rivers in the Bristol Bay region, the Naknek River is only 34 miles long from its mouth to Naknek Lake. Only ½ of this affords good fishing opportunity for salmon and freshwater species. The portion of the River as described under current regulation "upstream from the ADF&G regulatory markers located ½ mile upstream from Rapids Camp to ADF&G markers at Trefon's Cabin at the outlet of Naknek Lake" has undergone a dramatic and unsustainable level of effort for both the quality of experience (all species) and biological health of Rainbow Trout stocks.

What would happen if nothing is changed? The health and future of our rainbow population would continue to be jeopardized, not allowing future generations of anglers the opportunity to catch and release beautiful, healthy and pristine rainbows that this watershed has always been known for. The economic viability for conservation-oriented guides will be eliminated.

**PROPOSED BY:** Naknek/Kvichak Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-F18-087)  
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## **PROPOSAL XXX**

### **5 AAC 67.022. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means in the Bristol Bay Area.**

Limit the number of sport anglers targeting trout in the Naknek River drainage sport fishery, as follows:

5 AAC 67.022 (d) (XXX).

Commercial entities (Lodges, guide services, businesses including LLC's, rental boat operators, fishing clubs) are limited to four guests/anglers at any given time to fish for trout. Guests may fish for other species, or fly out to other creeks, but on the Naknek, only four guests at one time can fish for rainbow trout. Each commercial operator will have four badges (similar to the Brooks River guide badge), issued by Fish and Game. These badges are to be worn by each person fishing one rod, for trout. Badges can be rotated or transferred to other guests of the same operation during the day. They must be visible on the arm, so this regulation can be easily enforced. Non-compliance can result in a fine for both the angler and the commercial entity to which the badge was assigned. Badges are not transferrable. Commercial entities are prohibited from using LLCs, in attempts to justify more than 4 badges. Dolly Varden, Arctic Char and Arctic Grayling occupy similar habit to trout, are equally affected and therefore included in this regulation.

#### **Naknek River Drainage:**

Upstream from ADF&G markers located ½ mile above Rapids Camp to ADF&G markers at Trefon's cabin at the outlet of Naknek Lake:

June 8 – October 31: **Each commercial entity will have four badges, one per angler, to sport fish for Rainbow Trout, Dolly Varden, Arctic Char and Arctic Grayling. Badges must be worn on the arm of the angler and visible at all times.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Sport fishing pressure on the Naknek River trout fishery has skyrocketed to the point of unsustainability. Once a river where local guides and residents could enjoy catching the world's largest trout, it is now a river overrun by guided, transported self-guided, boat rentals and fishing clubs. The number of sport fishing guide registrations has nearly doubled from 45 in 2005 to 86 in 2016 (see attached graph of ADF&G guide registrations). Data has not been officially accumulated for 2017, but we anticipate the guide registrations to be well over 90. This is almost a 100% increase in guide pressure on the Naknek River in the last seven years. Approximately 5 miles long, the upper portion of the Naknek offers about 14 spots anglers can fish for trout. The capacity for each spot, to ensure quality of experience, is 2-4 anglers. Currently, there are multiple boats in each spot, many with 4 – 6 anglers in each boat. This compounds pressure on the resource, effecting younger trout the most. Age classes of smaller trout are underrepresented, forecasting a dramatic decline in larger fish in the future. Equally critical is the quality of experience. Increased pressure is creating a competitive, hostile and even dangerous environment. Inexperienced, and often unlicensed boat drivers are running the river without bearing in mind rules of road and basic etiquette. With guide licenses so easy to acquire, professionalism is lacking. Guests are being dropped off to wade in areas with heavy current, with no boat nearby in case of emergency. This is a slippery slope. *If left unchecked, such pressure is threatening three things of tremendous value: the health of a world-renowned trout fishery, the quality of experience for all user groups, and a way of life for locals.*

The majority of pressure is by out of state commercial entities who, over the last seven years, have lost sight of or have no consideration of the sustainability of this fishery. The focus has shifted from quality of experience, to quantity of money. These low quality, high volume operations, wreak havoc on our resource and leave our state. Left unchecked without regulation, these revenue-generating businesses will be copied, thriving on the misconception that Alaska is a limitless resource. Similar to a virus, the more these operations succeed; the more they squeeze out smaller sustainable businesses, which market for low volume and high-quality experience for ALL user groups. Guests, who have been fishing the Naknek every year for 15 years, are not returning. Locals can no longer go out on a Sunday and find a place to fish. Future stewardship of this river rests in the hands of younger generations in the community. If they are not able to experience the resource, they will not be inclined to protect it. Currently, there are many taking, but not enough giving back. This imbalance is not sustainable and must be managed.

**PROPOSED BY:** Naknek/Kvichak Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-F18-088)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 28.647. Aleutian Islands Subdistrict Pacific Cod Management Plan.**

If harvest of cod by CV trawl participants in the Unrestricted Fishery in 2019 prior to March 15th diminishes the ability of CV trawl participants in the AI CV Harvest Set-Aside to access the full amount of the Set-Aside, then the BoF will increase the AI state waters GHL in the following year on a pound for pound basis. These compensatory adjustments will not count against the AI GHL cap of 15 million pounds.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The NPFMC established an Aleutian Islands Catcher Vessel Harvest Set-Aside of Pacific cod (Amendment 113) to help sustain AI communities west of 170 degrees by providing priority access to that AI CV Set-Aside. Amendment 113 regulations also allowed participants in the AI Unrestricted Fishery to harvest Pacific cod for processing other than by AI shorebased plants.

In 2018 an accounting issue was discovered which resulted in CV trawl catch of cod in the Unrestricted Fishery reducing the amount of cod that could then be accessed from the AI CV Set-Aside. The NPFMC is working to close this unintended loophole, but the regulatory amendment may not be implemented before the 2019 fishery.

The NPFMC asked participants in the Unrestricted Fishery to honor the Council's intent through a voluntary stand-down during the 2018 season, but some participants chose not to stand-down. We ask the Board of Fish to help reinforce the need for a voluntary stand-down to protect the AI communities.

**PROPOSED BY:** Adak Community Development Corporation/City of Adak (EF-F18-089)

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## **PROPOSAL XXX**

### **5 AAC 67.022. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means in the Bristol Bay Area.**

Create a rod limit for nonresident sport fishing for salmon on the Naknek River, as follows:

#### **Sockeye Salmon and Silver Salmon limits**

In all waters upstream from ADF&G regulatory marker located ½ mile upstream of Rapids Camp, including all waters within ¼ mile of all lake inlet and outlet streams:

**8 rod limit per day at any one time for salmon (sockeye and silver salmon) for commercial business entity: Lodges, Transporters, Boat Rentals, and fishing clubs. LLC's are considered one business entity. Rod Limit allocations are non transferable or salable. Applies to non residents only**

**These restrictions apply upstream from ADF&G markers located ½ mile above Rapids Camp to ADF&G markers at Trefon's Cabin at the outlet of Naknek Lake including all waters within ¼ mile of all lake inlet and outlet streams:**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The level of effort on the Naknek River between the ADF&G marker above Rapids Camp and the ADF&G marker at Trefon's Cabin above Lake Camp has increased so dramatically in the last 10 years that the quality of experience for which this river was once famous has been lost. Fishing for Sockeye and Silver Salmon, has been reduced to a "combat fishery."

1. Conflicts among users are so great that local residents find it almost impossible to find a decent location to fish with their families (including kids) due to overcrowding and lack of ethics. This excessive pressure is primarily from high volume lodge operations nearly all of which are owned and operated by people who do not live in Alaska, let alone the area.
2. The quality of experience which the Naknek River was once famous for has been lost. This in an allocation of opportunity which needs to be addressed.
3. There is no spatial distribution of effort due to the sheer volume of nonresident clients utilizing large scale lodge operations.
4. The proposed regulatory changes are not arbitrary. They are based on historical knowledge of the Naknek River sport fishery by not only conservation orientated guides, but also by local residents who have had enough of loss of opportunity and abuse the fishery resource.

What would happen if nothing is changed? The quality of experience will continue to diminish for all user groups. Conflicts among users will continue to increase.

What are other solutions you considered? Time and area closures for guided, transported, boat and equipment rental commercial entities – i.e. limit days of operation. *This is not necessary if recommended proposals which would regulate the scale of effort are adopted.*

**PROPOSED BY:** Naknek/Kvichak Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-F18-090)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 01.275. Waters closed to subsistence fishing.**

Close waters immediately adjacent to the mouth of the Kuskokwim River to subsistence fishing during times of chinook salmon conservation, as follows:

During times of Chinook salmon conservation, the Bethel Fish and Game Advisory Committee would like the Commissioner to extend the current regulatory boundary line located at the south end of Eek Island and just below the west point called Kookaq in the Kuskokwim River mouth 10 miles out, or as far out as the ADF&G authority, including marine waters in order to extend Chinook salmon conservation authority.

Suggested regulatory language: 5 AAC 01.275 (e)

**During times of subsistence Chinook salmon closures, the commissioner shall close marine waters immediately adjacent to the mouth of the Kuskokwim River.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** This proposal is to address the conservation of Chinook salmon in times of conservation. The purpose of this proposal is to keep fisherman out of the milling areas during times of conservation. This proposal is to add new regulation, during times of conservation to continue setting conservation consistent throughout the drainage.

The issue is that there have been known Chinook salmon that mill in the brackish areas near the ADF&G regulatory markers at the Kuskokwim River mouth. Fishermen from many Kuskokwim River villages have been known to travel to the mouth of the Kuskokwim River to harvest Chinook Salmon. There have been reports of Chinook Salmon being caught at the mouth of the Kuskokwim River in quantities of 80 fish per day. It is felt that there is not an equal opportunity for harvest of these Chinook Salmon when they are caught in this area while there are conservation restrictions in the river main stem. Therefore we it is suggested there be a closure on these bodies of water that serve as milling areas for Kuskokwim River Chinook salmon.

**PROPOSED BY:** Bethel Fish and Game Advisory Committee

(EF-F18-091)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 28.648. Dutch Harbor Subdistrict Pacific Cod Management Plan.**

Limit the amount of Pacific Cod onboard a vessel and require daily reports, as follows:

5 AAC 28.648. Dutch Harbor Subdistrict Pacific Cod Management Plan.

...

(e) During a state-waters season,

**(A) the guideline harvest level for Pacific cod in the Dutch Harbor Subdistrict is 6.4 percent of the estimated total harvest of Pacific cod for the federal Bering Sea Subarea;**

**(B) A vessel may not have more than 150,000 round pounds of unprocessed Pacific cod onboard the vessel at any time; a vessel may not have onboard the vessel more processed fish than the round weight equivalent of the fish reported on ADF&G fish tickets; a validly registered vessel must report daily to the department the pounds of Pacific cod taken and on board the vessel;**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The increasing size and efficiency of the 58' and under Bering Sea Area O pot cod fishery is increasingly putting the smaller vessels that prosecute the fishery at a greater disadvantage. The size of the largest 58' foot vessels prosecuting the fishery does not resemble a small boat fishery. A change in regulations is needed to slow the pace and increase the season length.

If nothing is done larger boats will continue to take an increasingly large proportion of the GHL making smaller and entry level vessels increasingly less economically viable in prosecuting the fishery.

Capacity size restrictions were considered and rejected. Larger vessels are safer and more comfortable to work from and the Larger capacity can be utilized in other fisheries.

**PROPOSED BY:** Andrew Wilder

(EF-F18-092)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 15.357. Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan.**

The solution I recommend is that jacks should not be counted in the escapement goal.

**Only mature Chinooks can be counted in the escapement goal.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Only mature Chinook salmon can be counted in the escapement goal numbers.

The reason I would like to see this policy implemented is that 1,350 kings is too small of an escapement goal for the Chignik River. Some years, jacks account for 25% or more of the Kings' escapement goal. Most Rivers use sonar and only count large Kings. Jacks skew the male-female ratio.

**PROPOSED BY:** Tom R. Corr

(EF-F18-093)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 28.648. Dutch Harbor Subdistrict Pacific Cod Management Plan.**

Expand the Dutch Harbor Bering Sea District, as follows:

(a) This management plan governs the harvest of Pacific cod in the Dutch Harbor Subdistrict. For the purposes of this section, the Dutch Harbor Subdistrict is comprised of the state waters in the Aleutian Islands District east of 170° W. long. and the state waters of the Bering Sea District that are west of **162° 30' W. long.**[164° W. long.], east of 170° W. long., and south of 55° 30' N. lat., except that the waters of the Dutch Harbor Subdistrict south of 53° 06.11' N. lat. are closed to taking Pacific cod during a state-waters season.

(e) During a state-waters season, (1) the guideline harvest level for Pacific cod in the Dutch Harbor Subdistrict is **8 percent** [6.4 percent] of the estimated total allowable harvest of Pacific cod for the federal Bering Sea Subarea

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Local vessels fishing for Pacific cod in the Dutch Harbor Subdistrict State-waters fishery are looking to expand the fishery so that is more accessible to the local fishing communities, by expanding the fishing area and GHL. The Dutch Harbor Subdistrict Pacific Cod fishery has been successful and the GHL has been fully harvested year after year. This fishery gives the local under 60 foot vessel pot gear fleet a chance to fish locally. Expanding the fishing area further northeast to Moffet Point and raising the GHL by an amount proportionate to the expanded fishing area will create more opportunity for our local vessels, and provide much needed cod for the growing local shore-based processors.

**PROPOSED BY:** Ernie Weiss

(EF-F18-094)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 06.350. Closed waters.**

Adjust closed waters in the Naknek-Kvichak District, as follows:

I know the board just adjusted this boundary at the special March 8th 2016 meeting to accommodate for some erosion on this beach. It was because of all this closer examination of the marker which led me to realize the problem noted below. Had I noticed sooner I would have asked for accommodation at that 2016 meeting. If you do this my neighbors to the North (five sites) have agreed to move north this distance and amend their DNR leases to resolve this problem.

5 AAC 06.350(b)(1) is amended to read:

(b) The following locations in the Naknek-Kvichak District are closed to the taking of salmon:

(1) those waters northeast of a line from a point near Graveyard Point at [58°52'4.55"N LAT 157° 0'53.39"W. LONG] to a point on the northwest shore of Kvichak Bay at 58° 53.37' N lat., 157° 04.26' W. long.;

I think the Lat Long coordinate provided will be correct but please have your departmental GIS person verify.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** In 1989 DNR issued shore fisheries lease ADL224517 accidentally too close to ADL 26113 (See SFDI 1333). This is about 35' too close at the inner end of our net. I would ask the board to move the Kvichak district boundary enough so that we can amend our leases with DNR so that the inner ends of both nets are appropriately spaced.

**PROPOSED BY:** Reid Ten Kley

(EF-F18-095)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 27.865. Bristol Bay Herring Management Plan.**

Amend the allocations in the *Bristol Bay Herring Management Plan*, as follows:

5AAC 27.865 (b)(4) would be amended by striking "50 percent of" in the last line of the section to read "..., *the commissioner may reallocate the remainder to the Togiak District herring fishery*";".

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Forgone harvest of Togiak herring. The 1,500 short ton set aside for the Togiak District herring spawn-on-kelp fishery has gone unharvested in recent years due to the lack of viable markets for the product available from Togiak Bay. The present regulation states that "*if the actual harvest is less than the herring spawn-on-kelp guideline harvest level, the commissioner may reallocate 50% of the remainder to the Togiak District herring fishery*";". Allowing for reallocation of the whole amount to the Togiak District herring fishery would allow for fuller utilization of the harvestable herring biomass within the Bristol Bay Management Area.

**PROPOSED BY:** Charles Treinen

(EF-F18-096)

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## **PROPOSAL XXX**

### **5 AAC 28.647 Aleutian Islands Subdistrict Pacific Cod Management Plan.**

Modify the Aleutian Island Subdistrict Pacific cod guideline harvest level from year to year, as follows:

(d) during a state-waters season

(1) the guideline harvest level for Pacific cod in the Aleutian Islands Subdistrict is 27 percent of the estimated total allowable harvest of Pacific cod for the federal Aleutian Islands Subarea; if the guideline harvest level established under this paragraph is achieved in a calendar year, the guideline harvest level will be increased to 31 percent of the estimated total allowable harvest of Pacific cod for the federal Aleutian Islands Subarea beginning the next calendar year; if the guideline harvest level is achieved in a calendar year thereafter, the guideline harvest level will be increased to 35 percent of the estimated total allowable harvest of Pacific cod for the federal Aleutian Islands Subareas beginning the next calendar year; if the guideline harvest level is achieved in a calendar year thereafter, the guideline harvest level will be increased to a maximum of 39 percent of the estimated total allowable harvest of Pacific cod for the federal Aleutian Islands Subarea beginning the next calendar year; a guideline harvest level established under this paragraph may not exceed 15 million pounds; **if the guideline harvest level established under this paragraph is not achieved in a calendar year (<85% harvested), the guideline harvest level will be reduced 4 percentage points from the previous year's guideline harvest level percentage of the estimated total allowable harvest of Pacific cod for the federal Aleutian Islands Subarea beginning the next calendar year; a guideline harvest level established under the paragraph may not be less than 11% of the federal ABC.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** At present, the Aleutian Islands Subdistrict GHL is set at 27% of the federal Aleutian Islands Pacific cod acceptable biological catch (ABC or total allowable harvest) and if the GHL is achieved it increases 4 percentage points per year each year it is achieved to a maximum of either 39% of the federal ABC or 15 million lbs. The amount of the GHL is deducted from the Pacific cod federal quota such that Pacific cod ABC – Pacific cod GHL = maximum Pacific cod total allowable catch in the federal fisheries.

Under current Alaska Administrative Code, the Aleutian Islands Subdistrict GHL remains static (27%, 31%, 35%, 39% or 15 million lbs) if the GHL is not achieved and there is no mechanism to roll unused GHL to the federal fisheries or to decrease the GHL if it is not being utilized. In past years, this has stranded unused GHL that could have been harvested in the federal fisheries and this negatively impacts harvesters in the federal CDQ and non-CDQ Pacific cod fisheries as well as the State of Alaska and communities through reduced tax revenue. Allowing for a mechanism to decrease the GHL in the event it isn't utilized allows for the full harvest in the federal fisheries while preserving an opportunity for state-water participants until they achieve the GHL. The intent of this change is that the Aleutian Islands Subdistrict Pacific cod GHL either remains static or changes in +/- 4 percentage point increments from the preceding year's GHL depending on whether the GHL is achieved or not.

**PROPOSED BY:** Aleutian Pribilof Island Community Development Association (EF-F18-097)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 71.030. Methods, means, and general provisions – Finfish.**

Place restrictions on sport fishing guide services in the Aniak River drainage, as follows:

**5 AAC 71.030(new section).**

The following regulations applies to fishing from guided boats in the Aniak River Drainage:

From June 12th to September 20th fishing is not allowed beginning 5:00 PM Friday until 5:00 PM Sunday.

Guide Boats may not carry more than 4 persons at one time. This includes guides, clients and other passengers.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Over the last decade, Guided Sport Fish opportunities on the Aniak River drainage have increased dramatically and as such, user conflicts have multiplied along with concerns over the impact of such use on both the salmon spawning grounds and non-salmon subsistence fishing. The Central Kuskokwim community members along with the Central Kuskokwim Advisory Committee have identified and discussed this increased conflict, which can be found in the meeting notes, over the last 5 years. Subsistence fishing has been negatively impacted by overcrowding and noise pollution on several of the identified traditional, historical and cultural fishing spots up the Aniak River. This user conflict continues throughout the summer disrupting the main source of subsistence fishing taking place up the Aniak drainage for non-salmon species. There is also a deep concern that this over use is impacting critical salmon spawning grounds as several guided boats utilize these areas.

**PROPOSED BY:** Lisa Feyereisen

(EF-F18-098)

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## **PROPOSAL XXX**

### **5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan.**

Repeal and replace the *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan*, as follows:

Erase all of the current 5 AAC 09.365 and replace with the following, edited language from the 2001-2003 plan;

#### **5 AAC 09.365. SOUTH UNIMAK AND SHUMAGIN ISLANDS JUNE SALMON MANAGEMENT PLAN (2001-2002).**

(a) The South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fisheries harvest [BOTH] **chinook salmon**, sockeye salmon and chum salmon in a mixed stock fishery. These stocks of salmon are bound for Bristol Bay and the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim region, as well as other areas across the North Pacific Ocean. These salmon stocks have historically been intercepted in significant numbers along the Alaska Peninsula. To ensure that none of these salmon stocks are overharvested, it is necessary to restrain the interception of these stocks as provided in the management plan in this section, and consistent with the Policy for the Management of Sustainable Salmon Fisheries (5 AAC 39.222) and Policy for the Management of Mixed Stock Salmon Fisheries (5 AAC 39.220)

(b) The South Unimak fishery takes place in the Unimak District, the Ikatán Bay Section in the Southwestern District, and the Bechevin Bay Section in the Northwestern District, plus the following waters of the Southwestern District located outside of the Ikatán Bay Section and not described as closed waters in 5 AAC 09.350;

(1) waters north and west of a line from Cape Pankof Light to Thin Point (54° 57.32' N. lat., 162° 33.50' W. long.); and

(2) waters enclosed by a line from Thin Point (54° 57.32' N. lat., 162 ° 33.50' W. long.) to the northernmost tip of Stag Point (54° 59.10' N. lat., 162° 18.10' W. long.) on Deer Island to the southernmost tip of Dolgoi Cape (55 ° 03.15' N. lat., 161 ° 44.35' W. long.) on Dolgoi Island and from the northernmost tip of Bluff Point (55° 09.93' N. lat., 161° 53.72' W. long.) on Dolgoi Island to ArchPoint Light (55° 12.30' N. lat., 161 ° 54.30' W. long.).

(c) The Shumagin Islands fishery takes place in the Shumagin Islands Section.

(d) Beginning June 10 **through June 30**, the commissioner may open, by emergency order, commercial fishing periods for purse seine and drift gillnet gear as follows:

(1) commercial fishing periods may occur only from 6:00 a .m. to 10:00 p.m. and may not be open for more than

(A) three days in any seven-day period;

(B) 16 hours per day;

(C) 48 hours in any seven-day period;

(D) two consecutive 16-hour fishing periods in any seven-day period;

[(2) THROUGH JUNE 24, COMMERCIAL FISHING PERIODS IN THE SHUMAGIN ISLANDS AND SOUTH UNIMAK FISHERIES WILL OCCUR AT THE SAME TIME;

(3) AFTER JUNE 24, THE PROVISIONS OF (F) APPLY.]

(e) Beginning June 10, the commissioner may open, by emergency order, commercial fishing periods for set gillnet gear in both the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands fisheries as follows:

(1) from June 10 through [JUNE 24] **June 30**,

(A) commercial fishing periods may occur only from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.;

[(B) THE FISHERY WILL BE CLOSED FOR ONE PERIOD IF, DURING THE PRECEDING PERIOD, THE RATIO OF SOCKEYE SALMON TO CHUM SALMON IS NOT EQUAL TO OR GREATER THAN THE RECENT 10 YEAR AVERAGE;

(2) AFTER JUNE 24, THE SCHEDULE OF OPENINGS AND CLOSINGS OF FISHING PERIODS SHALL COINCIDE WITH THE SCHEDULE FOR SEINE AND DRIFT GILLNET GEAR AS SPECIFIED IN (F) OF THIS SECTION.

(F) AFTER JUNE 24, IN EITHER THE SOUTH UNIMAK OR SHUMAGIN ISLANDS FISHERIES,

(1) IF THE RATIO OF SOCKEYE SALMON TO CHUM SALMON IS TWO TO ONE OR LESS ON ANY DAY, THE NEXT DAILY FISHING PERIOD FOR SEINE AND DRIFT GILLNET GEAR SHALL BE OF SIX-HOUR DURATION IN THAT FISHERY;

(2) IF THE RATIO OF SOCKEYE SALMON TO CHUM SALMON IS GREATER THAN TWO TO ONE, THE COMMISSIONER MAY EXTEND THE FISHING PERIOD BY EMERGENCY ORDER, TO A MAXIMUM OF 16 HOURS AS DESCRIBED IN (D)(L ) OF THIS SECTION;

(3) IF THE RATIO OF SOCKEYE SALMON TO CHUM SALMON IS TWO TO ONE OR LESS FOR TWO CONSECUTIVE FISHING PERIODS, THE FISHERY SHALL CLOSE FOR ALL GEAR TYPES.]

(g) All salmon caught by a CFEC permit holder must be retained, and each CFEC permit holder must report the number of salmon caught, including those taken but not sold, on an ADF&G fish ticket. For the purposes of this subsection, "caught" means brought on board the vessel.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Excessive harvest of migrating discrete stocks of concern in the Cook Inlet, Bristol Bay, and AYK areas.

**PROPOSED BY:** Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee

(EF-F18-099)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 74.010. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Tanana River Area.**

Increase the bag and possession limit in Dune Lake, as follows:

Amend: 5 AAC 74.010 (c)(8)

In stocked waters, the bag, possession, and size limit for Rainbow Trout, Arctic char/Dolly Varden, landlocked Salmon, and Arctic Grayling is 10 Salmon, and 5 other fish, of all stocked species combined, of which no more than one fish may be 18 inches or greater in length.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** In Dune Lake, the bag and possession limit for Rainbow Trout, landlocked Salmon, Arctic char/Dolly Varden, and Arctic Grayling, combined, is five fish, of which only one fish may be 18 inches or greater in length. This restrictive harvest was based on a desire for Dune to grow bigger fish. As harvests have declined and stocking numbers are up, fish are not growing as big and the vast majority of the stocked fish die within a couple of years without being utilized. All Silvers die the summer after reaching 12-16 inches. Managing Dune similar to other stocked lakes will simplify the regulations and likely produce more trophy fish while increasing harvest opportunity.

**PROPOSED BY:** Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee

(EF-F18-100)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 27.610. Fishing seasons and periods for Alaska Peninsula-Aleutian Islands Area, and 5 AAC 27.655 Dutch Harbor Food and Bait Herring Fishery Allocation Plan.**

Change season start dates and allocations between drift gillnet and purse seine gear groups in the Dutch Harbor food and bait herring fishery, as follows:

Remove the allocation and season timing sector splits between the gillnet and purse seine gear groups in the Dutch Harbor Food and Bait Herring Fishery, aligning them within a shared fishery where 100% of the allocation and fishing time is available to both gear types.

In 5 AAC 27.655, strike sections (a) and (b) establishing separate allocations to the gillnet and purse seine gear groups.

In 5 AAC 27.610, under section (e) (2), align the season start dates of the gillnet and purse seine gear groups.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Observations on the fishing grounds show herring are arriving to both the Togiak and Dutch Harbor districts earlier. This resulted in a drastic under-harvest in 2016, when the Dutch Harbor fleet was able to capture only 208 tons of the 2,166 allocated. In 2017, reports from local fishermen and processors indicated herring had again returned to the district early, in late June. Timing and allocation separation of the gillnet and purse seine fleets in Dutch Harbor — only one of which has been active in the last 10 years — prevents managers from opening the full fishery to active participants in response to these shifts.

ADFG has recorded zero participation from the Dutch Harbor herring gillnet fleet since 2009. For five years prior to 2009 the effort was small enough to trigger confidentiality requirements that precludes the state from reporting that effort. The purse seine fleet, on the other hand, has maintained consistent participation in the harvest of this important resource. For these reasons, it makes the most sense to remove the now inapplicable allocation split and season start difference between the purse seine and gillnet fleets. This allows managers the flexibility to open the fishery to active participants in response to run timing, managing for effective harvest and in consideration of the ecological changes occurring in Western Alaska and the North Pacific.

**PROPOSED BY:** Dan Veerhusen (EF-F18-101)

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## **PROPOSAL XXX**

### **5 AAC 27.865. Bristol Bay Herring Management Plan.**

Amend the allocation plan between the Bristol Bay herring fishery and the Dutch Harbor food and bait fishery, as follows:

Amend the Bristol Bay Herring Management Plan and Bering Sea Fishery Management Plan to transfer historically unharvested herring from the Togiak District Sac Roe gillnet allocation to the Dutch Harbor Food and Bait allocation in a multi-year tiered transition. Establish a growth limit for this transition by placing a cap on the total Dutch Harbor allocation. The regulation could read as follows:

“In years when the Togiak Sac Roe gillnet fleet harvests 50% or less of their allocation, 10% of the unharvested herring initially allocated to the Togiak gillnet fleet will be transferred in equivalent to the Dutch Harbor Food and Bait fishery, effective during the Dutch Harbor herring season in the same year. This annual transfer provision will continue until the total Dutch Harbor allocation reaches 12%.”

Example Calculation: In 2017, the unharvested Togiak gillnet allocation equaled 5,455 tons of stranded herring. 10% of this is 545.5 tons, or 2.2% of the total available to Togiak and Dutch Harbor fleets combined, after the spawn-on-kelp is deducted. Under the transition provision described, the Dutch Harbor Food and Bait fishery allocation for 2017 would be changed from 7% to 9.2% of the remaining allowable harvest. The 2018 allocation for Dutch Harbor would then start at 9.2%. Should the board choose to address it, the Togiak Sac Roe sector split could shift to reflect a maintained Togiak Sac Roe seine allocation, and a reduced Togiak Sac Roe gillnet allocation.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Lack of effort within the Togiak gillnet fleet has consistently stranded fish that could otherwise be harvested for the benefit of fishery, community and state economies. While the exploitation rate for the Togiak herring resource is set at 20% of the biomass, the 20-year average actual harvest including all sectors has been 17.5%. This equates to an average of 2.5%, or approximately 3,350 tons, of stranded fish in the water every year for the past two decades. The Togiak gillnet fleet specifically harvested at an average rate of 29% below GHF between 2006 and 2015. That is an average of 2,180 tons below GHF. The fleet harvested 80 tons of 8,635 in 2016. In 2017 they harvested 1,428 of 6,883, leaving 5,455 tons of stranded fish.

The Dutch Harbor food and bait fishery, however, is a fully utilized sector of this fishery, providing a high economic value to the region and an important bait resource to local fishermen using pot and longline gear in Western Alaska. A redistribution of historically unharvested herring to an Alaskan fleet prepared to capture its value and maximize it through other Alaskan fleets meets the needs of the Sustained Yield principle established by Section 8 of the Alaska Constitution. A graduated transition plan using a percentage-based adjustment over multiple years allows for a careful transition of a portion of unharvested quota, while respecting the fluctuation of run sizes and the ongoing participation of active user groups.

**PROPOSED BY:** Dan Veerhusen

(EF-F18-102)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 74.010. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Tanana River Area.**

Expand the season for northern pike in Volkmar Lake, as follows:

5 AAC 74.010(c)(28) in Volkmar Lake, Northern Pike may be taken year round with a bag and possession limit of two fish, of which only one fish may be 30 inches or greater in length.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Repeal: April 20 - June 1 Volkmar Lake closure to allow some opportunity over Memorial week.

Issues: The current April 20 - June 1 closure unnecessary restricts fishing opportunities for anglers, particularly for the memorial weekend, and unnecessary complicates the regulations. During the closed period, anglers/cabin owners cannot access the lake until the lake is ice free, which typically occurs during the 3rd and 4th weeks of May after spawning is done. Open water access is by floatplane only, and no one can access the lake between April 20 and when the lake is ice-free. Harvests in Volkmar Lake are very low. In the last ten years (2007-2016), the average harvest was -28 fish, and the average catch was -192 fish. The last abundance estimate was 4,017 Pike > 18 inches. This would result in little or no additional harvest.

**PROPOSED BY:** Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee

(EF-F18-103)

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**PROPOSAL XXX - 5 AAC 74.010.**

**5 AAC 74.010. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Tanana River Area.**

Increase the bag and possession limits in Koole Lake, as follows:

Amend: 5 AAC 74.010 (c)(30)

In stocked waters, the bag, possession, and size limit for Rainbow Trout, Arctic char/Dolly Varden, landlocked Salmon, and Arctic Grayling is 10 of all stocked species combined, of which no more than one fish may be 18 inches or greater in length.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** In Koole Lake, the bag and possession limit for Rainbow Trout, landlocked Salmon, Arctic char/Dolly Varden, and Arctic Grayling, combined, is five fish, of which only one fish may be 18 inches or greater in length. This restrictive harvest was based on a desire for Koole to grow bigger fish. As harvests have declined and stocking numbers are up, fish are not growing as big and the vast majority of the stocked fish die within a couple of years without being utilized. Managing Koole the same as other stocked lakes will simplify the regulations and likely produce more trophy fish while increasing harvest opportunity.

**PROPOSED BY:** Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee

(EF-F18-104)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 01.220. Lawful gear and gear specifications.**

Allow non-salmon take by use of hook and line gear in District 4, as follows:

Allow hook and line gear to be used to catch subsistence non-salmonid fish in the Kaltag, Nulato, and Old Village (or Rodo) River year-round.

We were told that in the regulation book that the winter subsistence exception for hook and line is for all of District 4 but we did not want to speak for the entire district, and these three rivers are important to us and the ones that the people of this area fish with this gear.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The Middle Yukon AC had thought that due to actions on a proposal that they had submitted a long time ago, that it was legal to fish with hook and line for subsistence year round for non-salmonid species in the Kaltag, Nulato and Old Village (or Rodo) Rivers. The people of this area commonly subsistence fish for trout, sheefish, and dollys year-round with gear that they have on hand, including hook and line, and are unaware that this is restricted gear between May 15- September 21. We do not consider this activity sports fishing and find it odd that it would be considered subsistence in the winter but sport in the summer.

**PROPOSED BY:** Middle Yukon Fish and Game Advisory Committee

(EF-F18-105)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 74.010. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Tanana River Area.**

Increase the bag and possession limit of salmon other than king salmon to three of each species in the Tanana River Area, as follows:

Allow the harvest of 3 of each species of "other Salmon" instead of a combined limit of 3.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Currently if one is fishing in an area with both Silvers and Chum, the combined limit is 3 fish. If it is biologically sound to take 3 Silvers and 3 Chum, an Angler should not have a combined limit and should be able to take 3 of each species if they desire.

**PROPOSED BY:** Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee

(EF-F18-106)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 06.330. Gear.**

Allow the use of beach weirs in commercial salmon fishing in Bristol Bay, as follows:

**5 AAC 06.332**

(a) Set beach weirs and their holding pens must be operated 400' away from any other set gill net, beach weir or boundary line.

(b) Weirs are defined as a fixed net or fence system not more than 300' in length and should be operated perpendicular to the shore.

(c) The weir should be constructed of mesh size not larger than 3 inches and be no deeper than 12 feet.

(f) The seaward end of the weir must be not more than 600 feet from the 18 foot mean high waterline.

(e) When fishing periods are closed weirs must be left open to allow fish to pass through without entanglement.

(f) Holding pens for the weir must not go dry with any fish in them, and all weirs must be outfitted with an emergency release door on the down current side of at least 4 feet by 4 feet to let fish out quickly should need arise.

(g) All regulations pertaining to the allocation, opening periods, and districts for set gill nets shall also apply to set beach weirs.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Allow for a new gear group called a beach weir. Alaska salmon are under increased pressure to compete on quality with new salmon farming methods that result in near picture-perfect grocery store presentation. Bristol Bay's gill nets are an effective way of catching fish by a large fleet of small boats, but salmon harvested with gill nets don't yield a high enough quality product to compete in today's market place. It was fine when salmon was all being salted or canned but not when it is sold "fresh frozen" behind glass cases at the grocery store. A beach weir could be a way of harvesting fish with minimal bruising or net marks, non-target species like Kings could be released, and fishermen would never have to go over their processor imposed limits. The new method isn't meant to increase a fisherman's harvest volume just their quality.

Weir permits can be obtained by trading in two valid set net permits. Make this a provisional article lasting two years in order to evaluate its ability to effectively improve quality without disproportionately affecting catch volumes, and to give the stake holders opportunity to repeal it easily if it is found to be disliked. By requiring 400' between a weir and the nearest set net it would require two neighboring set net lease holders to collaborate in order to operate a weir, and the extra space would provide more access to fish for neighboring fishermen.

**PROPOSED BY:** Reid Ten Kley & Russell Phelps

(EF-F18-107)

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## **PROPOSAL XXX**

### **5 AAC 09.331. Gillnet specifications and operations.**

Allow two sets of legal gear to be transported by one vessel as long as both permit holders are on board the vessel. 5 AAC 39.240 (F) A set gillnet salmon fishing vessel in the Alaska Peninsula Area can operate, or assist in operating, or have aboard it or any vessel towed by it, the legal limit of salmon fishing gear for two CFEC permit holders 4 nets, 100 fathoms each of gear as long as both CFEC permit holders are on board the vessel.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Alaska Peninsula set gillnet fishing vessels are not allowed to fish combine on one vessel with two set net CFEC permit holders with their 400 fathoms of legal gear (4 nets). The Alaska Peninsula area has very rough dangerous waters and weather at times and some set gillnet net permit holders in the area only have a small vessel such as a skiff to fish off of which can lead to injury/death or not being able to fish the opener at all resulting in a loss in season profits or crew due to injury. Not all set gillnet vessels can make it to the fishing grounds safely due to vessel size and weather conditions which fishing in combine with larger vessels will benefit both parties.

**PROPOSED BY:** Brian Hartman

(EF-F18-108)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 06.333. Requirements and specifications for use of 200 fathoms of drift gillnet in Bristol Bay.**

Modify permit stacking provisions for the drift gillnet fishery, as follows:

*New language:*

**(h) A person who holds two Bristol Bay drift gillnet CFEC permits may not operate both permits concurrently, on the same vessel, in a “D” configuration. A permit holder may only operate up to 150 fathoms of drift gillnet gear using a single CFEC permit and may not employ a second CFEC permit held by the same individual to operate additional drift gillnet gear.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Additional clarity to existing regulation is requested for the circumstances in which one vessel utilizing a “D” configuration is able to operate 200 fathoms of drift gillnet gear under section 5AAC 06.333. By adding to existing regulations as proposed, the role of single and ownership of two Bristol Bay drift gillnet permits will be clarified and fully outlined for the fleet.

The Bristol Bay Drift Fleet has taken measures through the Board of Fisheries to create a “D” permit configuration which has achieved lasting benefits to both captains and permit holders, and added a measure of gear reduction. Allowing single owner permit stacking would erode the benefits of the “D” configuration, especially to existing crew, “D” permit holders, and new entrants into the fishery.

An SO3T permit has a value which goes up and down directly in line with the economic health of the fishery. Allowing single owner permit stacking would change this relationship, raise permit values, create barriers to entry, and eventually result in an undue consolidation of the fleet.

The Board of Fisheries has taken up the issue of permit stacking for a decade’s worth of meetings, expending several days of discussion each meeting, while consistently arriving at the same decision. Regardless, every cycle new proposals are put in and the Board is required to consider them. An addition to the existing regulation which allowed for 200 fathoms of gear allocated to a vessel is needed to clarify that this benefit cannot be achieved by a single permit holder.

When the Alaska Legislature created the allowance for an individual to own two permits in 2006 they explicitly included language disallowing extra gear. It was made clear this was done as a gear reduction effort. The move to allow an individual to own two permits was done in conjunction with a Southeast buyback program and was not intended to allow an individual to fish more gear.

**PROPOSED BY:** Katherine Carscallen, Susie Jenkins-Brito, Bronson Brito, Mark Schwantes, Robert Heyano, Patricia Treydte, Reba Temple (EF-F18-109)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 28.647. Aleutian Islands Subdistrict Pacific Cod Management Plan.**

Limit the number of groundfish pots in the Aleutian Island Subdistrict Pacific Cod fishery, as follows:

5 AAC 28.647. Aleutian Islands Subdistrict Pacific Cod Management Plan.

(d) During a State-water season

(2) Pacific cod maybe taken only with ground fish pots, mechanical jigging machines, longline, non pelagic trawl, and hand troll gear **no more than 60 groundfish pots may be operated from a vessel registered to fish for pacific cod**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Put a groundfish pot limit on the Aleutian Island Subdistrict Pacific Cod State Water Fishery (Adak).

At present there is no regulation to limit groundfish pots in this district.

All other State Water Pacific Cod Fisheries have a 60 groundfish pot restriction. If left unrestricted there could be a saturation of unattended gear-- ghost gear from a single vessel taking up valuable fishing grounds in an area that is already limited. A 60 groundfish pot limit would help eliminate this problem and ensure maximum use of gear.

**PROPOSED BY:** Daniel Veerhusen

(EF-F18-110)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 06.350. Closed Waters.**

Adjust closed waters in the Naknek-Kvichak District, as follows:

My solution is to move the temporary markers which are still temporary and place them further up at the actual mouth of Graveyard Creek taking in account for much erosion and continued erosion where I will continue to move my sight further back in my line each year as necessary. The last Board proceedings claimed that if this location could have been determined they would have been able to restore my fishing rights. I plea to all members of the Board to end my hardship and vote for a solution or remedy to avoid any further hardship to be endured. I plan to provide measurements, photographs of Graveyard Creek.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** My proposal is made requesting all Board Members to vote to restore my fishing right(s) at Graveyard Point inside Graveyard Creek located in the Naknek Kvichak District of Bristol Bay. I respectfully request the legal right be restored to fish again. So I can return to my historical location and simply resume fishing as a set netter this coming up season without further delay or hardship to me or my family in 2019. Without my fishing site(s) I will have nothing to show for my children to inherit the family business after fishing for over 40 plus years, essentially my entire life. My family is part of a fishing legacy spanning over 60 years. Where for decades we have shared with others, life as commercial fisherman, where we once all knew one another. A place where my last name Grossi was synonymous with Graveyard Point as were other family's (our friends and neighbors) who were there since the beginning with us. We are now the second and third generation handing down the family tradition to our children our mother and father's grandchildren are now ready to learn the business as well and carry the tradition forward as it should be for all of us who choose this way of life. With the passing of my personal proposal an injustice will be repaired which occurred without any advance notice several years ago causing great hardship just days prior to fishing being opened in our district. This occurred when ADFG placed temporary markers at the beginning of the season across the creek creating a (boundary line) which did not permit me to fish any longer behind there newly established point, without breaking the law. I was told by Alaska Troopers that if I fished in closed waters I would forfeit my catch and my vessel and equipment would be seized leaving me no other avenue other than finding relief with the Board of Fisheries proposal process which I have had to find my way. My family and I have fished in Graveyard Creek free of any legal issues regarding regulatory laws and we have fished uncontested for decades. We have been seen harvesting salmon year after year. I have never been issued any citation nor have I received any demerit points ever in my life or career and my presence is well documented. I plan to provide all necessary documentation to substantiate all of my claims made in this proposal.

Allowing me to return fishing to the only place I have ever fished since a child of 2 years in the skiff with my mother, father and brother is why I'm here again 4 years later. The transcript is evidence the meembers then gave great consideration and wanted to support the return but fell short to details which I will remedy with the documentation to receive the same support and return my grandfathered rights to me.

My father won our legal proceedings to make me (Agostino Grossi) the youngest Limited Entry Set Net Permit Holder in the State of Alaska. The documentation is irrefutable and the evidence overwhelming as to the place I have historically fished night and day for over 40 years including family members before me.

**PROPOSED BY:** Agostino Grossi

(EF-F18-111)

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## **PROPOSAL XXX**

### **5 AAC 15.357. Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan.**

Open the Western District for up to 48 hours each week from June 1 to July 5, as follows:

5 AAC 15.357. Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan.

Amend (e) to read:

(e) Notwithstanding the provisions of (d) of this section, in the Western District, excluding the Inner Castle Cape Subsection, the commercial salmon fishery shall open concurrently with the Chignik Bay and Central Districts, and the inner Castle Cape Subsection of the Western District, from 1 June through July 5 for no more than 48 hours each week with a closure of not less than 48 hours between fishing periods.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? WESTERN DISTRICT ---- PROVIDE WEEKLY FISHING OPPORTUNITY UP TO 48Hrs. JUNE – JULY 5 UNDER TERMINAL STOCK MGMT.**

The Western District of the Chignik Management Area (CMA) borders the Central District and its eastern boundary is only 30 miles from Chignik Lagoon. The CMA's Perryville District, which lies between Area M's Southeastern District Mainland (SEDM) and Chignik's Western District, is about 55 miles in width. The Eastern District is east of the Central District of the CMA and borders the Kodiak Management Area at the Cape Igvak Section. Immediately west and east of the CMA are two Board of Fisheries sanctioned Chignik interception fisheries, to the west the Area M SEDM Fishery and to the east the Kodiak Cape Igvak Fishery. Both are specifically managed for early and late run Chignik-bound sockeye salmon June through July 25.

Currently the Western District is managed exclusively on Chignik-bound sockeye salmon from 1 June through 5 July. However permitted are only two 48 hour maximum periods in those 6 weeks. Requested is the opportunity for a single (1) 48-hour fishing period per week in the Western District through July 5 when the Central and Chignik Bay (Chignik Lagoon) districts are open. Justification is that Chignik-bound sockeye interception fisheries are well established on the west and east sides of the CMA June through July 25, and in recognition of such, a modest increase within the CMA fishing grounds is reasonable given that Western District openings would be totally dependent on local-stock availability, escapement goals being met, and concurrent openings in the CMA districts to the east including Chignik Lagoon. In further support it bears recognition that the Perryville District would continue to provide a buffer between the Western District and the SEDM of Area M as the Perryville District is closed to salmon fishing June through early July. Lastly, the CMA seine fleet should not be ham-strung by a 'keep-them-in-the-box philosophy' as held by some who would say that the fleet does not require more fishing area for local stock exploitation simply because any deviation from the past could be precedent setting. To a degree one might find this arbitrary and certainly well less than objective and unfair.

For evaluation, a 3-year sunset provision could be applied on the proposed regulatory change.

**PROPOSED BY:** Don Bumpus

(HQ-F18-001)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 01.270. Lawful gear and gear specifications and operations.**

Add dip nets as gear for subsistence fishing in the Kuskokwim Area, as follows:

Allow subsistence dipnetting during gillnet opening: to ensure that people who don't have gillnets have the opportunity to get fish.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Allow dipnetting during subsistence gillnetting because some people don't own gillnet and don't want too much fish caught.

**PROPOSED BY:** Iqurmiut Tribal Council

(HQ-F18-002)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 07.331. Gillent specifications and operations.**

Increase net size to 8 inches for subsistence and commercial salmon fishing, as follows:

Increase net sizes to 8 inches for salmon fishing either for subsistence or commercial fishing.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Net sizes, commercial openings. Find a fish buyer for commercial fishing only income fishermen get because jobs are scarce in the villages.

**PROPOSED BY:** Kasigluk Traditional Council

(HQ-F18-003)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 75.024. Gear for fly-fishing-only waters.**

Allow the use of two artificial flies, as follows:

Change the regulation for "Gear for fly-fishing only regulations" as follows: ... "with not more than **two** [ONE] unweighted, single-hook fly with gap between point and shank of 3/8 inch or less; and" ... add the following as the third bullet: **Note that this definition supersedes all other regulations related to specific waters by allowing the use of two artificial flies Statewide but not the use of two artificial lures.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Statewide regulations at "gear for fly-fishing-only waters" (e.g. page 7 of the Southcentral regulations) do not allow for the commonly accepted practice of using two flies in tandem i.e. two wet flies/nymphs or the "hopper-dropper combination. Other places in the Southcentral regulations (p. 65 Anchor River; p. 66 Deep Creek; p. 51 Kenai River; p. 57 Kenai River) or the Bristol Bay regulations, (p. 20 Brooks River; p. 18 Iliamna Lake region), for example, also only allow for the use of a single artificial fly.

We propose that Statewide regulations and other regulations specific to individual waters be changed to allow for the use of two artificial flies.

If the regulation is not changed sport anglers will not have the opportunity to fish with two flies, and common practice which has been employed in the rest of the world since fly-fishing was invented. People may be concerned that this proposal will increase the ability to snag fish, but be retaining the 3/8 inch or less hook size limitation, this should be avoided.

**PROPOSED BY:** Phil Brna and Mike Brown

(HQ-F18-004)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 28.647. Aleutian Islands Subdistrict Pacific Cod Management Plan.**

Repeal and replace the Aleutian Island Subdistrict Pacific Cod Management Plan with the management measures found in the Dutch Harbor Subdistrict Pacific Cod Management Plan, as follows:

The recently created Dutch Harbor Subdistrict state-waters Pacific cod fishery has been very successful and proved that 58-foot pot vessels can efficiently and effectively harvest cod in the Bering Sea. To improve access for traditional state-waters fishermen, I recommend the Board of Fisheries repeal the Aleutian Island Subdistrict Pacific cod management plan and replace it with the same management measures found in the Dutch Harbor Subdistrict Pacific cod management plan (5 A.AC 287.648). This would follow a proven and consistent management approach and will align the Aleutian Islands Subdistrict with all the other state-waters Pacific cod fisheries around the state.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The Aleutian Islands Subdistrict state-waters Pacific cod management plan is overly complex and inconsistent with all other state-waters Pacific cod fisheries in Alaska. State-waters Pacific cod fisheries were established to support local fixed gear (pot and jig) cod fishermen by specifically allocating cod quota to each gear type which provides stability for local fleets and allows for long term investment into the fishery. In the Aleutian Islands state-waters fishery, pot, jig, longline, and bottom trawl vessels up to 100 feet in length can participate. Bottom trawling inside state-waters is almost exclusively prohibited in all other areas of the state. Additionally, the Aleutian Islands state-waters GHL is not allocated to the different gear types which makes it difficult to commit to traveling to one of the most remote fishing locations in Alaska without any understanding on how much fishing time will be available to you once you get there.

With the recent collapse of cod stocks in the Gulf of Alaska, processors are available and 58- foot pot vessels are ready and capable of catching the full GHL. Access to these fish will be critical for traditional state-waters Pacific cod participants for the foreseeable future.

**PROPOSED BY:** Ron Kavanaugh

(HQ-F18-005)

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## **PROPOSAL XXX**

### **5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan, and 5 AAC 09.366. Post June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula.**

Expand the Dolgoi Island Area as defined in the *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management* and *Post June Salmon Management Plans* for the South Alaska Peninsula, as follows:

#### **5 AAC 09.365 (f): replace and amend to read:**

Notwithstanding (d) of this section, commercial salmon fishing will close in the waters of the Dolgoi Island Area, defined as statistical areas 283-20 thru 283-26 and 284-36 thru 284-42, when the catch reaches 191,000 sockeye salmon based on fish ticket information.

#### **5 AAC 09.366. Post June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula.**

##### **amend (b) to read:**

Beginning 1 July and extending through July 25 commercial salmon fishing periods in the waters of the Dolgoi Island Area, defined as statistical areas 283-15 thru 283-26 and 284-36 thru 284-42, will be equivalent and concurrent with that provided in waters of the SEDM as regulated on the harvest of Chignik-bound sockeye salmon July 1 - July 25 in accordance with 5 AAC 09.360.

##### **amend (j) to read:**

Notwithstanding (b) as amended above, the commercial salmon fishery through July 25 will close in the waters of the Dolgoi Island Area, defined as statistical areas 283-15 thru 283-26 and 284-36 thru 284-42, when the harvest of 191,000 sockeye salmon is reached based on fish ticket information.

#### **What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? June - July 25 DOLGOI ISLAND FISHERY**

The Dolgoi Island Area fishery through July 25<sup>th</sup> needs to be modified for improved accountability and a stock conservation requirement on Chignik-bound sockeye salmon. Currently there is no provision to ensure that over-exploitation does not occur when Chignik's early and late run stocks are failing which happened in two of three years during the WASSIP study and again in 2014. In those years the Igvak and SEDM fisheries were closed to safeguard Chignik escapements and protect Chignik's harvest preference, and yet the Dolgoi Island Area was fished. As evident from the WASSIP study about one-half of the Dolgoi Island Area catch is migrating Chignik sockeye salmon.

The current regulation provides that only a portion of the Dolgoi Island Area fishery will close when 191,000 sockeye salmon have been harvested based on fish ticket information. That is not working for three reasons: 1.) Fishing is still permitted on east-bound Chignik fish in portions of the Dolgoi area not closed; 2.) When fish ticket numbers do reach 191k the Department is providing a 6- to 12 hours (depending on the year) extension to accommodate purse seine and gill net gear removal which therein permits more harvest beyond the intended 191k limit and; 3.) Very

importantly there is no control on the Dolgoi the harvest when Chignik is not achieving escapement and/or their terminal 600k harvest preference.

A reasonable solution is to regulate the Dolgoi Island Area fishery with a 191k sockeye limit applied to the entire area through July 25<sup>th</sup> and a stock conservation provision in July similar to that provided in the Igvak and SEDM Chignik interception fisheries. To the point, proposed is for the entire Dolgoi Island fishery from June 1 through July 25 to close once the catch reaches 191,000 sockeye salmon based on fish ticket information and with fishing periods beginning July 1 and ending on July 25 limited to the days and hours provided in the Southeast District Management Plan excluding the Northwest Stepovak Section which is managed as a terminal stock fishery.

Note: There is no intent to close any terminal-stock harvest area managed as such in the Dolgoi Island Area nor impact the SEDM fishery or its allocation

**PROPOSED BY:** George Anderson

(HQ-F18-006)

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## **PROPOSAL XXX**

### **5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan. and 5 AAC 09.366. Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula.**

Lots of different things.

Amend and repeal those parts of 5 AAC 09.365 and 5 AAC 09.366 that direct the department to manage statistical areas 283-20, 283-21, 283-23, 283-25, 283-26, 284-36 thru 284-39, and 284-42, as follows:

#### **5 AAC 09.365 (d): amend to include the following and repeal 5 AAC 09.365 (f).**

(\*) for set gillnet gear in the Dolgoi Island Area (Statistical Areas 283-20, 283-21, 283-23, 283-25, 283-26, 284-36 thru 284-39, and 284-42),

(A) beginning June 7 commercial fishing periods will begin at 6:00 a.m. and run 66 hours until 11:59 p.m. two days later; commercial fishing will then close for 54 hours and reopen at 6:00 a.m. three days later.

(B) notwithstanding (A) of this paragraph, the final commercial fishing period will end at 11:59 p.m. on June 28.

(\*) for seine and drift gillnet gear in the Dolgoi Island Area (Statistical Areas 283-20, 283-21, 283-23, 283-25, 283-26, 284-36 thru 284-39, and 284-42),

(A) beginning June 10 commercial fishing periods will begin at 6:00 a.m. and run 66 hours until 11:59 p.m. two days later; commercial fishing will then close for 54 hours and reopen at 6:00 a.m. three days later.

(B) notwithstanding (A) of this paragraph, the final commercial fishing period will end at 11:59 p.m. on June 27.

#### **5 AAC 09.366 (c): amend to include the following and repeal 5 AAC 09.366 (j).**

(\*) In the Dolgoi Island Area (Statistical Areas 283-20, 283-21, 283-23, 283-25, 283-26, 284-36 thru 284-39, and 284-42).

Amend (e) to read:

(e) Notwithstanding the provisions of (d) of this section, commercial fishing periods will be equivalent and concurrent with that provided in waters of the SEDM as regulated on the harvest of Chignik-bound sockeye salmon July 1 - July 25 in accordance with 5 AAC 09.360.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Dolgoi Island Area Fishery of Area M South Peninsula June 1–July 25.

The Dolgoi Island Area fishery, June thru July 25, is absent of a stock-conservation assignment on Chignik-bound sockeye salmon and a parallel provision for ensuring a harvest preference for the Chignik terminal-stock fishery. Known is that the Dolgoi fishery targets primarily Bristol Bay (BB) and Chignik bound sockeye salmon, and other non-local sockeye stocks (Upper CI and Kodiak sockeye). While its impact on BB sockeye is rather negligible, the fishery substantially impacts eastward traveling sockeye salmon headed for Chignik. The WASSIP study verified

such even during two of the three study years when the two Chignik runs were relatively weak (2007 & 08).

In 2007 and 2008, Area M's Southeastern District Mainland (SEDM) fishery was closed due to Chignik-run failures, but the Dolgoi Island Area fishery remained open. Similarly in Kodiak's 2008 Igvak fishery on Chignik-bound sockeye it too was completely closed and again, in 2014 along with the SEDM fishery. In those years Dolgoi Island Area fished without any limit on the harvest of Chignik-bound sockeye salmon or sharing in the conservation burden. It is quite reasonable for the Dolgoi fishery, based on the 2006-08 WASSIP study which identified an average 50% Chignik-stock component, to shoulder a conservation assignment on Chignik sockeye salmon along with a minimum harvest preference as provided in the Igvak and SEDM plans for the Area L Chignik fishery.

Certainly the Dolgoi Island Area fishery is historic. However, it has accelerated and now having more impact on Chignik-bound sockeye than in the past. Catch numbers have increased and the recently imposed 191,000 sockeye salmon limit is not comprehensive to where there is accounting for weakness or failures in either of the two Chignik runs. In the 2016 Dolgoi fishery 429,000 sockeye were harvested through July 25<sup>th</sup> and in 2017 the catch was 258,000. The excessive catches were due to a combination of factors but mainly owing to a false assumption that the cap would effectively prevent catches from exceeding a total of about 200,000 sockeye salmon through July 25<sup>th</sup>. Such was not the case. Of the 429,000 sockeye taken in the 2016 fishery 175,000 were harvested after the closure of the statistical areas covered by the cap. In 2017 66,000 sockeye salmon were harvested in excess of the 191,000 cap. Secondly leading to those overages, management permitted continued fishing in the prescribed closed areas 12 hours after fish tickets tallied 191k and for 6 hours in the 2017 fishery. The justification cited was time needed to accommodate orderly gear removal. At Chignik in 2017 due to a poor second run mainly only 897,000 sockeye salmon were harvested, an amount 40% less than the averages for 2007-16 and 2012-16 and not enough to sustain the fleet and local villages without record high catches of other salmon species which thankfully occurred with the local pink and chum salmon runs. Reasonable safeguards are needed in the interception fisheries known to harvest strong numbers of Chignik bound sockeye salmon; the Board has acknowledged this in the current Igvak and SEDM plans, and this is needed in the Dolgoi Island fishery to safeguard, as best possible, the economic and cultural viability of the Chignik salmon fishery.

As current regulations stand the Dolgoi Island Area fishes regardless of whether the early and/or late Chignik runs fail or where escapement needs are barely met or even not met which could be the case for the 2018 early run. Presently, ADF&G is projecting the lower end on the 80% confidence range on Chignik's 2018 first-run to be zero (0) fish----- no catch or escapement.

The change being proposed is to adjust the fishing time in June in the Dolgoi Island Area to 75% of the current assigned time through June and thereafter, July 1-25, provide fishing time equivalent and concurrent with that provided in waters of the SEDM as regulated on the interception of Chignik bound sockeye salmon. But importantly, none of the Dolgoi sockeye salmon catch would be assigned to or against the 7.6% SEDM-Chignik allocation, and there

would **not be** a 191,000 sockeye cap imposed on the Dolgoi Island Area Fishery June 1-July 25 as provided in current regulation.

**PROPOSED BY:** Jacob Shangin

(HQ-F18-007)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 05.310. Fishing seasons.**

Repeal the District 6 commercial salmon fishing season fixed closure date and replace with a closure date established by emergency order, as follows:

5 AAC 05.310

Except as provided in 5 AAC 05.320 - 5 AAC 05.380, salmon may be taken only as follows:

...

(4) in District 6, the commissioner shall open the season by emergency order and close the season [ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1 AT 12:01 A.M.] by emergency order.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The reason that the request is being made is that the fall chum commercial market in the Tanana Drainage has changed from primarily a roe market to a dog food market and the buyers don't want the fish until the weather cools down so that the fish does not spoil. With the later warmer weather Alaska has been experiencing lately the manager's need more flexibility in the season closure dates so that we, the catchers/sellers, can meet the buyers demand. The run starts in August, and we don't even start fishing until around September 15 because we are waiting for this cooler weather so much of the run has already gone by and it is our understanding that at this time escapement goals probably have already been met in this drainage. When the roe fishery was more popular, there were many more wheels operating in District 6 and the wheels started in August, which is when the closure date was established for the drainage. Now that the fishery has changed, there are only four wheels operating in the district, and as previously stated the wheels don't start turning until the cooler weather of mid-September hits.

**PROPOSED BY:** John Krieg

(HQ-F18-008)

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## **PROPOSAL XXX**

### **5 AAC 15.357. Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan.**

Reduce harvest activity in the Perryville and Western Districts from June 1 through July 5, as follows:

5 AAC 15.357. Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan.

Amend (e) to read:

(e) Notwithstanding the provisions of (d) of this section, in the Western District, excluding the Inner Castle Cape Subsection, the commercial salmon fishery may be opened and closed concurrently with the Chignik Bay and Central Districts, and the inner Castle Cape Subsection of the Western District, from 1 June through July 5.

And in the Perryville District from 1 June through July 5, three 48 hour salmon fishing periods may be permitted subject to concurrent fishing in the Chignik Bay and Central Districts, and the inner Castle Cape Subsection of the Western District and not less than a closure of 48 hours or more between periods.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? PROVIDE LIMITED SALMON FISHING IN THE PERRYVILLE AND WESTERN DISTRICTS, JUNE 1 THROUGH JULY 5 ON CHIGNIK SOCKEYE SALMON.**

On behalf of the Native Villages of Perryville and Ivanof Bay respectfully requested is that the Alaska Board of Fisheries provide limited harvest opportunity on Chignik-bound sockeye salmon in the Perryville and Western Districts during June and early July. The purpose is to reduce travel time and other expenses for village fishermen, and secondarily provide more orderly fishing and fleet dispersal opportunities for all Chignik fishermen.

During June and early July in the Western and PV Districts the primary sockeye stock is Chignik-bound fish as evident by the Area M SEDM fishery, immediately to the west of Perryville, which is regulated in June and July on east-bound Chignik sockeye salmon exclusively. Further evidence is in the Dolgoi Island Area. Based on the most recent genetic study about one-half of the catch in those waters, 76 miles to the west of the Perryville District, are migrating Chignik fish. It is also known that east-bound Chignik sockeye salmon are harvested in the Shumagin Islands in June and well into July.

Our villages, Perryville and Ivanof Bay, are dependent on salmon fishing culturally and economically, and we want to preserve, cultivate, and maintain our way of life without having to be reliant on Chignik and Chignik Lagoon as a fishery base. It is extremely difficult and costly for local fishermen to travel home between closures, which can be extensive. As previously stated, we would like access to Chignik bound salmon when escapement needs are being met according to terminal-stock management on Chignik sockeye salmon. Currently the entire Perryville District is completely closed in June and early July, and in the Western District a maximum of only two 48 hour fishing periods or 4 days are allowed, if at all. This we find insufficient and burdening. We ask only for fairness and consideration and not a handout or special treatment. Thank you.



**PROPOSED BY:** Patrick Kosbruk and Edgar Shangin

(HQ-F18-009)

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## **PROPOSAL XXX**

### **5 AAC 01.190. Subdistrict 1 of the Norton Sound District Chum Salmon Management Plan.**

Repeal the Norton Sound District Chum Salmon Management Plan in the subsistence regulation section and add it to the commercial fishery regulation section, as follows:

### **5 AAC 04.XXX. Subdistrict 1 of the Norton Sound District Salmon Management Plan.**

(a) The purpose of this management plan is to provide the department with management guidelines for the sustained yield of salmon stocks in Subdistrict 1 of the Norton Sound District. The department shall manage, to the extent practicable, the subsistence, sport, and commercial fisheries in Subdistrict 1 to achieve escapement goals.

(1) in the subsistence fishery,

(A) subsistence salmon fishing will be opened and closed by emergency order on a stream-by-stream basis, to be determined by the department, when salmon stocks are abundant enough to achieve escapement goals and provide a harvestable surplus;

(b) Commercial chum, coho, pink salmon fisheries may be opened in the waters east or west of Cape Nome, or both, by emergency order, only after the department projects escapement goals or needs will be achieved and harvestable surpluses of Nome Subdistrict salmon stocks will adequately provide for subsistence uses.

(1) In the commercial fishery from June 20–July 31,

(A) If chum salmon escapement is projected to be exceed the lower bound of the escapement goal range, the department may allow up to 48 hours of commercial fishing per week;

(B) If chum salmon escapement is projected to exceed the midpoint of the escapement goal range, the department may allow up to 96 hours of commercial fishing per week;

(C) If chum salmon escapement is projected to exceed the upper bound of the escapement goal range, the department may allow up to 144 hours of commercial fishing per week;

(D) If chum salmon subsistence fishing is restricted, the commissioner may, by emergency order, close a commercial fishery and immediately reopen a commercial pink salmon fishery during which chum salmon may be retained, but not sold;

(2) In the commercial fishery from August 1-September 7,

(A) If coho salmon escapement is projected to fall below the long-term average escapement and/or subsistence fishing time is reduced in season, commercial fishing will be closed.

(B) If coho salmon escapement is projected to approximate the long-term average escapement, the department may allow up to 96 hours of commercial fishing per week.

(C) If coho salmon escapement is projected to be above the average escapement, the department may allow up to 120 hours of commercial fishing per week.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** It is recommended that the Nome Subdistrict chum salmon management plan be amended to provide guidance for management of commercial and subsistence fisheries and placed under commercial sections of regulation like all other Norton Sound Subdistrict management plans. Re-draft the Nome Subdistrict salmon management plan as follows:

If adopted, this proposal would provide the department with guidance and flexibility to adjust commercial fishing time based on observed escapements and projected run abundance from June 20 to September 7. The existing regulations were developed during a time when chum salmon were declared stocks of concern and the local subsistence fishery was closed or managed under Tier II regulation. Stocks have recovered, monitoring of salmon escapements is much improved, and escapement goals have been refined. In other words, regulatory management needs to catch-up with management in practice.

Currently regulations do not allow for commercial salmon fishing in the Nome Subdistrict prior to July 2 irrespective of chum salmon abundance and limited fishing effort in the Nome Subdistrict. Under the current management plan, fishing periods are restricted to no more than two 24-hour periods per week.

Estimates of chum salmon run abundance to the Nome Subdistrict since 2010 have ranged from well above average to record setting. Escapements of chum salmon at most Nome Subdistrict streams have exceeded the upper bound of escapement goal ranges leading to underutilized harvest surpluses. The proposed changes would allow the department to continue managing for a subsistence priority while providing more flexibility to commercially harvest surpluses in times of abundance.

**PROPOSED BY:** Northern Norton Sound Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F18-010)  
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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 04.320. Fishing Periods.**

Remove restriction on the length of fishing periods in Norton Sound Subdistrict 1, as follows:

**5 AAC 04.320**

...

In the Norton-Sound Port Clarence Area, salmon may be taken only during periods established by emergency order. In subdistrict 1, salmon may be taken during no more than two 24-hour fishing periods per week established under this section.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** We propose to amend 5 AAC 04.320 so that fishing periods are established by Emergency Order throughout the Norton Sound District and Port Clarence District, including the Nome Subdistrict (Subdistrict 1). The department has incrementally increased the length of fishing periods from 24-hours to as much as 72-hours in certain instances in response to strong salmon runs. Nome Subdistrict chum salmon stocks have been re-built and are no longer designated as stocks of concern. Additionally, coho salmon runs to Nome Subdistrict rivers have supported record subsistence and commercial harvests in recent years. Substantial ground-based escapement monitoring infrastructure with several years of data have been established in the years following the adoption of severe restrictions to Nome Subdistrict fisheries. Commercial fishing effort is limited to a handful of permit holders and is expected to remain so. Removing the restriction on fishing period length in the Nome Subdistrict will ensure regulations are consistent with current management practices and give managers flexibility to set fishing periods that take run abundance and anticipated fishing effort into account.

**PROPOSED BY:** Northern Norton Sound Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F18-011)

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## **PROPOSAL XXX**

### **5 AAC 04.310. Fishing Seasons.**

Amend fishing seasons in Norton Sound, as follows:

#### **5 AAC 04.320**

...

Except as provided in 5 AAC 01.190 and 5 AAC 04.320 – 5 AAC 04.390, salmon may be taken only follows:

- (1) In Subdistrict 1, from a date established by emergency order after July 1 through August 31
- (2) In Subdistricts 2 and 3, from a date established by emergency order between June 8 to June 20 through August 31
- (3) In Subdistricts 4–6, from a date established by emergency order between June 8 to June 20, through September 7;
- (4) In the Port Clarence District, during fishing periods established by emergency order from July 1 through July 31.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** It is recommended that season dates in northern Norton Sound, including Subdistrict 1, be amended to reflect recent management practices of prosecuting salmon fisheries beyond the existing regulatory closure date of August 31. Since the early 2000s, the overall trend toward increased coho salmon abundance in northern Norton Sound has led to commercial fishing opportunities being extended into September via Emergency Order. This is particularly evident in low water years with delayed coho salmon migration and in years of above average coho salmon runs that often have late pulses of fish near the tail end of the run.

Additionally, in warm years with earlier than average chum salmon run timing, there is no reason to delay the onset of Nome Subdistrict commercial chum salmon fishery in years of sufficient abundance. In years of lower abundance or later salmon run timing, the department retains the discretion to delay openings until escapement goals are achieved and subsistence uses of chum salmon are not jeopardized. However, in years of high abundance, an earlier start would provide the department with early indices of run strength and provide commercial users with additional opportunity.

Therefore, we propose that the potential opening of a commercial fishery in the Nome Subdistrict occur via a date established by Emergency Order on or after June 20. This would result in an alignment of season dates for all northern Norton Sound Subdistricts. We propose amending 5 AAC 04.310 as follows.

**PROPOSED BY:** Northern Norton Sound Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F18-012)

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## **PROPOSAL XXX**

### **5AAC 04.362. Guideline harvest range for Port Clarence District.**

Repeal and replace the sockeye salmon Port Clarence District guideline harvest range and Pilgrim River inriver run goal with a Port Clarence District salmon management plan, as follows:

### **5 AAC 04.362. Port Clarence District Salmon and the Pilgrim River Sockeye Salmon Management Plan.**

(a) The purpose of this management plan is to provide the department with management guidelines for the sustained yield of sockeye salmon stocks in Port Clarence District and in the Pilgrim River from July 1 through August 15.

- (1) In the subsistence fishery,
  - (A) If the average sockeye salmon escapement from the previous two years is below the lower bound of the Pilgrim River sockeye salmon escapement goal range, the subsistence harvest limit for sockeye salmon will be no greater than 25 sockeye salmon per household;
  - (B) If the average sockeye salmon escapement from the previous two years is between the lower bound and midpoint of the Pilgrim River sockeye salmon escapement goal range, the subsistence harvest limit for sockeye salmon will be no greater than 50 sockeye salmon per household;
  - (C) If the average sockeye salmon escapement from the previous two years is between the midpoint and upper bound of the Pilgrim River sockeye salmon escapement goal range, the subsistence harvest limit for sockeye salmon will be no greater than 100 sockeye salmon per household;
- (2) If the Pilgrim River sockeye salmon escapement goal is projected to be achieved, a commercial fishery may be opened by emergency order in the Port Clarence District consisting of not more than
  - (A) two 24-hour periods per week if the average sockeye salmon escapement from the previous two years is above the midpoint of the Pilgrim River sockeye salmon escapement goal range,
  - (B) two 48-hour periods per week if the average sockeye salmon escapement from the previous two years is above the upper bound of the Pilgrim River sockeye escapement goal range.
- (a) Notwithstanding the provisions of (a), emergency orders may allow additional inseason adjustments to fishing time, area, and gear, including waiving subsistence limits and implementation of fishery closures, to achieve escapement goals and ensure optimal utilization of salmon harvestable surpluses.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** 5 AAC 04.362 was promulgated in 2007 when there were only four years of weir counts and an incomplete limited understanding of the adverse impacts of large sockeye salmon escapements on the health of Salmon Lake. Beginning in 2009, the stock underwent a collapse due to successive large escapements ranging from 35,000–85,000 sockeye salmon from 2003–2007 that most likely exceeded the carrying capacity of the lake. Beginning in 2014, runs to Salmon Lake began to increase dramatically again resulting in record-setting subsistence harvest levels in the Pilgrim River and Port Clarence District. Recent limnological, smolt outmigration, and adult age, sex and size composition data indicate that another dramatic decline in runs is likely in the coming years.

At the time 5 AAC 04.362 was adopted, an arbitrary threshold level of inriver abundance was put forward as a trigger point to allow commercial fishing. This was largely due to incomplete knowledge regarding the level of subsistence need on the Pilgrim River, as well as an absence of a ground-based escapement goal for sockeye salmon. Since this regulation was adopted, several more years of high quality escapement, age, and subsistence harvest data have been collected.

These data have led directly to the department proposing a weir-based goal of 6,800–30,000 sockeye salmon, and more reliable estimates of subsistence harvests needs in high abundance years (10,000–15,000 fish). If the new proposed escapement goal range is adopted, subsistence and commercial fishery management should be predicated on escapements evaluated in the context of the goal, cumulative impacts of recent year escapements on the capacity of Salmon Lake to support rearing sockeye salmon, and anticipated subsistence harvest needs. Specifically, we recommend amending 5 AAC 04.362 to an escapement-based management plan and harvest policy that takes into account impacts to Salmon Lake of recent year escapements, current year escapement observations and projections and subsistence harvest needs.

**PROPOSED BY:** Northern Norton Sound Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F18-013)  
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## **PROPOSAL XXX**

### **5 AAC 01.182. Tier II subsistence chum salmon fishery.**

Repeal the Tier II subsistence chum salmon fishery, as follows:

#### **5 AAC 01.182**

...

Repealed.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** We propose eliminating 5 AAC 01.182 altogether. The department has not implemented Tier II regulations since 2004. In 2005, the department waived Tier II restrictions early in the season, gave all applicants a Tier I harvest permit, and eventually waived subsistence harvest limits on chum salmon. Since 2005, harvestable surpluses above chum salmon escapement needs have occurred in all years except 2009 rendering Tier II regulations moot.

There is widespread consensus amongst stakeholders area managers that the implementation of Tier II restrictions was onerous, divisive, and ultimately unnecessary. It is more effective to implement restrictions in fishing time, area, and gear in season, including the use of closures to conserve chum salmon for escapement needs, such as in 2009. Additionally, subsistence harvest pressure by Nome residents has shifted predominantly toward sockeye salmon on the Pilgrim River, and coho and pink salmon in Nome Subdistrict subsistence fisheries. The likelihood that Tier II restrictions will ever be implemented again is remote.

**PROPOSED BY:** Northern Norton Sound Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F18-014)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 27.865. Bristol Bay Herring Management Plan.**

Increase the amount of harvestable surplus of Togiak Herring allocated to the purse seine fleet from 70 percent to 88 percent, as follows:

(5) after the herring spawn-on-kelp harvest and the Dutch Harbor food and bait fishery have been subtracted, the remaining harvestable surplus is allocated to the Togiak District herring fishery; the department shall manage for a removal of 12 PERCENT [30 percent] of that surplus by the gillnet fleet and 88 PERCENT [70 percent] by the purse seine fleet.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Gillnet participation in the Togiak Herring fishery has changed substantially since the current allocation was adopted by the Board of Fisheries. The reduced gillnet effort has resulted in large amounts of surplus Togiak Herring not being harvested in the Togiak Herring Fishery.

**PROPOSED BY:** Robert Heyano

(HQ-F18-015)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 06.358. Wood River Sockeye Salmon Special Harvest Area Management Plan.**

Close the Wood River Special Harvest Area to commercial fishing for sockeye, as follows:

RIVER EXCEEDS 1,100,000 FISH AND THE ESCAPEMENT IS PROJECTED TO EXCEED 1,400,000 FISH;)

[(5) WHEN THE WOOD RIVER SPECIAL HARVEST AREA IS OPEN UNDER (C)(J) OF THIS SECTION, THE WOOD RIVER SPECIAL HARVEST AREA WILL BE ONLY OPEN FOR THE GEAR GROUP THAT IS BEHIND IN THE ALLOCATION SPECIFIED IN 5 AAC 06.367 (B) FOR THE NUSHAGAK DISTRICT.]

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Eliminate the opening of Wood River Special Harvest Area to the harvest of surplus sockeye in absence of conservation concerns for Nushagak River sockeye or Nushagak River Coho. Allowing commercial fishing under 5 ACC 06.358 (c)(3) does not follow the intent of the Board of Fish which is, "that salmon harvested in the Nushagak District should be harvested in the fisheries that have historically harvested them, including the methods, means, and locations of those fisheries, using the best biological management techniques and practices." Puts additional harvest pressure on the Muklung River king salmon, places extended closures on Wood River salmon subsistence users, does not follow the Nushagak District Commercial Set and Drift Gillnet Sockeye Salmon Fisheries Allocation Plan.

**PROPOSED BY:** Robert Heyano

(HQ-F18-016)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 06.373. Alagnak River Sockeye Salmon Special Harvest Area Management Plan.**

Repeal conditions that must be met prior to allowing commercial fishing for salmon in the Alagnak River Special Harvest Area, as follows:

5 AAC 06.373 is amended to read:

(a) The goal of this management plan is to allow the harvest of surplus Alagnak River sockeye salmon stocks in the Alagnak River Special Harvest Area **while conserving Kvichak River sockeye salmon.**

...

(c) Salmon may be taken in the ARSHA under this section only during fishing periods established by emergency order. [THE COMMISSIONER MAY OPEN, BY EMERGENCY ORDER, THE ARSHA ONLY AFTER THE ALAGNAK RIVER SOCKEYE SALMON SUSTAINABLE ESCAPEMENT GOAL HAS BEEN MET AND IF THE ALAGNAK RIVER KING SALMON SUSTAINABLE ESCAPEMENT GOAL WAS MET IN THE PREVIOUS YEAR.]

...

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The *Alagnak River Sockeye Salmon Special Harvest Area Management Plan* (plan) was originally adopted in 2005 to provide opportunity to harvest surplus Alagnak River sockeye salmon while conserving Kvichak River sockeye salmon. The plan as currently written allows for fishing periods in the Alagnak River Special Harvest Area (ARSHA) concurrently with fishing periods in the Naknek-Kvichak District if the Alagnak River sockeye salmon sustainable escapement goal has been met and the Alagnak River king salmon sustainable escapement goal was met in the previous year. The Alagnak River king salmon sustainable escapement goal is based on post season aerial survey counts. The department has determined this method of escapement monitoring, on this river, does not provide reliable escapement estimates and is recommending discontinuing the king salmon escapement goal. The department does not have a viable method to assess king salmon escapements in the Alagnak River and therefore is unable to meet one of the conditions necessary to allow commercial fishing in ARSHA.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F18-017)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 28.640. Aleutian Islands District and Western District of the South Alaska Peninsula Area Sablefish Management Plan.**

Allow pot gear to be longlined during the South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters sablefish fishery, as follows:

5 AAC 28.640 is amended to read:

...

(c) Sablefish may be taken only with pots, longlines, mechanical jigging machines, and hand troll gear. Pots may be longlined in the Aleutian Islands **and Western** Districts [, BUT MAY NOT BE LONGLINED IN THE WESTERN DISTRICT].

...

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The National Marine Fisheries Service amended federal regulations in 2017 to allow use of longlined pot gear for harvesting sablefish in the Gulf of Alaska IFQ sablefish fishery. Concurrent to the federal fishery, the state opens a state-waters sablefish fishery in the Western District of the South Alaska Peninsula Area. State and federal sablefish regulations are generally aligned to provide consistency for participants that fish in both fisheries. This proposal would realign state and federal gear regulations by allowing for longlined pot gear during the South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters sablefish fishery.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F18-018)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 28.537. Chignik Area Pacific Cod Management Plan.**

Resolve conflict in season opening dates between Chignik Area state-waters and parallel Pacific cod fisheries, as follows:

5 AAC 28.357 is amended to read:

...

(d)(4) the state-waters season shall reopen 48 hours after the closure of the federal Central Gulf of Alaska jig gear “B” season if the mechanical jigging machine and hand troll gear allocation has not been taken; if the commissioner determines that the mechanical jigging machine and hand troll gear allocation or pot gear allocation will not be taken by August 14, the commissioner may close, by emergency order, the state-waters season for mechanical jigging machine and hand troll gear and immediately reopen a state-waters season during which all state-waters Pacific cod legal gear may be used and may [SHALL] close the state-waters season for all gear types on August 28 or when the annual guideline harvest level is achieved, whichever occurs first.

...

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Season dates for the Chignik Area state-waters and federal/parallel Pacific cod seasons have been historically coordinated to avoid concurrent fisheries for the same gear type. The Chignik Area Pacific Cod Management Plan contains provisions to roll over unharvested jig gear GHL to pot gear vessels late in the season to promote full harvest of the GHL. This rollover traditionally occurred after the fall federal/parallel B season concluded for the year to avoid overlap across seasons. During the 2013 and 2015 board cycles, the state-waters Pacific cod management plan was modified and the GHL rollover date and other related provisions were moved from October 30 to August 15.

Longstanding regulations instruct the department to close the state-waters season on August 28 and open the parallel B season on September 1. During years when a state-waters GHL rollover occurs, this results in a state-waters pot gear season that opens on August 15 then closes on August 28 prior to the parallel B season opening. A two week late summer pot gear season typically does not yield enough effort to harvest the remaining GHL consistent with the intent of the rollover regulations. Moreover, gear limits, permit and reporting requirements, and closed waters differ across the state waters and parallel fisheries which may limit access for some participants depending on which fishery is open. Therefore, the department seeks guidance from the board and fishery stakeholders as to which fishery, state waters or parallel, should open during August and September.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F18-019)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 06.331. Gillnet specifications and operations.**

Establish mesh size restrictions for the conservation of king salmon in the Naknek-Kvichak and Ugashik Districts, as follows:

5 AAC 06.331 is amended to read:

...

(a)(1) gillnet mesh size may not exceed five and one-half inches during periods established by emergency order for the protection of king salmon; **in the Naknek-Kvichak and Ugashik districts gillnet mesh size also may not exceed five and one-half inches from June 1 through July 22;**

...

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** These gillnet mesh size restrictions have been implemented using emergency order authority every fishing season since the early 1990s in the Naknek-Kvichak District and since about 2008 in the Ugashik District. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game plans to continue to use these mesh size restrictions for the protection of king salmon. This would codify long standing management practice and eliminate the repetitive use of emergency orders to establish mesh size restrictions.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

(HQ-F18-020)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 28.577. South Alaska Peninsula Area Pacific Cod Management Plan.**

Remove the weather delay provision for jig gear vessels during the South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters Pacific cod fishery, as follows:

5 AAC 28.577 is amended to read:

...

(l) The opening of the state-waters season **for vessels using pot gear** will be delayed for 24 hours if the National Weather Service marine forecast issued at 4:00 a.m. on the scheduled opening date specified in [(d)(1) AND] (e)(1) of this section for the current day and night or the following day and night for the state waters between Castle Cape and Cape Sarichef contains a gale warning. If, after the initial weather delay, the following day's 4:00 a.m. National Weather Service marine forecast for the current day and night or the following day and night contains a gale warning, the opening of the state-waters season will be delayed an additional 24 hours. The season opening delays may continue on a rolling 24-hour basis for seven days beyond the initial opening date, when the season will open regardless of any gale warning forecast.

...

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Regulations that delay the start of Pacific cod seasons due to severe weather are intended to provide adequate opportunity for smaller sized vessels to fully participate in competitive fisheries. The South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters Pacific cod jig gear GHL allocation has not been achieved since 2014 and in recent years the season was open from mid-March through December. Delaying the start of jig gear season for up to seven days due to poor weather does not significantly reduce competition or improve access to the fishery.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F18-021)

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## **PROPOSAL XXX**

### **5 AAC 09.369. Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.**

Restrict commercial fishing in areas both along the coast and in open seaward waters of the Outer Port Heiden and the open seaward waters of the Ilnik Section when the preseason Bristol Bay forecast is 30M salmon or less, as follows:

This proposal seeks to restrict commercial fishing in areas both along the coast and in open seaward waters of the Outer Port Heiden and the open seaward waters of the Ilnik Section when the preseason Bristol Bay forecast is 30M salmon or less. The purpose of these area restrictions when the Bristol Bay preseason forecast is 30M salmon or less is twofold. First to appropriately spread the conservation of the Bristol Bay sockeye salmon amongst all users when the preseason forecast is 30M salmon or less; and secondly, when the Bristol Bay preseason forecast is 30M salmon or less, to direct more commercial fishing on local Northern Peninsula sockeye salmon stocks, particularly the Meshik River and Ilnik River stocks, that migrate within known channels in each section. This proposal seeks to further limit the distance open to commercial fishing seaward in both fishing Sections. When the Bristol Bay preseason forecast is 30M salmon or less, the seaward boundary limit would be 0.5 miles seaward throughout these two Sections.

### **5 AAC 09.369. Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan**

(j) In the Ilnik Section,

(1) notwithstanding 5 AAC 09.320(a)(4), from June 20 through July 20,

(A) commercial salmon fishing will be permitted in the Ilnik Section

(i) southwest of the Unangashak Bluffs based on the abundance of Ilnik River sockeye salmon;

and

(ii) northeast of the Unangashak Bluffs based on the abundance of Meshik River and Ilnik River sockeye salmon, combined;

**(B) If the preseason Bristol Bay sockeye salmon forecast is 30M salmon or less, fishing will be allowed seaward for 1.5 miles.**

**(i) If inseason assessment indicates a run larger than 30M salmon, the commissioner may, by emergency order, close the Ilnik Section, and immediately reopen the Ilnik Section, with fishery restrictions that the commissioner determines appropriate**

**(C) [(B)] notwithstanding (B)** if the commissioner closes that portion of the Egegik District specified in 5 AAC 06.359(c) for conservation of Ugashik River sockeye salmon stocks, the commissioner may, by emergency order, close the Ilnik Section and immediately reopen the Ilnik Section, with additional fishing restrictions that the commissioner determines necessary;

(I) The Outer Port Heiden Section is open from June 20 through July 31 to commercial salmon fishing in those waters west of a line from 57°E0S.52' N. lat., 158°E34.45' W. long. to 57°E0S.85' N. lat., 158°E37.50' W. long. based on the abundance of Meshik River sockeye salmon.\_

**(A) If the preseason Bristol Bay sockeye salmon forecast is for 30M salmon or less, the Outer Port Heiden Section is open from June 20 through July 31 to commercial salmon fishing in those waters west of a line from 56°59.68' N. lat., 158°E40.45' W. long. Under this scenario, this section will be open to commercial fishing seaward for 1.5 miles.**

**(i) If inseason assessment indicated a run larger than 30M salmon, the commissioner may, by emergency order, close the Outer Port Heiden Section, and**



**immediately reopen the Outer Port Heiden Section, with fishery restrictions that the commissioner determines appropriate**

**(B) notwithstanding (A).** If the commissioner closes the portion of the Egegik District as specified in 5 AAC 06.359(c) for the conservation of Ugashik River sockeye salmon stocks, the commissioner may, by emergency order, close the Outer Port Heiden Section, and immediately reopen the Outer Port Heiden Section, with additional fishing restrictions that the commissioner determines necessary.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Sharing the conservation of Bristol Bay sockeye salmon. Currently, in both Ilnik and the Outer Port Heiden Sections, conservation action on Bristol Bay salmon is only taken after a conservation closure occurs in Bristol Bay. Specifically, closure of that portion of the Egegik District specified in 5 AAC 06.359(c) for conservation of Ugashik River sockeye salmon stocks will prompt the commissioner to take unspecified conservation action in the Ilnik and Outer Port Heiden Sections. This delayed fishery management conservation action in the Ilnik and Outer Port Heiden Sections will no doubt cause the conservation of Bristol Bay salmon to be mis apportion to the Bristol Bay fishers. Because the Bristol Bay preseason forecast has been fairly accurate, we believe that it is prudent and precautionary to base conservation efforts in the Ilnik and Outer Port Heiden Sections on the Bristol Bay preseason forecast. Because Bristol Bay fishery managers are ultimately responsible for meeting subsistence needs and escapement goals, no additional conservation regulations are necessary for the Bristol Bay Management Area.

We recommend closing substantial portions of the Ilnik and Outer Port Heiden Sections to commercial fishing when the preseason Bristol Bay sockeye salmon forecast is 30M salmon or less. The 30M salmon preseason forecast represents an anticipated escapement of approximately 7.2M salmon, leaving approximately 22.8M for potential harvest. The estimated total Bristol Bay escapement of 7.2M salmon from a run of 30M salmon would provide for escapements that would fall near the midpoint of the low range of the individual system escapement goals. Note also that since 1996, the total run Bristol Bay sockeye salmon has only fallen below 30 M salmon in 6 of the 22 years of record. The median run size during the period, 1996-2017, is approximately 39.4M salmon. Incorporation of this trigger in the Northern District fishery management plan will assure that conservation of Bristol Bay sockeye salmon, when necessary, will be more appropriately shared among all commercial fishers that harvest Bristol Bay sockeye salmon. This recommendation to the management plan may preclude or possibly reduce additional inseason restrictions deemed necessary by the commission if a closure of that portion of the Egegik District specified in 5 AAC 06.359(c) for conservation of Ugashik River sockeye salmon stocks occurs. Accordingly, we propose that fishing be restricted both in shore length and seaward extension in the Outer Port Heiden Section and the seaward extension in the Ilnik Section. This would not only limit the area open to fishing in both Sections but may also focus fishing pressure on local salmon stocks, Meshik and Ilnik River stocks, that may or may not be affected by factors affecting the Bristol Bay sockeye salmon projection. Both Ilnik and Outer Port Heiden Section fisheries are to be managed on the abundance of local sockeye salmon stocks, Ilnik and Meshik River stocks.

If nothing is done, fishing may continue in the Ilnik and Outer Port Heiden Sections until it becomes obvious that restrictions are necessary because of closures in the Egegik District (Ugashik District). At that time, it will be too late to appropriately share conservation of Bristol Bay salmon

amongst all commercial fishers. Bristol Bay Managers may be forced to restricted fishing periods or close the fisheries because of the need to meet subsistence needs and escapement goals. Additionally, if Northern Peninsula stocks are not affected by the factors negatively affecting Bristol Bay stocks, escapements to the Meshik and Ilnik Rivers could be well over the targeted escapement because of the lack of fishing pressure directed on these stocks. This preseason closure of waters in the Ilnik and Outer Port Heiden Sections when the Bristol Bay preseason forecast is 30M salmon or less may be relaxed based on inseason assessment of the run.

Other solutions considered was to substantially reduce fishing time in both the Port Heiden and Ilnik Sections based on the preseason forecast of less than or equal to 30M Bristol Bay sockeye salmon. This may be a viable alternative or a combination of area and time restrictions. Another solution was to dramatically reduce the area opened to fishing within the Outer Port Heiden and Ilnik Sections so that the major harvest would consist of local stocks. These restrictions could possibly be relaxed on inseason assessment of the Bristol Bay run. Finally, we considered setting various triggers, based on the Bristol Bay preseason sockeye salmon forecast (30M, 25M, 20M salmon), that would stipulate increased closed waters and/or fishing time in the Outer Port Heiden and Ilnik Sections, commensurate with the pre-season Bristol Bay forecast.

Note that the WASSIP study found that Northern Peninsula sockeye salmon stocks contributed an average of 48% to the SW Ilnik harvest (3 years); 30% to the NE Ilnik harvest (3 years); and 21 % to the Outer Port Heiden Section harvest (2 years).

**PROPOSED BY:** Lower Bristol Bay Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F18-022)  
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## **PROPOSAL XXX**

### **5 AAC 09.350. Closed waters and 09.369. Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.**

Restrict fishing along the coast and in offshore waters of the Outer Port Heiden Section and restrict fishing in offshore waters of the northeast portion of the Ilnik Section, as follows:

This proposal seeks to restrict fishing both along the coast and in offshore waters of the Outer Port Heiden Section and restrict fishing in offshore waters of the NE portion of the Ilnik Section. The purpose of these area restrictions as to direct more commercial fishing on local Northern Peninsula sockeye salmon stocks, particularly the Meshik River and Ilnik River stocks, that migrate within known channels in each Section. This proposal seeks to further limit the distance open to commercial fishing along the shore and offshore in the Outer Port Heiden Section and off shore in the NE portion of the Ilnik Section. The offshore boundary limit would be from 3 miles at the newly described northern open water boundary of the Outer Port Heiden Section (see below for location) to 2 miles offshore at the line that separates the SW and NE portions of the Ilnik Section at Unangashak Bluffs (159°10.25' W. long.).

These closures will also improve fish quality because of a shorter transport from fishery to processor and also provide for the harvest of Meshik and Ilnik River sockeye salmon stocks.

### **5 AAC 09.350. Closed waters.** Salmon may not be taken in the following locations:

(3) Outer Port Heiden: waters of the Outer Port Heiden Section

(A) repealed 6/5/2016;

(B) east of a line from **56 E59.68' N. lat., 158 E46.45 W. long** [57 E05.52' N. LAT., 158\_E34.45' W. long.] to 57\_E08.85' N. lat., 158\_E37.50' W. long.;

**also, seaward waters are open to commercial fishing within the Outer Port Heiden and Ilnik Sections from a 3 miles seaward from a point on the shore 56 E59.68'N lat., 158 E34.45' W. long., to 2 miles seaward from the point on the shore, 159 10.25' W. long., that describes the line that separates the SW from the NE portions of the Ilnik Section.**

### **5 AAC 09.369. Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan**

(j) In the Ilnik Section,

(1) notwithstanding 5 AAC 09.320(a)(4), from June 20 through July 20, (A) commercial salmon fishing will be permitted in the Ilnik Section

(i) southwest of the Unangashak Bluffs based on the abundance of Ilnik River sockeye salmon; and

(ii) northeast of the Unangashak Bluffs based on the abundance of Meshik River and Ilnik River sockeye salmon, combined; **Commercial salmon fishing will be permitted in seaward waters within the Outer Port Heiden and Ilnik Sections from a 3 miles seaward from point on the shore 56 E59.68'N lat., 158 E34.45', to 2 miles seaward from the point 159 10.25' W. long that describes the line that separates the SW from the NE portions of the Ilnik Section.**

(I) The Outer Port Heiden Section is open from June 20 through July 31 to commercial salmon fishing in those waters west of a line from **56 E59.68' N. lat., 158 E46.45 W. long** [57 E05.52' N. lat., 158\_E34.45' W. long.] to 57 \_E08.85' N. lat., 158\_E37.50' W. long. **within a line 3 miles**

**seaward from a point on the shore 56 E59.68'N lat., 158 E34.45' W. long., to 2 miles seaward from the point on the shore, 159 10.25' W. long., that describes the line that separates the SW from the NE portions of the Ilnik Section**, based on the abundance of Meshik River sockeye salmon. If the commissioner closes the portion of the Egegik District as specified in 5 AAC 06.359(c) for the conservation of Ugashik River sockeye salmon stocks, the commissioner may, by emergency order, close the Outer Port Heiden Section, and immediately reopen the Outer Port Heiden Section, with additional fishing restrictions that the commissioner determines necessary.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?**

1. Overescapement of sockeye salmon into the Meshik and Ilnik Rivers. Escapements into the Meshik River have exceeded the high end of the current SEB of 86,000 salmon the last 4 years, 2014-2017, ranging from 95,500 in 2014 to 191,725 in 2017. In the Ilnik River, sockeye salmon escapements have exceeded the high end of the current SEG of 60,000 sockeye salmon in 2016 and 2017. In 2016, 124,000 salmon escaped to spawn; in 2017 a record 238,000 sockeye salmon escaped to spawn. This escapement is nearly 4 times the upper end of the current SEG. This proposal seeks to adjust the Sections so that more local Northern Peninsula salmon stocks are harvested, resulting in more appropriate escapement to the Meshik and Ilnik Rivers. Note also that WAS SIP indicated that Northern Peninsula sockeye salmon stocks contributed an average of 48% to the SW Ilnik harvest (3 years); 30% to the NE Ilnik harvest (3 years); and 21% to the Outer Port Heiden Section harvest (2 years).

2. Quality of delivered fish that are harvested in the Outer Port Heiden Section; Most fishers are fishing very near the northern boundary of the Outer Port Heiden district. Delivery of these fish is delayed by the long travel distance from the point of harvest to the processor, resulting in degraded quality salmon.

3. Additionally, frequent very rough seas within the Outer Port Heiden Section makes it very difficult to fish and to transport fish to processor, resulting in waste and fish being delivered that are poor quality.

If nothing is done, escapements to the Meshik and Ilnik Rivers will continue to exceed the upper end of the SEB. Additionally, poor quality fish will continue to be delivered to processors because of the long travel distance and time. Other solutions considered was to close the northern portion of the Outer Port Heiden Section, as described above, but limit fishing to 1.5 miles from shore in both the open portion of the Outer Port Heiden and the NW portion of the Ilnik Sections, but this would eliminate much of the Outer Port Heiden Section to fishing because of shallow water.

**PROPOSED BY:** Lower Bristol Bay Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F18-023)

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## **PROPOSAL XXX**

### **5 AAC 15.357. Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan.**

Reduce the inriver goal for sockeye salmon above the Chignik River weir for August and September, as follows:

Rewrite : 5 AAC 15.357 (b)(3)(B) to read:

(B) the department shall manage the commercial fishery to allow for the passage of at least **20,000** sockeye salmon above the Chignik River weir, in addition to the late-run sockeye salmon escapement needs, to provide an inriver harvestable surplus above the Chignik River weir in August and September of at least **10,000 fish** in August and **10,000 fish** from September 1 through September 30.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The current inriver-goal above the Chignik River weir of 75,000 sockeye salmon for August and September combined, as put in place during the last Board cycle, is too high and effectively prohibits traditional opportunities to commercially fish surplus sockeye and Coho salmon in late August and September. Further, the August inriver goal of 25,000 and the September 50,000 inriver goal each well exceed that necessary to readily meet late season sockeye and/or red-fish subsistence needs. ADF&G reports that total subsistence harvest post- June combined for all waters upstream of the Chignik River weir ( Chignik River, Chignik Lake and its tributaries and Black Lake) is less than 3,000 sockeye salmon (ADF&G Subsistence Div. report, 2015). A more balanced inriver subsistence goal would be 10,000 sockeye for each of the two months for a total 20,000 fish, an amount nearly 600 percent more than the estimated total post-June sockeye subsistence harvest of less than 3,000.

Further consideration is that the original request for the current August and September inriver goals of 25,000 and 50,000 sockeye salmon respectively for a total of 75,000 fish was based in part by the belief that the second or late-run escapement needed to be higher than that managed by ADF&G to improve second run production. While the subsistence priority is fully recognized and most valid, it should not be used to go beyond reasonableness to where a higher escapement is mandated well beyond that necessary to fully satisfy local subsistence requirements and opportunities.

An August and September inriver goal of 10,000 for each of the two months for total of 20,000 sockeye salmon is sensible. Such would readily ensure a healthy surplus of fish beyond local subsistence needs and yet still encourage the opportunity for a late-season fishery particularly on local Chignik Coho salmon. Further consideration is that a late-season commercial Coho salmon fishery may well advantage late-run Chignik sockeye salmon production, per FRI (Univ. of WA). Several studies provide evidence that Coho fry predation on juvenile sockeye salmon rearing in Chignik Lake is substantially suppressing late-run sockeye salmon production. Establishing a 10,000 August and a 10,000 September inriver sockeye salmon goal for a total inriver goal of a 20,000 fish would be functional for all concerned and is therefore respectfully requested.

**PROPOSED BY:** Don Bumpus

(HQ-F18-024)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 07.365. Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Plan.**

Keep open the mouths of the Johnson, Kialiq, Kinak, Tagyaraq and Pailleq Rivers to subsistence king salmon fishing, as follows:

We are requesting to keep the mouths of Johnson River, Kialiq River, Kinak River, Tagyaraq River and Pailleq River open for subsistence fishing.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The chinook fish do not go up these rivers to spawn and other surrounding villages come and fish for their subsistence needs in these rivers. When subsistence fishing, people do not over-catch but stop when they reach their own limits and it all depends on how big their family members are. In the past, Kalskag had made a resolution to close the mouths of these rivers, but we are requesting to keep them open as before.

**PROPOSED BY:** Tuntutuliak Traditional Council

(HQ-F18-025)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 39.260. Seine specifications and operations.**

Specify that any line used to make the attachment between a skiff and a purse seine used in a commercial salmon fishery may not exceed 10 fathoms in length, as follows:

5 AAC 39.260 is amended to read:

...

(j) A seine vessel must be attached to one end, and only one end, of a purse seine or lead when it is in operation. Any line used to [MAKE THE ATTACHMENT] **attach the seine vessel or skiff to a purse seine** may not be more than 10 fathoms in length.

...

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Purse seines used in the commercial salmon fishery are operated by a purse seine vessel and a skiff attached to opposite ends of the purse seine each time the purse seine is deployed. Any line used to attach the purse seine and seine vessel may not exceed 10 fathoms in length, however length of any line used to attach the purse seine to the skiff is not specified in regulation. In some areas of the state a purse seine is considered to have ceased fishing when both ends of the seine are attached to the seine vessel. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game has received reports that in at least one of these areas some fishermen attach a second line, much longer than the tow line, to the skiff-end of the seine, and near the end of a fishing period, attach the opposite end of that line to the seine vessel, thereby meeting the requirement that both ends of the seine be attached to the seine vessel when the fishing period closes. In these instances where the long connector line is deployed, fishermen have been able to keep the purse seine in an open and actively fishing configuration after the close of a fishing period. Limiting the length of any line connecting the seine vessel or skiff and the purse seine to 10 fathoms will eliminate this practice and promote orderly closure of commercial fishing periods for salmon.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F18-026)

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**PROPOSAL XX - 5 AAC 28.647. Aleutian Islands Subdistrict Pacific Cod Management Plan.**  
Amend the Aleutian Islands Subdistrict Pacific Cod Management Plan to reduce the GHL based on processor availability, as follows:

5 AAC 28.647 is amended to read:

...

(d) During a state-waters season,

(1) the guideline harvest level for Pacific cod in the Aleutian Islands Subdistrict is 27 percent of the estimated total allowable harvest of Pacific cod for the federal Aleutian Islands Subarea;

(A) if the guideline harvest level established under this [PARAGRAPH] **subsection** is achieved in a calendar year, the guideline harvest level will be increased to 31 percent of the estimated total allowable harvest of Pacific cod for the federal Aleutian Islands Subarea beginning the next calendar year; if the guideline harvest level is achieved in a calendar year thereafter, the guideline harvest level will be increased to 35 percent of the estimated total allowable harvest of Pacific cod for the federal Aleutian Islands Subarea beginning the next calendar year; if the guideline harvest level is achieved in a calendar year thereafter, the guideline harvest level will be increased to a maximum of 39 percent of the estimated total allowable harvest of Pacific cod for the federal Aleutian Islands Subarea beginning the next calendar year;

(B) [A] a guideline harvest level established under this [PARAGRAPH] **subsection** may not exceed 15 million pounds;

(C) if a processor in the City of Adak or City of Atka is not available to process Pacific cod in the Aleutian Islands Subdistrict during the upcoming fishing year, the guideline harvest level for Pacific cod in the Aleutian Islands Subdistrict is 13.5 percent of the estimated total allowable harvest of Pacific cod for the federal Aleutian Islands Subarea. Processor availability in the City of Adak or City of Atka is determined by an official notification of intent to process Aleutian Islands Pacific cod during the upcoming fishing year as submitted to the National Marine Fisheries Service Alaska Region no later than October 31 as specified in 50 C.F.R. 679.20(a)(7)(viii)(D). If a timely and complete intent to process notification is submitted during a calendar year when the guideline harvest level is 13.5 percent of the estimated total allowable harvest of Pacific cod for the federal Aleutian Islands Subarea, the guideline harvest level the following calendar year will return to 27 percent of the estimated total allowable harvest of Pacific cod for the federal Aleutian Islands Subarea.

...

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The Aleutian Islands Subdistrict Pacific cod management plan allows the state-waters Pacific cod GHL to increase by four percent



each year for a total of four years if the previous year's GHL was fully achieved. Largely due to limited processing capacity in the region, the Aleutian Islands District GHL has only been achieved three seasons since inception of the fishery in 2006. Years when the GHL was fully harvested correspond to years when at least one processor was operational in the City of Adak or Atka.

Lower Pacific cod abundance in the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska combined with an operational processor in Adak have recently renewed interest in the Aleutian Islands state-waters Pacific cod fishery. Higher participation in this fishery will increase the likelihood of achieving annual GHLs and allow future GHLs to increase over time. Each time the state-waters GHL increases, a corresponding decrease in federal Pacific cod total allowable catch is necessary to prevent exceeding the combined Aleutian Islands Subarea Pacific cod ABC. In recent years, pot and trawl catcher vessels 58 feet in length or less harvested the majority of state-waters Pacific cod in the Aleutian Islands Subdistrict. Without a mechanism to decrease the GHL, the state-waters fishery may become underutilized if adequate processing capacity becomes unavailable. In this situation the state-waters fishery would encumber a disproportionate percentage of the Aleutian Islands Pacific cod ABC that would otherwise be available to typically larger federal/parallel Pacific cod fishery participants that may have improved capacity to harvest and process fish.

Federal regulations allow for additional harvest and processing opportunity in the federal/parallel Aleutian Islands Pacific cod fishery contingent upon adequate regional processing capacity. Additional federal opportunity becomes available, in part, when the City of Adak or Atka provides a notification of intent to process Pacific cod prior to the season opening the following calendar year. This proposal would use the same processor notification of intent to determine if a state-waters fishery GHL reduction is warranted such that if no processor was available for the upcoming season, the GHL would be reduced to 13.5 percent of the estimated total allowable harvest of Pacific cod for the federal Aleutian Islands Subarea. If a processor becomes available any year after the GHL was reduced to 13.5 percent, the GHL for the following calendar year would increase to 27 percent of Pacific cod for the federal Aleutian Islands Subarea.

This change would allow for responsive management of the Aleutian Islands Pacific cod stock by realigning harvest opportunity for all participants during periods of low state-waters fishery productivity while still maintaining a sufficient guideline harvest level for future state-waters fisheries.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

(HQ-F18-027)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 28.648. Dutch Harbor Subdistrict Pacific Cod Management Plan.**

Establish a quota for jig gear with a revised subarea in the *Dutch Harbor Subdistrict Pacific Cod Management Plan*, as follows:

100,000 lbs of jig quota, state waters non exclusive sub area from 167W to 170W

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?**

If the Makushin area is closed jig boats could still fish and for jig boats to be able to fish the North side of Umnak Island as pot boats in the summer. Jig boats only need a small amount of quota as this just gives us more opportunity and if not caught it is a small amount of the overall quota. Follow all the same rules that apply to the State waters pot fishery, just be non exclusive. If regulation not changed we can not fish on the N side on Umnak island and if the Maku in area is closed due to longliners early this whole area is shut down for jig boats.

**PROPOSED BY:** Adam Lalich

(HQ-F18-028)

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## **PROPOSAL XXX**

### **5 AAC 28.027. Management measures in parallel groundfish fisheries for protection of Steller sea lions; and 5 AAC 28.647. Aleutian Islands Subdistrict Pacific Cod Management Plan.**

Allow longer vessels that have to fish close to a processor due to holding capacity to fish in the Adak Section of the Aleutian Islands Subdistrict, as follows:

5 AAC 28.087. Management measures in parallel groundfish fisheries for protection of Steller sea lions.

(b) Notwithstanding (a) of this section, during a parallel season for Pacific cod

(3) in the Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands Area, the state-waters between 175 W long. and 178 W long. shall be open to fishing with [TRAWL,] pot, mechanical jigging machine, and hand troll gear by vessel that are no more than 60 feet in overall length, **to fishing with trawl gear by vessels that are no more than 100 feet in overall length and capable of packing no more than 250,000 pounds,** and to fishing with longline gear by vessels that are no more than 58 feet in overall length ...

5 AAC 28.647. Aleutian Islands Subdistrict Pacific Cod Management Plan.

(d) During a state-waters season,

(3) a vessel used to harvest Pacific cod when

(A) only the Adak Section is open under (c)(1) of this section,

(ii) [NONPELAGIC TRAWL GEAR], mechanical jigging machines, or pot gear may not be more than 60 feet in overall length;

(iii) **nonpelagic trawl gear gear may not be more than 100 feet in overall length and may not be capable of packing no more than 250,000 pounds;**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** As a measure to protect safety of vessel and life, we propose that the Board consider allowing fishing with trawl gear by vessels of no more than 100 feet in length overall in the parallel groundfish fisheries between 175 W long. and 178 W long. In order to lessen any adverse impact on the 60-foot and under trawl vessels already allowed under 5 AAC 28.087, we would suggest a further limitation that the 100-foot or less vessels not be capable of packing more than 250,000 pounds per load. Vessels such as the MISS LEONA, which is 86.5-feet in overall length, cannot fish safely in the very rough weather outside of three miles. The MISS LEONA has never packed more than 218,000 pounds, and normally stops with a load of 150,000 to 180,000 pounds. On the other hand, a number of 60-foot vessels already in the parallel fishery can pack 250,000 pounds easily. If the regulation is not amended, greater than 60-foot vessels such as the MISS LEONA, but which have far less packing capacity than some 60-foot boats, will continue to be forced to fish outside in weather that is too rough to be safe. We considered proposing a limit of 90 feet instead of 100 feet, but consider that such a limitation could continue to cause serious risks to some vessels of up to 100 feet. Therefore, we are proposing a 100-foot limit. We also considered proposing a historic dependence qualification. The MISS LEONA is a legacy Pacific cod boat, with up to three generations of family on board. Our vessel qualified as one of the few greater than 60 feet LOA non-AF A trawl vessels to receive a federal Aleutian Island area endorsement under 50 CFR 679.4(k)(4)(ix), based on historic dependence. However, we also consider that a historic dependence limitation could

endanger other smaller-packing vessels, and therefore decided not to propose a historic dependence limitation. Therefore, we have proposed the amendment specified below.

**PROPOSED BY:** Omar & Christopher Allinson

(HQ-F18-029)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 28.647. Aleutian Islands Subdistrict Pacific Cod Management Plan.**

Eliminate the 15 million pound cap in the Aleutian Islands Subdistrict Pacific Cod Management Plan and allow the GHL to increase to the maximum potential of 39% of the ABC, as follows:

5 AAC 28.647 is amended to read:

...

(d) During a state-waters season,

(1) the guideline harvest level for Pacific cod in the Aleutian Islands Subdistrict is 27 percent of the estimated total allowable harvest of Pacific cod for the federal Aleutian Islands Subarea; if the guideline harvest level established under this paragraph is achieved in a calendar year, the guideline harvest level will be increased to 31 percent of the estimated total allowable harvest of Pacific cod for the federal Aleutian Islands Subarea beginning the next calendar year; if the guideline harvest level is achieved in a calendar year thereafter, the guideline harvest level will be increased to 35 percent of the estimated total allowable harvest of Pacific cod for the federal Aleutian Islands Subarea beginning the next calendar next year; if the guideline harvest level is achieved in a calendar year thereafter, the guideline harvest level will be increased to a maximum of 39 percent of the estimated total allowable harvest of Pacific cod for the federal Aleutian Islands Subarea beginning the next calendar year; [A GUIDELINE HARVEST LEVEL ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH MAY NOT EXCEED 15 MILLION POUNDS;]

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The Aleutian Islands Subdistrict state-waters Pacific cod GHL was initially set at 27% of the Aleutian Islands Pacific cod ABC. The management plan allows the state-waters GHL to increase by 4% per year for 3 years if the GHL was caught previous year. However, the overall GHL is also capped at 15 million pounds by regulation. The 2018 Aleutian Islands Pacific cod ABC was 47 million pounds and at 29% of the ABC the 2018 GHL totaled 12.8 million pounds. The 2018 GHL was caught which will increase the GHL from 29% to 31% of the ABC for 2019. If cod abundance levels are similar or higher in 2019, the GHL will hit the 15 million pound cap after just 1 of 3 potential GHL increases. The potential for higher GHLs provides incentive for fishermen and allows the state-waters fishery to develop over time. Capping harvest at 15 million pounds unnecessarily restricts the state-waters fishery and is inconsistent with incrementally increasing the GHL when the fishery is fully utilized.

**PROPOSED BY:** Ron Kavanaugh

(HQ-F18-030)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 74.010. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Tanana Area.**

Allow harvest of Arctic grayling in the Delta Clearwater, as follows:

5 AAC 74.010(c)(5) is amended to read:

(5) in the Delta Clearwater River drainage, including the Clearwater Lake drainage, [ARCTIC GRAYLING MAY BE TAKEN BY CATCH-AND-RELEASE FISHING ONLY, EXCEPT THAT FROM JUNE 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, A PERSON MAY RETAIN ARCTIC GRAYLING, WITH A] the bag and possession limit for Arctic grayling is [OF ]one fish, 12 inches or less in length; all Arctic grayling caught that are greater than 12 inches in length must be released immediately;

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The intent of the current 12-inch maximum size limit was to afford anglers the opportunity to harvest an Arctic grayling while maintaining the attributes of this fishery. Per the *Tanana River Area Wild Arctic Grayling Management Plan*, the Delta Clearwater River is managed under a special management approach that provides for high catch rates of large fish and a reasonable opportunity to catch a trophy sized Arctic grayling (i.e. 18 inches). The harvest level of fish <12 inches has been minimal with annual harvests averaging ~100 fish since implementation of this regulation in 2001. Arctic grayling are present in the Delta Clearwater River by April and anglers are not provided harvest opportunities until June. Additional harvest of Arctic grayling < 12 inches resulting from this proposal is expected to be sustainable. Removal of the seasonal closure would also simplify regulations.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F18-031)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 74.010. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Tanana River Area.**

Allow sport fishing for northern pike in Little Harding Lake under the general regulations, as follows:

5 AAC 74.010(c)(15) is amended to read:

(15) **repealed** / / . [IN LITTLE HARDING LAKE, SPORT FISHING FOR NORTHERN PIKE IS CLOSED;]

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** In 2013, stocking of rainbow trout was terminated in Little Harding Lake and fishing for northern pike was closed. The intent of these actions were 1) to protect the newly established northern pike population, which was first documented in 2010, and 2) the department believed that a satisfactory rainbow trout fishery could not coexist with a northern pike population. Sampling in 2016 demonstrated that a population of very large-sized rainbow trout was present with an average size exceeding 24 inches. The sampling also identified very good recruitment of northern pike based on observations and catch sampling. Allowing sport fishing for northern pike in Little Harding Lake would provide a new opportunity for roadside anglers looking to catch or retain northern pike, and the harvest of northern pike would help to alleviate predation on stocked rainbow trout. There are other stocked lakes in the Tanana Area (Cushman Lake and Bathing Beauty Pond) where northern pike and rainbow trout coexist and support high-use fisheries for both species.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F18-032)

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## **PROPOSAL XXX**

### **5 AAC 74.010. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Tanana River Area.**

Update the Tanana River Area stocked waters regulations, as follows:

5 AAC 74.010(c)(29) is amended to read:

(29) in stocked waters, the bag, possession, and size limit for rainbow trout, Arctic char/Dolly Varden, landlocked salmon, and Arctic grayling is 10 of all stocked species combined, of which no more than one fish may be 18 inches or greater in length; for the purposes of this paragraph, "stocked waters" include Backdown Lake, Ballaine Lake, Bathing Beauty Pond, Bear Lake (Eielson Air Force Base), Big "D" Pond, Birch Lake, Bluff Cabin Lake, Bolio Lake, Brodie Lake, Bullwinkle Lake, **Cather's Lake**, Chena Lake, Chet Lake, CHSR 25.0 Mile Pit, CHSR 30.0 Mile Pit, CHSR 45.5 Mile Pit, CHSR 47.9 Mile Pit, **CHSR 56.0 Mile Pit**, Coal Mine Road #5, Craig Lake, Cushman Lake, Dick's Pond, Doc Lake, Donna Lake, Donnelly Lake, Forrest Lake, Four Mile Lake, Fourteen Mile Lake, Geskakmina Lake, Ghost Lake, Grayling Lake (Eielson Air Force Base), Hidden Lake (Eielson Air Force Base), Hidden Lake (Tetlin NWR), "J" Lake, Jan Lake, Johnson Pit #2, Ken's Pond, **Kenna Lake, Kimberly Lake, [KIDS FISHING POND,]** Last Lake, Lisa Lake, Little Donna Lake, **Little Harding Lake**, Little Lost Lake, Lost Lake, Lundgren Pond, Manchu Lake, Mark Lake, Monte Lake, Monterey Lake, Moose Lake (Eielson Air Force Base), Mosquito Creek Lake, Mullins Pit, Nenana City Pond, Nickel Lake, Nordale #2, North Chena Pond, North Pole Pond, North Twin Lake, Olnes Pond, Otto Lake, Parks 261 Pond, Paul's Pond, Polaris Lake, Quartz Lake, Rangeview Lake, Rapids Lake, Richardson Hwy. 28 Mile Pit, Richardson Hwy. 31 Mile Pit, Richardson Hwy. 81 Mile Pit, Shaw Pond, Sheefish Lake, Sirlin Drive Pond, South Twin Lake, Steese Hwy. 28.8 Mile Pit, Steese Hwy. 29.5 Mile Pit, Steese Hwy. 31.6 Mile Pit, Steese Hwy. 33.5 Mile Pit, Steese Hwy. 34.6 Mile Pit, Steese Hwy. 35.8 Mile Pit, Steese Hwy. 36.6 Mile Pit, Stringer Rd. Pond, Triangle Lake, Wainwright #6, Weasel Lake, West Iksgiza Lake, Z Pit (Chena Floodway);

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** In conjunction with the Board of Fisheries cycle, the department reviews the stocked waters in each management area. Stocked waters are removed from the stocking plan and corresponding regulations due to a loss of public access, poor fish growth or survival, or insufficient fishing effort. As new waters are identified and included in the stocking plan they are added to the regulations. The proposed language will update the Tanana River Area stocked waters regulations.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F18-033)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 74.010. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Tanana Area.**

Repeal the Tanana River Area wild rainbow trout regulation, as follows:

5 AAC 74.010(b)(5) is amended to read:

**(5) repealed / / /. [RAINBOW TROUT: THE BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT IS 10 FISH, WITH NO SIZE LIMIT;]**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Current sport fishing regulations for the Tanana River drainage include a general bag and possession limit for wild rainbow trout. Many anglers, particularly those new to Alaska, are unaware that rainbow trout are not native to the Tanana River drainage. The department regularly stocks nonnative rainbow trout into lakes which are under the stocked waters regulations. In stocked waters, the background regulation is 10 fish in combination – only one of which may be 18 inches or longer. Repealing the wild rainbow trout regulation would reduce confusion for anglers who inadvertently believe rainbow trout in lakes are native, and eliminate anglers confusing wild rainbow trout bag, possession, and size limits with stocked waters regulations. In 2017, 92 lakes within the Tanana River drainage were stocked, and 86 of these were stocked exclusively with rainbow trout.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F18-034)

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## **PROPOSAL XXX**

### **5 AAC 74.010. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Tanana Area.**

Allow sport fishing for nonsalmon species in the Toklat River drainage year-round, as follows:

5 AAC 74.010(c)(25) is amended to read:

(25) the Toklat River **mainstem** [DRAINAGE] is closed to sport fishing from August 15 through May 15 **between a point one mile upstream from the mouth of Sushana River at 64° 08.45' N. lat., 149° 59.69' W. long., and from a point at 64° 10.81' N. lat., 150° 01.03 W. long., two miles downstream from the mouth of Sushana Creek.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** In 1993, the Toklat River Fall Chum Salmon Rebuilding Plan (5 AAC 01.249) was implemented to help rebuild the stock. In 2004, Toklat River Fall chum salmon were removed as a management concern, and a BEG of 15,000 – 33,000 was established. By 2007, the Board of Fisheries determined that Yukon River chum salmon (which incorporated Toklat River fall chum salmon) no longer met the criteria of a yield concern, and in 2010 the Toklat River chum salmon BEG was removed from the *Yukon River Drainage Fall Chum Salmon Management Plan*. Since 2003, returns of Yukon River fall chum salmon have exceeded the lower bound of the escapement goal (300,000 fish) every year, and exceeded the upper bound (600,000) 10 out of 14 years. Currently, the closed period (August 15 – May 15) to sport fishing of all nonsalmon species within the Toklat River drainage is no longer necessary. The intent of the closure was to protect spawning habitat from motorized and foot traffic where the RS2477 Kobi-McGrath trail crosses the Toklat River, and where the greatest concentration of spawning fall chum salmon occurs within the Toklat River drainage. This area will remain protected under the proposed new regulations. The current regulation precludes sport fishing opportunity for resident species such as northern pike and Arctic grayling. The level of sport fishing effort is minimal and would present no sustainability concerns for salmon or nonsalmon species.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F18-035)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 01.249. Yukon River Drainage Fall Chum Salmon Management Plan.**

Allow sport and subsistence fishing for nonsalmon species in the Toklat River drainage year-round, as follows:

5 AAC 01.249(6)(A) is amended to read:

(A) from August 15 through May 15, the Toklat River **mainstem** [DRAINAGE] is closed to sport and subsistence fishing **for salmon between a point one mile upstream from the mouth of Sushana Creek at 64° 08.45' N. lat., 149° 59.69' W. long., and from a point at 64° 10.81' N. lat., 150° 01.03' W. long., two miles downstream from the mouth of Sushana Creek;**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** In 1993, the Toklat River Fall Chum Salmon Rebuilding Plan (5 AAC 01.249) was implemented to help rebuild the stock. In 2004, Toklat River Fall chum salmon were removed as a management concern, and a BEG of 15,000 – 33,000 was established. By 2007, the Board of Fisheries determined that Yukon River chum salmon (which incorporated Toklat fall chum salmon) no longer met the criteria of a yield concern, and in 2010 the Toklat River chum salmon BEG was eliminated from the *Yukon River Drainage Fall Chum Salmon Management Plan*. Since 2003, returns of Yukon River fall chum salmon have exceeded the lower bound of the escapement goal (300,000 fish) every year, and exceeded the upper bound (600,000) 10 out of 14 years. Currently, the closed period (August 15 – May 15) to sport and subsistence fishing of all nonsalmon species within the Toklat River drainage is no longer necessary. The intent of the closure was to protect spawning habitat from motorized and foot traffic where the RS2477 Kobi-McGrath trail crosses the Toklat River, and where the greatest concentration of spawning fall chum salmon occurs within the Toklat River drainage. This area will remain protected under the proposed new regulations. The current regulation precludes subsistence and sport fishing opportunity for resident species such as northern pike and Arctic grayling. The level of fishing effort is minimal and would present no sustainability concerns for salmon or nonsalmon species.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F18-036)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 05.350. Closed waters.**

Allow commercial and subsistence fishing in the lower three miles of the Pastolik and Pastoliak Rivers, as follows:

Repeal 5 AAC 05.350. Closed waters (11)

**5 AAC 05.350. Closed waters**

Salmon may not be taken in the following waters:

(11) the waters [WITHIN 500 YARDS OF THE MOUTH] of the Pastolik River and Pastoliak River upstream from a point located 3 miles up each river [AS SPECIFIED IN 5 AAC 39.290(a)(2);]

Allow commercial fishing in both river drainages like the Black River, stat area 334-11.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Replace the current regulation that closes the waters within 500 yards of the mouth and all the waters of the Pastolik and Pastoliak Rivers with a regulation that closes the upstream waters of the Pastolik and Pastoliak Rivers from a point located 3 miles upstream in each river.

Changing this regulation would allow commercial and subsistence fishing in the lower 3 miles of each river. Extremely shallow water and the presence of numerous, persistent sandbars outside the mouth of these rivers preclude any fishing outside the mouths of these rivers.

We believe that fish originating in the Yukon River, mill in these rivers before continuing their migration to and up the Yukon River. Fishers catch the salmon as they are exiting the Pastolik and Pastoliak Rivers after milling in them. This is the same rational for allowing commercial and subsistence fishing within the Black River, statistical Area 334-11, of the Yukon Area. [http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/fishing/PDFs/commercial/yukon/yukon\\_district1.pdf](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/fishing/PDFs/commercial/yukon/yukon_district1.pdf)

If nothing is done, fishers who have traditionally fished within these rivers will continue to be disenfranchised from the commercial and subsistence fishery.

**PROPOSED BY:** Cyril Okitkun

(HQ-F18-037)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 01.320. Lawful gear and gear specifications.**

Allow subsistence salmon fishing with dipnets near Dillingham, as follows:

Allow subsistence harvest with dip nets in waters in the vicinity of Dillingham.

This gear type would be added to the subsistence permit and require harvest reporting just like other gear types. Permit must be in possession during active fishing. The definition of legal dip net gear shall be the same as for the rest of the state: 5 AAC 39.105(d)(24)

Use should be limited to close to Dillingham:

Suggested boundary: The waters and both sides of the Nushagak River from Lewis Point down stream to the upper boundary of the commercial fishing district and; the waters and both sides of the Wood River from Red Bluff down stream to its confluence with the Nushagak River. These boundaries should eliminate or minimize any potential conflicts with sport angling in the area.

Season would be the same as for all salmon subsistence fishing in the area (or preferably May 1 to September 30).

Interference with set subsistence, commercial, sport or other dip net gear may need to be discouraged in some manner. Possibly prohibit dip netting within 25 feet of a set net, 10 feet of other dip net fishers.

Limit harvest to salmon only.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** I would like to allow subsistence salmon fishing with dip nets to be legal gear near Dillingham. Currently subsistence salmon fishing in the Nushagak /Wood River area in the vicinity of Dillingham does not allow dip nets as legal gear. Set net gear is expensive and requires considerable effort and space to deploy as well as having the potential for very large catches. Dip nets would be less expensive, easier to operate, and for those who do not desire large catches, it would be easier to limit their take. Dip nets would allow sorting of the catch and releasing alive those fish not desired such as pink and chum salmon or spawned or damaged fish. Sorting is of particular interest in years of very large pink or chum runs. I suspect that set nets result in quite a few chums and pinks killed and wasted in some years.

**PROPOSED BY:** Dan Dunaway

(HQ-F18-038)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 67.020. General provisions for seasons and bag, possession, annual, and size limits for the Bristol Bay Area.**

Fish caught in the fresh waters of the Bristol Bay Area must be retained, as follows:

**5 AAC 72.XXX**

**It is illegal to completely remove sport caught fish in the freshwaters of Southwest Alaska from the water (stream, river, lake, slough etc.) unless the fish is TO BE HARVESTED.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The removal of non-harvestable fish from the water for catch and release (to be referred as c&r henceforth) purposes. Documented c&r studies for salmonids in fresh water removed during the c&r process have a mortality increase exponentially greater than those fish not removed from the water for release (72% mortality @ 60 seconds air exposure) (Ferguson and Tufts 1992).

The common practice of hook removal as well as photographing a catch for whatever purpose has historically involved removal of the non-harvestable fish from its environment (the water). During this period, piscatorial stress hormones are released in greater quantities and O2 levels drop (Dauwalter 2014). This causes increased stress (shock) and greater recover time for the salmonid to return to its homeostatic wellbeing. The incomplete removal (lessened air exposure) of a salmonid from the water allows the fish to stay in its environment and be released while maintaining the lowest possible c&r mortality rate (Cooke and Suski 2005).

The State of Alaska has adopted a regulation for removal of non-harvestable king salmon from the water (5AAC 67.020 (1)(C)). The same regulation should be applied to all sportfish in the Southwest Alaska region.

The State of Washington has adopted a regulation for non-removal of salmon, steelhead and bull trout/ dolly varden from the water. (WAC 220.310.100).

Obviously, there is irrefutable proof that the removal of salmonids from the water for whatever purpose increases c&r mortality. This subsequently decreases population size and could allow ecosystems to become unnaturally unbalanced.

I would like to see this regulation adopted for the 2019 Southwest Alaska Regulations. I would not oppose the regulation to be adopted state wide.

**PROPOSED BY:** Daniel Herrig

(HQ-F18-039)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 09.360. Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan.**

Open Southeastern District commercial fishing in concurrence with Western District and Perryville District fisheries from June 1st through July 13th, as follows:

**(d)(i) Between June 1<sup>st</sup> through July 13<sup>th</sup> fishing will be allowed in concurrence as 5 AAC 15.200 (c) Western District and (d) Perryville District**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** If we are fishing the same fish we should be able to fish the same time!

**PROPOSED BY:** Emil Mobeck

(HQ-F18-040)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 09.366. Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula.**

Establish commercial salmon fishing periods by emergency order from July 14 through July 31 in the South Alaska Peninsula, as follows:

(d) notwithstanding (c)(1) of this subsection, from July 6th through July **13<sup>th</sup>** [31], the commissioner may establish, by emergency order, fishing periods as follows.

**(d)(i) notwithstanding (c)(1) of this subsection, from July 14th through July 31st, the commissioner may establish, by emergency order, fishing periods as (D)(3)**

(1) the first fishing period will begin at 6:00 am and run 36[33] hours until 6:00 pm the following day; commercial fishing will then close for **60**[63] hours, and reopen under (2) of this subsection, (2) following the closure under (1) of this subsection, commercial fishing periods will begin at 6:00 am and close at 6:00 p, for 60 hours; commercial fishing will then close for 60 hours and reopen at 6:00 am three days later.

**(3) following the closure under (2) of this subsection, commercial fishing periods will begin at 6:00 am and close at 6:00 pm for 60 hours; commercial fishing will then close for 60 hours and reopen at 6:00am three days later.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** We are closed more than open. We need to have a better schedule of fishing windows.

**PROPOSED BY:** Emil Mobeck

(HQ-F18-041)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 05.330. Gear.**

Allow the use of beach seine gear during all commercial salmon openings on the Yukon River in Districts 1-3, as follows:

5 AAC 05.330. Gear. (a) In Districts 1 - 3, **beach seine gear, set gillnets, and drift gillnets** [SET GILLNETS AND DRIFT GILLNETS] only may be operated, except that in District 1 after July 15 set gillnets only may be operated in the following locations:

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** 5 AAC 05.362. Yukon River Summer Chum Management Plan (k)(1)(B)(2) allows the use of beach seine (and dip net) gear only during the Yukon River Summer Chum commercial fishing opportunities in Districts 1 - 3 in effort to conserve the Yukon River Chinook salmon stock.

Since being introduced to this regulation, and adapting to a new style of fishing, we have found that the use of beach seine gear greatly increases the quality of fish being caught by eliminating net marks and bruising in comparison to those being caught in gillnet gear.

I propose that the use of beach seine gear be allowed as optional gear during **all** Yukon River District 1-3 salmon commercial fishing opportunities, including Fall Chum and Coho, which are currently limited to the use of gill net gear only. Chinook salmon caught in beach seine gear (during fall commercial openings) may be kept for personal use or may be released alive.

**PROPOSED BY:** Jaylene Fitka

(HQ-F18-042)

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## **PROPOSAL XXX**

### **5 AAC 39.223. Policy for statewide salmon escapement goals.**

Repeal and readopt the policy for statewide salmon escapement goals, as follows:

5 AAC 39.223 Policy for statewide salmon escapement goals (a) Escapement goals have been the mainstay of salmon management since long before statehood. These goals are set to achieve Maximum Sustained Yield (MSY) whenever possible, which results in escapements that are orders of magnitude (10X or higher) more than needed to sustain these salmon runs. The goal of this policy is to maximize yields for stocks with sufficient information (spawner-recruit) and to use methods developed by Willette and Yanetz as a proxy for MSY for stocks without sufficient information (escapement only). The purpose of this policy is to establish the concepts, criteria, and procedures for establishing and modifying salmon escapement goals. The department will publish an escapement goal report for each area as it comes before the board during its regular meeting cycle. This report for each management area will be published by January 10th, three months prior to the proposal deadline. This report will contain a scientific analysis with supporting data for all escapement goals and management targets within the management area, along with the department's recommendation for the goal.

(b) The department will develop a biological escapement goals (BEG) for all important salmon stocks for which the department can enumerate salmon escapement levels, as well as total annual returns. This goal will be established with a range of 90 percent of the MSY value on both sides of MSY regardless of data quality. This will be the goal the department manages the fisheries to achieve. Important stocks are generally the larger stocks of salmon within the management area that the department actively manages with emergency orders, collects in-season data on harvest, age composition and escapements.

(c) The department will develop a management target (MT) for those salmon stocks in need of in-season management for which the department has collected only escapement information. These stocks are generally less important than stocks for which an escapement goal has been established or are harvested in mixed stock fisheries where it is not cost effective or necessary to determine harvests by stock. These management target stocks will not be used as an index to the health or size of the return of other stocks of the same or different species since the harvest is unknown. The department will follow the guidelines set out in Fisheries Manuscript No. 14-06, An evaluation of the Percentile Approach for Establishing Sustainable Escapement Goals in Lieu of Stock Productivity Information by Clark et.al. when evaluating or setting these management targets without consideration of the allocative impacts.

(d) The board after public input during the regular board meeting will approve or may recommend changes to the department's report and goals or targets if warranted.

(e) Unless the context requires otherwise, the terms used in this section have the same meaning given those terms in 5 AAC 39.222(f).

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The Policy for statewide salmon escapement goals, 5 AAC 39.223 is not serving the fishing public or the state very well and needs to be rewritten and simplified. The current policy allows the department to submit an

escapement goal report just days before a BoF meeting, months after proposals are due, which subverts the entire public process and does not give any one enough time to review the escapement goals the department is proposing, what methods were used or have them reviewed by other experts. Additionally the policy gives the department way too much discretion in establishing goals which has lead to the insertion of unknown “allocation” being added to escapement goals which is entirely illegal and outside of the department’s authority. This was admitted to by an ADF&G Chief Fishery Scientist at the most recent Cordova meeting for Copper River. The results of these actions can be seen on the figure on page 66 of FMS 17-02, Spawner-Recruit Analyses and Escapement Goal Recommendations for Kenai River Chinook Salmon, where all goals are shifted to the right, to much larger escapements than is necessary or prudent, sometimes by as much as 100 percent. Ironically the board and department have deigned numerous petitions and ACR’s alleging this very thing in recent years. While these huge escapements may result in better in-river fishing in some years it leads to numerous restrictions and closures of all fisheries in order to pay for these inflated goals. The Deshka River Chinook return is a perfect example of this mismanagement, in 2018 yet another year of closures and restrictions announced prior to the first fish showing up and an overall return per spawner of 0.27 or one fish returning for every four that escape. The documented waste of salmon and lost fishing time for all participants is staggering, and this is for stocks with good spawner-recruit data, no telling what problems are associated with SEG’s and OEG’s which should both be done away with and replaced with a management target. In no case should the Board or department trade away yield of any species in favor of allocation.

**PROPOSED BY:** Jeff Fox

(HQ-F18-043)

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## **PROPOSAL XXX**

### **5 AAC 39.222. Policy for the management of sustainable salmon fisheries.**

Modify the policy for the management of sustainable fisheries to include management targets, as follows:

**5 AAC 39.222. Policy for the management of sustainable salmon fisheries** (a) The Board of Fisheries (board) and Department of Fish and Game (department) recognize that

[(1) WHILE, IN THE AGGREGATE, ALASKA'S SALMON FISHERIES ARE HEALTHY AND SUSTAINABLE LARGELY BECAUSE OF ABUNDANT PRISTINE HABITAT AND THE APPLICATION OF SOUND, PRECAUTIONARY, CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PRACTICES,] there is a need for a comprehensive policy for the regulation and management of sustainable salmon fisheries;

(2) Alaska's salmon fisheries will be managed to meet escapement goals or management targets. These goals or targets are set to achieve Maximum Sustained Yield (MSY) whenever possible, which results in returns that are orders of magnitude more than needed to simply sustain these salmon runs. [IN FORMULATING FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLANS DESIGNED TO ACHIEVE MAXIMUM OR OPTIMUM SALMON PRODUCTION,] [THE BOARD AND DEPARTMENT MUST CONSIDER FACTORS INCLUDING ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE, HABITAT LOSS OR DEGRADATION, DATA UNCERTAINTY, LIMITED FUNDING FOR RESEARCH AND MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS, EXISTING HARVEST PATTERNS, AND NEW FISHERIES OR EXPANDING FISHERIES;]

(3) to effectively assure sustained yield and habitat protection for wild salmon stocks, fishery management plans and programs require specific guiding principles and criteria, and the framework for their application contained in this policy.

(b) The goal of the policy under this section is to ensure the perpetuation [CONSERVATION] of salmon and salmon's required marine and aquatic habitats, protection of customary and traditional subsistence uses and other uses, and the sustained economic health of Alaska's fishing communities.

(c) Management of salmon fisheries by the state should be based on the following principles and criteria:

(1) wild salmon stocks and the salmon's habitats should be maintained at levels of resource productivity that assure sustained yields as follows:

(A) salmon spawning, rearing, and migratory habitats should be protected as follows:

(i) salmon habitats should not be perturbed beyond natural boundaries of variation;

(ii) scientific assessments of possible adverse ecological effects of proposed habitat alterations and the impacts of the alterations on salmon populations should be conducted before approval of a proposal;

(iii) adverse environmental impacts on wild salmon stocks and the salmon's habitats should be assessed;

(iv) all essential salmon habitat in marine, estuarine, and freshwater ecosystems and access of salmon to these habitats should be protected; essential habitats include spawning and incubation areas, freshwater rearing areas, estuarine and nearshore rearing areas, offshore rearing areas, and migratory pathways;

(v) salmon habitat in fresh water should be protected on a watershed basis, including appropriate management of riparian zones, water quality, and water quantity;

(B) salmon stocks should be protected within spawning, incubating, rearing, and migratory habitats;

(C) degraded salmon productivity resulting from habitat loss should be assessed, considered, and controlled by affected user groups, regulatory agencies, and boards when making conservation and allocation decisions;

(D) effects and interactions of introduced or enhanced salmon stocks on wild salmon stocks should be assessed; wild salmon stocks and fisheries on those stocks should be protected from adverse impacts from artificial propagation and enhancement efforts;

(E) degraded salmon spawning, incubating, rearing, and migratory habitats should be restored to natural levels of productivity [WHERE KNOWN AND DESIRABLE];

(F) ongoing monitoring should be conducted to determine the current status of habitat and the effectiveness of restoration activities;

(G) depleted salmon stocks should be allowed to recover or, where appropriate, should be actively restored; diversity should be maintained to the maximum extent possible, at the genetic, population, species, and ecosystem levels;

(2) salmon fisheries shall be managed to **maintain** [ALLOW] escapements within ranges necessary to [CONSERVE AND] sustain potential salmon production and maintain normal ecosystem functioning as follows:

(A) salmon spawning escapements should be assessed in a **scientifically acceptable manner** both temporally and geographically; escapement monitoring programs should be appropriate to the scale, intensity, and importance of each salmon stock's use;

(B) salmon escapement goals **and management targets**[, WHETHER SUSTAINABLE ESCAPEMENT GOALS, BIOLOGICAL ESCAPEMENT GOALS, OPTIMAL ESCAPEMENT GOALS, OR INRIVER RUN GOALS,] should be established in a manner consistent with sustained yield; [UNLESS OTHERWISE DIRECTED,] the department will manage Alaska's salmon fisheries [, TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE,] for maximum sustained yield;

(C) salmon escapement goal ranges will be set to achieve 90 percent of MSY [SHOULD ALLOW FOR UNCERTAINTY ASSOCIATED WITH MEASUREMENT TECHNIQUES, OBSERVED VARIABILITY IN THE SALMON STOCK MEASURED, CHANGES IN CLIMATIC AND OCEANOGRAPHIC CONDITIONS, AND VARYING ABUNDANCE WITHIN RELATED POPULATIONS OF THE SALMON STOCK MEASURED];

(D) salmon escapement should be managed in a manner to maintain genetic and phenotypic characteristics of the stock by assuring appropriate geographic and temporal distribution of spawners as well as consideration of size range, sex ratio, and other population attributes;

(E) impacts of fishing, including incidental mortality and other human-induced mortality, should be assessed and considered in harvest management decisions;

(F) salmon escapement and harvest management decisions should be made in a manner that protects nontarget salmon stocks or species;

(G) the role of salmon in ecosystem functioning should be evaluated and considered in harvest management decisions and setting of salmon escapement goals;

(H) salmon abundance trends should be monitored and considered in harvest management decisions;

(3) effective management systems should be established and applied to regulate human activities that affect salmon as follows:

(A) salmon management objectives should be appropriate to the scale and intensity of various uses and the biological capacities of target salmon stocks;

(B) management objectives should be established in harvest management plans, strategies, guiding principles, and policies, such as for mixed stock fishery harvests, fish disease, genetics, and hatchery production, that are subject to periodic review;

(C) when wild salmon stocks are fully allocated, new fisheries or expanding fisheries should be restricted, unless provided for by management plans or by application of the board's allocation criteria;

(D) management agencies should have clear authority in statute and regulation to

(i) control all sources of fishing mortality on salmon;

(ii) protect salmon habitats and control nonfishing sources of mortality;

(E) management programs should be effective in

(i) controlling human-induced sources of fishing mortality and should incorporate procedures to assure effective monitoring, compliance, control, and enforcement;

(ii) protecting salmon habitats and controlling collateral mortality and should incorporate procedures to assure effective monitoring, compliance, control, and enforcement;

(F) fisheries management implementation and outcomes should be consistent with regulations, regulations should be consistent with statutes, and effectively carry out the purpose of this section;

(G) the board will recommend to the commissioner the development of effective joint research, assessment, and management arrangements with appropriate management agencies and bodies for salmon stocks that cross state, federal, or international jurisdictional boundaries; the board will recommend the coordination of appropriate procedures for effective monitoring, compliance, control, and enforcement with those of other agencies, states, or nations;

(H) the board will work, within the limits of its authority, to assure that

(i) management activities are accomplished in a timely and responsive manner to implement objectives, based on the best available scientific information;

(ii) effective mechanisms for the collection and dissemination of information and data necessary to carry out management activities are developed, maintained, and utilized;

(iii) management programs and decision-making procedures are able to clearly distinguish, and effectively deal with, biological and allocation issues;

(I) the board will recommend to the commissioner and legislature that adequate staff and budget for research, management, and enforcement activities be available to fully implement sustainable salmon fisheries principles;

(J) proposals for salmon fisheries development or expansion and artificial propagation and enhancement should include assessments required for sustainable management of existing salmon fisheries and wild salmon stocks;

(K) plans and proposals for development or expansion of salmon fisheries and enhancement programs should effectively document resource assessments, potential impacts, and other information needed to assure sustainable management of wild salmon stocks;

(L) the board will work with the commissioner and other agencies to develop effective processes for controlling excess fishing capacity;

(M) procedures should be implemented to regularly evaluate the effectiveness of fishery management and habitat protection actions in sustaining salmon populations, fisheries, and habitat, and to resolve associated problems or deficiencies;

(N) conservation and management decisions for salmon fisheries should take into account the best available information on biological, environmental, economic, social, and resource use factors;

(O) research and data collection should be undertaken to improve scientific and technical knowledge of salmon fisheries, including ecosystem interactions, status of salmon populations, and the condition of salmon habitats;

(P) the best available scientific information on the status of salmon populations and the condition of the salmon's habitats should be routinely updated and subject to peer review;

(4) public support and involvement for sustained use and protection of salmon resources should be sought and encouraged as follows:

(A) effective mechanisms for dispute resolution should be developed and used;

(B) pertinent information and decisions should be effectively disseminated to all interested parties in a timely manner;

(C) the board's regulatory management and allocation decisions will be made in an open process with public involvement;

(D) an understanding of the proportion of mortality inflicted on each salmon stock by each user group, should be promoted, and the burden of conservation should be allocated across user groups in a manner consistent with applicable state and federal statutes, including AS 16.05.251(e) and AS 16.05.258; in the absence of a regulatory management plan that otherwise allocates or restricts harvests, and when it is necessary to restrict fisheries on salmon stocks where there are known conservation problems, the burden of conservation shall be shared among all fisheries in close proportion to each fisheries' respective use, consistent with state and federal law;

(E) the board will work with the commissioner and other agencies as necessary to assure that adequately funded public information and education programs provide timely materials on salmon conservation, including habitat requirements, threats to salmon habitat, the value of salmon and habitat to the public and ecosystem (fish and wildlife), natural variability and population dynamics, the status of salmon stocks and fisheries, and the regulatory process;

(5) in the face of uncertainty, salmon stocks, fisheries, artificial propagation, and essential habitats shall be managed conservatively as follows:

(A) a precautionary approach, involving the application of prudent foresight that takes into account the uncertainties in salmon fisheries and habitat management, the biological, social, cultural, and economic risks, and the need to take action with incomplete knowledge, should be applied to the regulation and control of harvest and other human-induced sources of salmon mortality; a precautionary approach requires

(i) consideration of the needs of future generations and avoidance of potentially irreversible changes;

(ii) prior identification of undesirable outcomes and of measures that will avoid undesirable outcomes or correct them promptly;

(iii) initiation of any necessary corrective measure without delay and prompt achievement of the measure's purpose, on a time scale not exceeding five years, which is approximately the generation time of most salmon species;

(iv) that where the impact of resource use is uncertain, but likely presents a measurable risk to sustained yield, priority should be given to conserving the productive capacity of the resource;

(v) appropriate placement of the burden of proof, of adherence to the requirements of this subparagraph, on those plans or ongoing activities that pose a risk or hazard to salmon habitat or production;

(B) a precautionary approach should be applied to the regulation of activities that affect essential salmon habitat.

(d) The principles and criteria for sustainable salmon fisheries shall be applied, by the department and the board using the best available information, as follows:

(1) at regular meetings of the board, the department will, [TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE,] provide the board with reports on the status of salmon stocks and salmon fisheries under consideration for regulatory changes, which should include

(A) a stock-by-stock assessment of the extent to which the management of salmon stocks and fisheries is consistent with the principles and criteria contained in the policy under this section;

(B) descriptions of habitat status and any habitat concerns;

(C) identification of healthy salmon stocks and sustainable salmon fisheries;

(D) identification of any existing salmon escapement goals, or management actions needed to achieve these goals, that may have allocative consequences such as the

(i) identification of a new fishery or expanding fishery;

[(II) IDENTIFICATION OF ANY SALMON STOCKS, OR POPULATIONS WITHIN STOCKS, THAT PRESENT A CONCERN RELATED TO YIELD, MANAGEMENT, OR CONSERVATION; AND

(III) DESCRIPTION OF MANAGEMENT AND RESEARCH OPTIONS TO ADDRESS SALMON STOCK OR HABITAT CONCERNS;

(2) IN RESPONSE TO THE DEPARTMENT'S SALMON STOCK STATUS REPORTS, REPORTS FROM OTHER RESOURCE AGENCIES, AND PUBLIC INPUT, THE BOARD WILL REVIEW THE MANAGEMENT PLAN, OR CONSIDER DEVELOPING A MANAGEMENT PLAN, FOR EACH AFFECTED SALMON FISHERY OR STOCK; MANAGEMENT PLANS WILL BE BASED ON THE PRINCIPLES AND CRITERIA CONTAINED IN THIS POLICY AND WILL

(A) CONTAIN GOALS AND MEASURABLE AND IMPLEMENTABLE OBJECTIVES THAT ARE REVIEWED ON A REGULAR BASIS AND UTILIZE THE BEST AVAILABLE SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION;

(B) MINIMIZE THE ADVERSE EFFECTS ON SALMON HABITAT CAUSED BY FISHING;

(C) PROTECT, RESTORE, AND PROMOTE THE LONG-TERM HEALTH AND SUSTAINABILITY OF THE SALMON FISHERY AND HABITAT;

(D) PREVENT OVERFISHING; AND (E) PROVIDE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES THAT ARE NECESSARY AND APPROPRIATE TO PROMOTE MAXIMUM OR OPTIMUM SUSTAINED YIELD OF THE FISHERY RESOURCE;

(3) IN THE COURSE OF REVIEW OF THE SALMON STOCK STATUS REPORTS AND MANAGEMENT PLANS DESCRIBED IN (1) AND (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE BOARD, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT, WILL DETERMINE IF ANY NEW FISHERIES OR EXPANDING FISHERIES, STOCK YIELD CONCERNS, STOCK MANAGEMENT CONCERNS, OR STOCK CONSERVATION CONCERNS EXIST; IF SO, THE BOARD WILL, AS APPROPRIATE, AMEND OR DEVELOP SALMON FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLANS TO ADDRESS THESE CONCERNS; THE EXTENT OF REGULATORY ACTION, IF ANY, SHOULD BE COMMENSURATE WITH THE LEVEL OF CONCERNS AND RANGE FROM Milder TO STRONGER AS CONCERNS RANGE FROM



NEW AND EXPANDING SALMON FISHERIES THROUGH YIELD CONCERNS, MANAGEMENT CONCERNS, AND CONSERVATION CONCERNS; (4) IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE APPROPRIATE MANAGEMENT PLAN, THE DEPARTMENT AND THE BOARD WILL, AS APPROPRIATE, COLLABORATE IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND PERIODIC REVIEW OF AN ACTION PLAN FOR ANY NEW OR EXPANDING SALMON FISHERIES, OR STOCKS OF CONCERN; ACTION PLANS SHOULD CONTAIN GOALS, MEASURABLE AND IMPLEMENTABLE OBJECTIVES, AND PROVISIONS, INCLUDING

(A) MEASURES REQUIRED TO RESTORE AND PROTECT SALMON HABITAT, INCLUDING NECESSARY COORDINATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS;

(B) IDENTIFICATION OF SALMON STOCK OR POPULATION REBUILDING GOALS AND OBJECTIVES;

(C) FISHERY MANAGEMENT ACTIONS NEEDED TO ACHIEVE REBUILDING GOALS AND OBJECTIVES, IN PROPORTION TO EACH FISHERY'S USE OF, AND HAZARDS POSED TO, A SALMON STOCK;

(D) DESCRIPTIONS OF NEW OR EXPANDING SALMON FISHERIES, MANAGEMENT CONCERN, YIELD CONCERN, OR CONSERVATION CONCERN; AND

(E) PERFORMANCE MEASURES APPROPRIATE FOR MONITORING AND GAUGING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE ACTION PLAN THAT ARE DERIVED FROM THE PRINCIPLES AND CRITERIA CONTAINED IN THIS POLICY;

(5) EACH ACTION PLAN WILL INCLUDE A RESEARCH PLAN AS NECESSARY TO PROVIDE INFORMATION TO ADDRESS CONCERNS; RESEARCH NEEDS AND PRIORITIES WILL BE EVALUATED PERIODICALLY, BASED ON THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE MONITORING DESCRIBED IN (4) OF THIS SUBSECTION;

(6) WHERE ACTIONS NEEDED TO REGULATE HUMAN ACTIVITIES THAT AFFECT SALMON AND SALMON'S HABITAT THAT ARE OUTSIDE THE AUTHORITY OF THE DEPARTMENT OR THE BOARD, THE DEPARTMENT OR BOARD SHALL CORRESPOND WITH THE RELEVANT AUTHORITY, INCLUDING THE GOVERNOR, RELEVANT BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS, COMMISSIONERS, AND CHAIRS OF APPROPRIATE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES, TO DESCRIBE THE ISSUE AND RECOMMEND APPROPRIATE ACTION.]

(e) Nothing in the policy under this section is intended to expand, reduce, or be inconsistent with, the statutory regulatory authority of the board, the department, or other state agencies with regulatory authority that impacts the fishery resources of the state.

(f) In this section, and in implementing this policy,

(1) "allocation" means the granting of specific harvest privileges, usually by regulation, among or between various user groups; "allocation" includes quotas, time periods, area restrictions, percentage sharing of stocks, and other management measures providing or limiting harvest opportunity;

(2) "allocation criteria" means the factors set out in AS 16.05.251(e) considered by the board as appropriate to particular allocation decisions under 5 AAC 39.205, 5 AAC 75.017, and 5 AAC 77.007;

(3) "biological escapement goal" or "(BEG)" means the escapement that provides the greatest potential for maximum sustained yield; **BEG will be expressed as a range which will be**

**evenly centered at 90 percent of MSY**; BEG will be the primary management objective for the escapement **and will** [UNLESS AN OPTIMAL ESCAPEMENT OR INRIVER RUN GOAL HAS BEEN ADOPTED; BEG WILL BE DEVELOPED FROM THE BEST AVAILABLE BIOLOGICAL INFORMATION, AND SHOULD] be scientifically defensible on the basis of available biological information; [BEG WILL BE DETERMINED BY THE DEPARTMENT AND WILL BE EXPRESSED AS A RANGE BASED ON FACTORS SUCH AS SALMON STOCK PRODUCTIVITY AND DATA UNCERTAINTY;] the department will seek to maintain evenly distributed salmon escapements within the bounds of a BEG;

[(4) "BURDEN OF CONSERVATION" MEANS THE RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED BY THE BOARD OR DEPARTMENT UPON VARIOUS USERS IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE ESCAPEMENT, REBUILD, OR IN SOME OTHER WAY CONSERVE A SPECIFIC SALMON STOCK OR GROUP OF STOCKS; THIS BURDEN, IN THE ABSENCE OF A SALMON FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN, WILL BE GENERALLY APPLIED TO USERS IN CLOSE PROPORTION TO THE USERS' RESPECTIVE HARVEST OF THE SALMON STOCK;]

(5) "chronic inability" means the continuing or anticipated inability to meet escapement thresholds over a four to five year period, which is approximately the generation time of most salmon species;

[(6) "CONSERVATION CONCERN" MEANS CONCERN ARISING FROM A CHRONIC INABILITY, DESPITE THE USE OF SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT MEASURES, TO MAINTAIN ESCAPEMENTS FOR A STOCK ABOVE A SUSTAINED ESCAPEMENT THRESHOLD (SET); A CONSERVATION CONCERN IS MORE SEVERE THAN A MANAGEMENT CONCERN;

(7) "DEPLETED SALMON STOCK" MEANS A SALMON STOCK FOR WHICH THERE IS A CONSERVATION CONCERN;]

(8) "diversity", in a biological context, means the range of variation exhibited within any level of organization, such as among genotypes within a salmon population, among populations within a salmon stock, among salmon stocks within a species, among salmon species within a community, or among communities within an ecosystem;

(9) "enhanced salmon stock" means a stock of salmon that is undergoing specific manipulation, such as hatchery augmentation or lake fertilization, to enhance its productivity above the level that would naturally occur; "enhanced salmon stock" includes an introduced stock, where no wild salmon stock had occurred before, or a wild salmon stock undergoing manipulation, but does not include a salmon stock undergoing rehabilitation, which is intended to restore a salmon stock's productivity to a higher natural level;

(10) "escapement" means the annual estimated size of the spawning salmon stock; quality of the escapement may be determined not only by numbers of spawners, but also by factors such as sex ratio, age composition, temporal entry into the system, and spatial distribution within the salmon spawning habitat;

(11) "expanding fishery" means a salmon fishery in which effective harvesting effort has recently increased significantly beyond historical levels and where the increase has not resulted from natural fluctuations in salmon abundance;

[(12) "EXPECTED YIELDS" MEAN LEVELS AT OR NEAR THE LOWER RANGE OF RECENT HISTORIC HARVESTS IF THEY ARE DEEMED SUSTAINABLE;]

(13) "genetic" means those characteristics (genotypic) of an individual or group of salmon that are expressed genetically, such as allele frequencies or other genetic markers;

(14) "habitat concern" means the degradation of salmon habitat that results in, or can be anticipated to result in, impacts leading to yield, management, or conservation concerns;

(15) "harvestable surplus" means the number of salmon from a stock's annual run that is surplus to escapement needs and can reasonably be made available for harvest;

(16) "healthy salmon stock" means a stock of salmon that has annual runs typically of a size to meet escapement goals and a potential harvestable surplus to support optimum or maximum sustained yield;

(17) "incidental harvest" means the harvest of fish, or other species, that is captured in addition to the target species of a fishery;

(18) "incidental mortality" means the mortality imposed on a salmon stock outside of directed fishing, and mortality caused by incidental harvests, interaction with fishing gear, habitat degradation, and other human-related activities;

[(19) "INRIVER RUN GOAL" MEANS A SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE FOR SALMON STOCKS THAT ARE SUBJECT TO HARVEST UPSTREAM OF THE POINT WHERE ESCAPEMENT IS ESTIMATED; THE INRIVER RUN GOAL WILL BE SET IN REGULATION BY THE BOARD AND IS COMPRISED OF THE SEG, BEG, OR OEG, PLUS SPECIFIC ALLOCATIONS TO INRIVER FISHERIES;]

(20) "introduced stock" means a stock of salmon that has been introduced to an area, or portion of an area, where that stock had not previously occurred; an "introduced salmon stock" includes a salmon stock undergoing continued enhancement, or a salmon stock that is left to sustain itself with no additional manipulation;

(21) **"Management Target (MT) means the escapement that provides the greatest potential for maximum sustained yield or at least sustained yield, used for stocks for which the department has no harvest or age composition data; because there is only limited escapement information for these stocks the department should manage for BEG stocks first and then if practical manage these stocks with management targets (MT). The department will follow the guidelines set out in Fisheries Manuscript No. 14-06, An evaluation of the Percentile Approach for Establishing Sustainable Escapement Goals in Lieu of Stock Productivity Information by Clark et.al. when evaluating or setting these management targets without consideration of the allocative impacts.**

”[“MANAGEMENT CONCERN” MEANS A CONCERN ARISING FROM A CHRONIC INABILITY, DESPITE USE OF SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT MEASURES, TO MAINTAIN ESCAPEMENTS FOR A SALMON STOCK WITHIN THE BOUNDS OF THE SEG, BEG, OEG, OR OTHER SPECIFIED MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES FOR THE FISHERY; A MANAGEMENT CONCERN IS NOT AS SEVERE AS A CONSERVATION CONCERN;]

(22) "maximum sustained yield" or "(MSY)" means the greatest average annual yield from a salmon stock; in practice, MSY is achieved when a level of escapement is maintained within a specific range on an annual basis, regardless of annual run strength; the achievement of MSY requires a high degree of management precision and scientific information regarding the relationship between salmon escapement and subsequent return; the concept of MSY should be interpreted in a broad ecosystem context to take into account species interactions, environmental changes, an array of ecosystem goods and services, and scientific uncertainty;

(23) "mixed stock fishery" means a fishery that harvests fish from a mixture of stocks, **almost all fisheries are mixed stock to some degree;**

(24) "new fishery" means a fishery that new units of effort or expansion of existing effort toward new species, areas, or time periods, results in harvest patterns substantially different from those in previous years, and the difference is not exclusively the result of natural fluctuations in fish abundance;

[(25) "OPTIMAL ESCAPEMENT GOAL" OR "(OEG)" MEANS A SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE FOR SALMON ESCAPEMENT THAT CONSIDERS BIOLOGICAL AND ALLOCATIVE FACTORS AND MAY DIFFER FROM THE SEG OR BEG; AN OEG WILL BE SUSTAINABLE AND MAY BE EXPRESSED AS A RANGE WITH THE LOWER BOUND ABOVE THE LEVEL OF SET, AND WILL BE ADOPTED AS A REGULATION BY THE BOARD; THE DEPARTMENT WILL SEEK TO MAINTAIN EVENLY DISTRIBUTED ESCAPEMENTS WITHIN THE BOUNDS OF THE OEG;

(26) "OPTIMUM SUSTAINED YIELD" OR "(OSY)" MEANS AN AVERAGE ANNUAL YIELD FROM A SALMON STOCK CONSIDERED TO BE OPTIMAL IN ACHIEVING A SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE OTHER THAN MAXIMUM YIELD, SUCH AS ACHIEVEMENT OF A CONSISTENT LEVEL OF SUSTAINED YIELD, PROTECTION OF A LESS ABUNDANT OR LESS PRODUCTIVE SALMON STOCK OR SPECIES, ENHANCEMENT OF CATCH PER UNIT EFFORT IN SPORT FISHERY, FACILITATION OF A NONCONSUMPTIVE USE, FACILITATION OF A SUBSISTENCE USE, OR ACHIEVEMENT OF A SPECIFIC ALLOCATION;

(27) "OVERFISHING" MEANS A LEVEL OF FISHING ON A SALMON STOCK THAT RESULTS IN A CONSERVATION OR MANAGEMENT CONCERN;]

(28) "phenotypic characteristics" means those characteristics of an individual or group of salmon that are expressed physically, such as body size and length at age;

(29) "rehabilitation" means efforts applied to a salmon stock to restore it to an otherwise natural level of productivity; "rehabilitation" does not include an enhancement, which is intended to augment production above otherwise natural levels;

(30) "return" means the total number of salmon in a stock from a single brood (spawning) year surviving to adulthood; because the ages of adult salmon (except pink salmon) returning to spawn varies, the total return from a brood year will occur over several calendar years; the total return generally includes those mature salmon from a single brood year that are harvested in fisheries plus those that compose the salmon stock's spawning escapement; "return" does not include a run, which is the number of mature salmon in a stock during a single calendar year;

(31) "run" means the total number of salmon in a stock surviving to adulthood and returning to the vicinity of the natal stream in any calendar year, composed of both the harvest of adult salmon plus the escapement; the annual run in any calendar year, except for pink salmon, is composed of several age classes of mature fish from the stock, derived from the spawning of a number of previous brood years;

(32) "salmon" means the five wild anadromous semelparous Pacific salmon species *Oncorhynchus* sp., except steelhead and cutthroat trout, native to Alaska as follows:

- (A) Chinook or king salmon (*O. tshawytscha*);
- (B) sockeye or red salmon (*O. nerka*);
- (C) coho or silver salmon (*O. kisutch*);
- (D) pink or humpback salmon (*O. gorbuscha*); and
- (E) chum or dog salmon (*O. keta*);

(33) "salmon population" means a locally interbreeding group of salmon that is distinguished by a distinct combination of genetic, phenotypic, life history, and habitat

characteristics, comprised of an entire stock or a component portion of a stock; the smallest uniquely identifiable spawning aggregation of genetically similar salmon used for monitoring purposes;

(34) "salmon stock" means a locally interbreeding group of salmon that is distinguished by a distinct combination of genetic, phenotypic, life history, and habitat characteristics or an aggregation of two or more interbreeding groups which occur within the same geographic area and is managed as a unit;

[(35) "STOCK OF CONCERN" MEANS A STOCK OF SALMON FOR WHICH THERE IS A YIELD, MANAGEMENT, OR CONSERVATION CONCERN;

(36) "SUSTAINABLE ESCAPEMENT GOAL" OR "(SEG)" MEANS A LEVEL OF ESCAPEMENT, INDICATED BY AN INDEX OR AN ESCAPEMENT ESTIMATE, THAT IS KNOWN TO PROVIDE FOR SUSTAINED YIELD OVER A 5 TO 10 YEAR PERIOD, USED IN SITUATIONS WHERE A BEG CANNOT BE ESTIMATED OR MANAGED FOR; THE SEG IS THE PRIMARY MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE FOR THE ESCAPEMENT, UNLESS AN OPTIMAL ESCAPEMENT OR INRIVER RUN GOAL HAS BEEN ADOPTED BY THE BOARD; THE SEG WILL BE DEVELOPED FROM THE BEST AVAILABLE BIOLOGICAL INFORMATION; AND SHOULD BE SCIENTIFICALLY DEFENSIBLE ON THE BASIS OF THAT INFORMATION; THE SEG WILL BE DETERMINED BY THE DEPARTMENT AND WILL TAKE INTO ACCOUNT DATA UNCERTAINTY AND BE STATED AS EITHER A "SEG RANGE" OR "LOWER BOUND SEG"; THE DEPARTMENT WILL SEEK TO MAINTAIN ESCAPEMENTS WITHIN THE BOUNDS OF THE SEG RANGE OR ABOVE THE LEVEL OF A LOWER BOUND SEG;

(37) "SUSTAINABLE SALMON FISHERY" MEANS A SALMON FISHERY THAT PERSISTS AND OBTAINS YIELDS ON A CONTINUING BASIS; CHARACTERIZED BY FISHING ACTIVITIES AND HABITAT ALTERATION, IF ANY, THAT DO NOT CAUSE OR LEAD TO UNDESIRABLE CHANGES IN BIOLOGICAL PRODUCTIVITY, BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY, OR ECOSYSTEM STRUCTURE AND FUNCTION, FROM ONE HUMAN GENERATION TO THE NEXT;]

(38) "sustained yield" means an average annual yield that results from a level of salmon escapement that can be maintained on a continuing basis; a wide range of average annual yield levels is sustainable; a wide range of annual escapement levels can produce sustained yields, **MSY is what is dictated by this and other policies;**

[(39) "SUSTAINED ESCAPEMENT THRESHOLD" OR "(SET)" MEANS A THRESHOLD LEVEL OF ESCAPEMENT, BELOW WHICH THE ABILITY OF THE SALMON STOCK TO SUSTAIN ITSELF IS JEOPARDIZED; IN PRACTICE, SET CAN BE ESTIMATED BASED ON LOWER RANGES OF HISTORICAL ESCAPEMENT LEVELS, FOR WHICH THE SALMON STOCK HAS CONSISTENTLY DEMONSTRATED THE ABILITY TO SUSTAIN ITSELF; THE SET IS LOWER THAN THE LOWER BOUND OF THE BEG AND LOWER THAN THE LOWER BOUND OF THE SEG; THE SET IS ESTABLISHED BY THE DEPARTMENT IN CONSULTATION WITH THE BOARD, AS NEEDED, FOR SALMON STOCKS OF MANAGEMENT OR CONSERVATION CONCERN];

(40) "target species" or "target salmon stocks" means the main, or several major, salmon species of interest toward which a fishery directs its harvest;

(41) "yield" means the number or weight of salmon harvested in a particular year or season from a stock;

[(42) "YIELD CONCERN" MEANS A CONCERN ARISING FROM A CHRONIC INABILITY, DESPITE THE USE OF SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT MEASURES, TO MAINTAIN EXPECTED YIELDS, OR HARVESTABLE SURPLUSES, ABOVE A STOCK'S ESCAPEMENT NEEDS; A YIELD CONCERN IS LESS SEVERE THAN A MANAGEMENT CONCERN, WHICH IS LESS SEVERE THAN A CONSERVATION CONCERN];

(43) "wild salmon stock" means a stock of salmon that originates in a specific location under natural conditions; "wild salmon stock" may include an enhanced or rehabilitated stock if its productivity is augmented by supplemental means, such as lake fertilization or rehabilitative stocking; "wild salmon stock" does not include an introduced stock, except that some introduced salmon stocks may come to be considered "wild" if the stock is self-sustaining for a long period of time;

(44) "action point" means a threshold value for some quantitative indicator of stock run strength at which an explicit management action will be taken to achieve an optimal escapement goal.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The sustainable fisheries policy is cumbersome, confusing and misleads the public as to what the board and department are managing the salmon fisheries to achieve. This policy has numerous prescriptions which neither the board nor department follow, which need to be removed. In addition this policy and the escapement goal policy are in need of changes to put side boards on the board's authority as well as ensure that the department is following the guidelines established in these board policies. The department has been manipulating the escapement goal policy since 2001 to hide allocations and alter goals to increase in-river returns at the overall expense of yield. This proposal and a companion proposal for 5 AAC 39.223 seek to eliminate this undue discretion and standardize all goals statewide, eliminate OEG's, SET's, in-river goals and SEG's which are replaced with a new term, "Management Target", which must be developed using the state's own guidelines set out in Fisheries Manuscript No. 14-06, An evaluation of the Percentile Approach for Establishing Sustainable Escapement Goals in Lieu of Stock Productivity Information by Clark et al.

**PROPOSED BY:** Jeff Fox

(HQ-F18-044)

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## **PROPOSAL XXX**

### **5 AAC 01.220. Lawful gear and gear specifications.**

Allow retention of king salmon for subsistence purposes by emergency order during times of king salmon conservation in the Yukon Area, as follows:

The below changes to the 5 AAC 01.220 (n) (2), (3) and (4) will provide the department with a tool that would allow a relatively small harvest of king salmon when selective harvest commercial and subsistence fisheries are prosecuted. Current regulations stipulate that ALL king salmon must be released to the water alive when using these selective harvest gear types. However, the below changes to the regulation will provide the department the emergency order authority to allow some king salmon harvest, when warranted. Note that this EO authority can be implemented on a period by period basis.

### **5 AAC 01.220. Lawful gear and gear specifications**

(n) Notwithstanding the provisions of (d), (e)(2), and (f)(2) of this section, during times when the commissioner determines that it is necessary for the conservation of king salmon, the commissioner may, by emergency order, close the fishing season in the Yukon Area and immediately reopen the season in that area during which one or more of the following gear limitations may be implemented:

(2) for fish wheels:

(A) **unless altered by emergency order**, a fish wheel used to take fish must be equipped with a livebox that is constructed so that it contains no less than 45 cubic feet of water volume while it is in operation; the operator must closely attend the fish wheel while it is in operation, and all king salmon must be immediately released to the water alive from the livebox **unless retention of king salmon for subsistence purposes is allowed by emergency order;**

(B) repealed 5/22/2016;

(C) **unless altered by emergency order**, a person may operate a fish wheel without a livebox only if

(i) the fish wheel is equipped with a chute that returns fish captured by the fish wheel to the water alive;

(ii) the person closely attends the fish wheel while it is in operation; and

(iii) the person returns all king salmon caught to the water alive **unless retention of king salmon for subsistence purposes is allowed by emergency order;**

(3) dip nets may be used; however, all king salmon caught with a dip net must be released to the water alive **unless retention of king salmon for subsistence purposes is allowed by emergency order;**

(4) a beach seine may be used; however, all king salmon caught with a beach seine must be released to the water alive **unless retention of king salmon for subsistence purposes is allowed by emergency order.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Currently, during times when the commissioner determines that it is necessary for the conservation of king salmon, the commissioner may, by emergency order, close the fishing season in the Yukon Area and immediately reopen the season in that area during which fish wheels, dipnets and beach seines may be used to harvest salmon. However, the regulation also currently stipulates that all king salmon caught must be released to the water alive. We believe that when king salmon runs are

large enough to provide for a limited or full subsistence harvests and the selective gear types are still being used, king salmon caught in fishwheel, dipnet, and beach seine fisheries under this regulation, 5 AAC 01.220 (n) (2), (3), and (4) be allowed to be retained for subsistence purposes. We also believe that the retention of king salmon in these fisheries could be surgically regulated by emergency order authority, in other words, the department may or may not allow the retention of king salmon for subsistence purposes on a period by period basis within each district or subdistrict fishery.

While we believe that the current regulation is necessary when the king salmon stocks are critically low, such that every king salmon in the run is needed to spawn, we also believe that when king salmon runs are large enough to provide for some or a full subsistence harvest, the retention of king salmon for subsistence purposes from the selective gear types fisheries maybe warranted and, if necessary, would provide a much slower-paced harvest of king salmon used for subsistence purposes. King salmon runs have recently recovered so that king salmon can be and are being taken for subsistence purposes. However, replacing the selective harvest fisheries with gillnet fisheries may not be appropriate at this time because of the relatively large number of king salmon that may be incidentally harvested in some gillnet fisheries, especially in the Lower Yukon Area. King salmon caught in gillnets can always be retained. However, because of the relatively small catch and the intrinsic inefficiency of catching king salmon in the selective harvest fisheries, we believe that the retention of king salmon for subsistence purposes in these fisheries will not substantially affect the overall run size, subsistence fisheries farther upriver, and the escapement on the spawning grounds. Because the retention of king salmon in these fisheries would only be allowed through emergency order, it would provide the department with a tool to allow some king salmon harvest commensurate with the run size and the targeted king salmon subsistence harvest.

Because of the current king salmon run sizes returning to the Yukon River, there is currently no reason why king salmon should not be retained from the dipnet and beach seine fisheries for subsistence purposes if there are surplus fish in excess of spawning requirements. This would give the department a surgical tool to allow retention of king salmon in these selective harvest fisheries period by period.

Note that the interim king salmon escapement goal (IMEG) for the Yukon River in Canada is 42,500 to 55,000 king salmon. The upper end of the IMEG has been exceeded every year since 2013. The recorded escapement has been: 63,327 in 2014; 82,674 in 2015; 68,798 in 2016; and ~69,000 in 2017. Escapements to the Alaskan portion of the drainage have also been good. These escapements indicate that there are surplus king salmon in far excess of escapement requirements. Subsistence fishers should have the opportunity to harvest some of these excess fish and commercial fishers should have the opportunity to retain these caught salmon for subsistence purposes.

We believe that the subsistence fishers of the Yukon River drainage need not be restricted as they were during critically low king salmon runs. One method to allow subsistence fishers to have the opportunity to take what they need is to allow the retention of king salmon caught in selective harvest fisheries.



Releasing salmon back into the river has been difficult for the people of the Yukon because people living along the river depend on the river for food. Releasing king salmon that have been caught is contrary to their culture. When the runs were critically low, fishers had to be convinced that their efforts were needed to help in king salmon conservation. They were told that every king salmon was needed on the spawning grounds. Now, it may be extremely more difficult for fishers to live release the king salmon back into the river knowing that the runs can provide for a limited, if not a full, subsistence fishery. If this proposal is not adopted, fishers on the Yukon will continue to release king salmon alive back into the water, but the rationale for live releasing these fish back into the river is no longer valid.

**PROPOSED BY:** John A. Lamont

(HQ-F18-045)

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## **PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 39.205, 5 AAC 75.017, and 5 AAC 77.007. Criteria for the allocation of fishery resources among personal use, sport, and commercial fisheries.**

Modify criteria for the allocation of fishery resources among personal use, sport, and commercial fisheries, as follows:

Criteria for the allocation of fishery resources among personal use, sport, and commercial fisheries.

(a) Before adopting regulation that allocate fish among personal use, sport, and commercial fisheries, the board will, as appropriate to particular allocation decisions, consider the factors set out in AS. 16.05.251 (e).

(b) The allocation of fishery resources should follow an adaptive management process. Adaptive Management is the on-going process of evaluating if numerically based management objectives and stated Board intent have been met and adjusting management strategies in response. This process includes periodic re-evaluation and updating of the management goals and objectives to ensure they are relevant to current conditions and needs.

(c) Allocation decisions are often closely aligned with historical use of the resource; however, while historical use may be taken into consideration when reviewing and making an allocation decision, this criterion alone shall not be determinate.

(d) When allocating fishery resources within the Nonsubsistence Use Areas of the State as described in 5 AAC 99.015 the Board shall consider those factors listed in this section in the following order of importance with the degree of importance descending from criteria 1 through 7,

- (1) The importance of each fishery for providing residents the opportunity to harvest fish for personal and family consumption;
- (2) The number of residents and nonresidents who have participated in each fishery in the past and the number of residents and nonresidents who can reasonably be expected to participate in the future;
- (3) The importance of each fishery to the economy of the region and local area in which the fishery is located;
- (4) The importance of each fishery to the economy of the state;
- (5) The history of each personal use, sport, guided sport, and commercial fishery with emphasis on the previous 20 years;
- (6) The importance of each fishery in providing recreational opportunities for residents and nonresidents;
- (7) The availability of alternative fisheries resources of similar characteristics.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Here is the State statute that provides the Board of Fisheries with direction for allocation of fisheries resources. This statute was adopted in 1989. The Board subsequently complied with the statute by adopting it in

regulation, essentially by reference, in 1991. No action has been taken to amend or improve the regulation since that time.

Sec. 16.05.251. Regulations of the Board of Fisheries. (e) The Board of Fisheries may allocate fishery resources among personal use, sport, guided sport, and commercial fisheries. The board shall adopt criteria for the allocation of fishery resources and shall use the criteria as appropriate to particular allocation decisions. The criteria may include factors such as

- (1) The history of each personal use, sport, guided sport, and commercial fishery;
- (2) The number of residents and nonresidents who have participated in each fishery in the past and the number of residents and nonresidents who can reasonably be expected to participate in the future;
- (3) The importance of each fishery for providing residents the opportunity to obtain fish for personal and family consumption;
- (4) The availability of alternative fisheries resources;
- (5) The importance of each fishery to the economy of the state; Rev. Jan. 2018
- (6) The importance of each fishery to the economy of the region and local area in which the fishery is located;
- (7) The importance of each fishery in providing recreational opportunities for residents and nonresidents.

The Board adopted in regulation criteria for the allocation of fishery resources in 1991 and placed the regulations in the general sections for commercial fish (5 AAC 39), sport fish (5 AAC 75) and personal use (5 AAC 77). The following is the one proposal that we submit that will address each of the three sections in the same manner.

**PROPOSED BY:** Kenai River Sportfishing Association

(HQ-F18-046)

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## **PROPOSAL XXX**

### **5 AAC 39.xxx. New section.**

Establish a public forum for hatchery issues, as follows:

#### **5 AAC 39.xxx General Provisions (new section)**

**(1) The commissioner of the Department of Fish and Game and the chairman of the Board of Fisheries will assure that meetings be held on a regular basis wherein the department will update the board and the public on management production, and research relating to Alaska's commercial salmon enhancement program.**

**(2) The hatchery meetings will provide an opportunity for the board and the public to receive reports from the department on hatchery issues including: production trends, management issues, and updates on hatchery planning efforts, wild and hatchery stock interactions, biological considerations, and research.**

**(3) The agenda may include site-specific as well as regional or statewide hatchery issues.**

**(4) The joint department-board meetings will take place at a mutually agreeable time and place during regularly scheduled meeting of the board. The meetings will provide a forum for open discussion on a mutually agreed upon agenda of hatchery topics.**

**(5) On a regular basis these meetings will provide opportunity for submission and subsequent deliberation of regulatory proposals.**

**(6) Requests for reports from the department may be made during the board's work session during years when there is a hatchery forum scheduled.**

**(7) As appropriate, the board and the department may agree to invite other state and federal agencies, professional societies, scientists, or industry spokespersons to attend to contribute information on particular topics.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** In actions taken in January 2001 and June 2002 the Alaska Board of Fisheries stated its intent to institutionalize a public forum to bring a statewide perspective to issues associated with hatchery production of salmon. Accordingly, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the BOF agreed to enter a joint protocol to coordinate department and board interaction on certain aspects of salmon hatchery policy and regulation. This agreement is found in the findings of the BOF, #2002-FB-215. It was the intention of the commissioner of the ADFG and the chairman of the BOF that meetings be held on a regular basis wherein the ADFG would update the board and the public on management, production and research relating to Alaska's commercial salmon enhancement program. Although the joint protocol was never rescinded, the commitment to meet and discuss these very important hatchery issues has been discontinued just at a time that coordination of the sort envisioned by the signatures of the joint protocol is most necessary.

**PROPOSED BY:** Kenai River Sportfishing Association

(HQ-F18-047)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 06.333. Requirements and specifications for use of 200 fathoms of drift gillnet in Bristol Bay.**

Allow the owner of two Bristol Bay drift gillnet permits to fish and operate 200 fathoms of drift gillnet gear from a single vessel, as follows:

This proposal would allow the owner of two Bristol Bay drift gillnet permits to fish and operate 200 fathoms of drift gillnet gear from a single vessel.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Currently, the full benefit of permit stacking (“D” Permits) is not being realized. We will fall short of the potential improvement in quality and reduction of vessels (Optimum Number Study). Bristol Bay drift permit holders and crews will benefit because there will be fewer vessels and less gear per permit giving more opportunity for the remaining vessels and fishermen.

**PROPOSED BY:** Kurt Johnson

(HQ-F18-048)

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## **PROPOSAL XXX**

### **5 AAC 06.331. Gillnet specifications and operations.**

Allow for the commercial harvest of salmon, with set net gear only, within the section of the Kvichak River that borders Levelock Village land, as follows:

### **5 AAC 06.331. Gillnet specifications and operations**

**(new) within the Kvichak Section, along the west bank of the Kvichak River adjacent to the land of the village of Levelock, from the southern point, 59.10321 N, 156.8661 W to the northern point, 59.11478 N, 156.85106 W, near Levelock Creek.**

**(A) set gillnet gear may be operated only as follows:**

**(1) a set gillnet may not exceed 25 fathoms in length;**

**(2) a set gillnet may not be set or operated within 300 feet of another set gillnet;**

**(4) a set gillnet must be operated in a substantially straight line perpendicular to the nearest bank of the Kvichak River;**

**(5) all gear and equipment associated with set gillnet fishing in this area must be removed from the water when it is not being used to fish in the this area;**

**(B) Sockeye salmon harvested within this area shall be tallied against the 8% set net allocation for the Kvichak Section.**

**(2) a CFEC permit holder may not use more than one gillnet to take salmon at any one time.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Allow for the commercial harvest of salmon, with set net gear only, within the section of the Kvichak River that borders Levelock Village land.

This proposal area includes only the west bank of the Kvichak River from (59.10321 N, 156.8661 W), near the south end of the town, to the northern banks of Levelock, near Levelock Creek (59.11478 N, 156.85106 W). This area would provide up to 16 commercially regulated set net sites, each separated by a distance of 300 feet from each other. We consider this proposal a logical scenario because it is based on the harvesting salmon that have escaped the traditional fisheries in the Naknek- Kvichak District and are also in excess of subsistence needs and targeted escapement requirements. If this proposal is accepted, it would provide opportunities for new fishers or retired fishers, to establish or reestablish themselves as Bristol Bay commercial fishermen and it would tend to bring commercial fishing permits back to Alaska residents.

Additionally, residents could participate in this fishery without a massive outlay of resources because they would not need a fully planned operation as to boats and motors. The community and the fish processing plant can work with the fisherman/participants by letting them use the machinery/equipment, supplies, ice machine, etc. This community and fish-processing plant support would be available to assist all the commercial fishers participating in this fishery and the fishery in the Alagnak River Special Harvest Area. This relationship amongst the community, Levelock fish-processing plant, and fisherman would benefit all involved and contribute to a viable, self-sustaining community.

The processing plant in Levelock will provide services with buying the fisherman's harvest, and provide them with profitable returns. We will have economic growth and a re-established

workforce in Bristol Bay area. We plan to expand our plant soon with adequate freezer equipment. Currently, we have the capacity to process up to 12,000 pounds of fish per day with the freezing system we have now. However, we plan to increase our capacity of processing and freezing up to 35,000 lbs. per day. We have other projects like IKURA Salmon Roe projects that's coming in the near future. In addition to providing a viable fishery to residents, this proposal would also provide new opportunities to residents to obtain a commercial fishing permit and fish in their traditional fishing locations. Our long-term goal is to achieve sustainability of a fish processing plant that will provide employment and much needed income to the residents in the area. We are especially focused at the youth and elders. We believe that through employment at our plant and fishery, we are instilling in them responsibility, ambition, and a way of life, a sense of worth and value. Our plans for the plant and the nearby fisheries are for the long term. But first and foremost, we would value this proposed fishery to harvest fish for a profitable commercial fishing grounds.

We respectfully request the Alaska Board of Fisheries, to pass this proposal. It would allow fisherman alternative routes to harvest salmon, which are excess to the Kvichak River targeted escapement goal and have escaped the traditional Naknek- Kvichak District commercial fisheries. The results of the passage of this proposal would also provide added benefits such as providing employment opportunities to residents in the area, as well as, facilitating the transfer of commercial fishing permit buy backs from nonresidents to the residents of Bristol Bay Alaska.

Another option for the BOF to consider is to make this section, as described above, a special harvest area.

**PROPOSED BY:** Levelock Village Council

(HQ-F18-049)

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## **PROPOSAL XXX**

### **5 AAC 06.364. Naknek-Kvichak District Commercial Set and Drift Gillnet Sockeye Salmon Fisheries Management and Allocation Plan.**

Modify the allocation of commercial set and drift gillnet fisheries in the Naknek and Kvichak sections, as follows:

Manage the Naknek and Kvichak Section independent of each other based on the harvestable surplus within each section. Additionally, establish an section-specific harvest allocation criteria so that 84% of each section's harvest is allocated to the drift gillnet fleet and 16% of the section's harvest is allocated to the set gillnet fleet.

### **5 AAC 06.364. Naknek-Kvichak District Commercial Set and Drift Gillnet Sockeye Salmon Fisheries Management and Allocation Plan**

(a) The purpose of this management plan is to establish the allocation of sockeye salmon between the commercial set and drift gillnet fisheries within **each section, the Naknek Section and the Kvichak Section, of** the Naknek-Kvichak District and to establish management measures for the department to achieve the **gear-specific** allocation **within each section**.

(b) Consistent with 5 AAC 06.355 and other applicable provisions of this chapter, the department shall manage the **Naknek and Kvichak Sections** [NAKNEK-KVICHAK DISTRICT] set and drift gillnet fisheries the during the fishing periods specified in 5 AAC 06.320(c)(1) to achieve biological escapement goals into the Kvichak and Naknek River systems and to distribute the **drainage-specific** harvestable surplus of sockeye salmon to the **respective section** drift and set gillnet fisheries as follows:

(1) **Naknek Section** [DRIFT GILLNET – 84 PERCENT]

**(A) drift gillnet fishery – 84 percent of the harvestable surplus in the Naknek Section**  
**; and**

**(B) set net fishery—16 percent of the harvestable surplus in the Naknek Section; and**

(2) **Kvichak Section** [DRIFT GILLNET – 84 PERCENT]

**(A) drift gillnet fishery – 84 percent of the harvestable surplus in the Kvichak Section;**  
**and**

**(B) set net fishery—16 percent of the harvestable surplus in the Kvichak Section;**

**[SET GILLNET – 16 PERCENT AS FOLLOWS;SET GILLNET - 16 PERCENT AS FOLLOWS:**

**(A) KVICHAK SECTION SET GILLNET FISHERY –EIGHT PERCENT; AND**

**(B) NAKNEK SECTION SET GILLNET FISHERY – EIGHT PERCENT;]**

### **5 AAC 06.355. Bristol Bay Commercial Set and Drift Gillnet Sockeye Salmon Fisheries Management and Allocation Plan**

(b) It is the intent of the Board of Fisheries (board) that Bristol Bay sockeye salmon be harvested in the traditional harvest locations and that historical sockeye salmon catches be allocated between drift and set gillnet fisheries by district **or section**. To achieve this allocation, the department shall manage, to the extent practicable, the commercial sockeye salmon fisheries to achieve the allocation percentages established in 5 AAC 06.364 (Naknek-Kvichak District), 5 AAC 06.365 (Egegik District), 5 AAC 06.366 (Ugashik District), and 5 AAC 06.367 (Nushagak District).

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** We believe that changes in the Naknek-Kvichak District Commercial Set and Drift Gillnet Sockeye Salmon Fisheries Management and Allocation Plan are warranted to assure, or set, appropriate harvest allocations for the separate drift fleets within the Naknek and Kvichak Sections. Because the drift gillnet fishery allocation is managed on a district-wide basis, we believe that there are some harvest allocation problems between the section-specific drift gillnet fleet. We believe that each drift gillnet fishery, in each section, should be allocated either:

- a) a set proportion of the district-wide harvestable surplus; or
- b) a set proportion of the harvestable surplus within each section.

Note that the set gillnet fleet is allocated a set percentage, 16%, of the district harvest, with 8% of that allocation distributed to each set net gillnet fleet in each section. The drift allocation is based on the district harvest with no distribution specified by section.

We recommend managing each section independently b), based on the harvestable surplus within each section.

Currently, the Naknek-Kvichak District Commercial Set and Drift Gillnet Sockeye Salmon Fisheries Management and Allocation Plan apportions the 84% of the total District harvest to the drift gillnet fleet and 16% of the total District harvest to the set gillnet fleet. The plan then distributes the set gillnet allocation evenly between the two sections, or 8% to each section. Note, however, that there is no section distribution plan for the District drift gillnet harvest allocation. This means that one section could harvest a much higher percentage of the total drift gillnet allocation than the other, while the set gillnet harvest allocation is divided equally. Under this plan an extreme management scenario would allow the entire drift gillnet allocation to be taken, in one section, say the Naknek Section, with no drift gillnet harvest and only 8% of the set net harvest allocation coming from the other section, the Kvichak Section. This is not fair to the drifters in the Kvichak Section. Because the productivity of the Naknek and Kvichak Rivers may vary, the majority of the harvest within the Kvichak Section may come from the set gillnet fleet when runs are low. The drift gillnet fleet would be disenfranchised from the Kvichak Section fishery.

We believe that a much fairer scheme would be to manage each section independently, based on the harvestable surplus of sockeye salmon within each section. We believe that the total harvest in each section should be distributed between the gear types at an 84% drift and 16% set gillnet allocation. We propose that the allocation strategy in each section be the same, with the drift fleet allocated 84% of the harvestable surplus with each section and the set gillnet fleet allocated 16% in each section. In this way, each section shall be managed for the specific drainage escapement targets with the surplus fish in each section going to each gear type under the allocation of 84% drift and 16% set gillnet. Even when there is a small surplus or a large surplus in each section, the allocation criteria would still apply to each section.

**PROPOSED BY:** Mark Angasan

(HQ-F18-050)

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## **PROPOSAL XXX**

### **5 AAC 67.022. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means in the Bristol Bay Area.**

Establish guide permits on the Naknek River, as follows:

Limited permit fishery, from September 10 through October 20, from the marker located at Rapids Camp up stream to the marker located at Trefons cabin on the Naknek river. Any user who hosts guests and would like access to the upper Naknek river must acquire a registration permit. No user, entity or LLC can hold more than 2 permits unless they have more than 12 guests at a single time, no single guide operator may hold more than 1 permit. Any entity or user may hold 3 permits if they have a guest capacity of more than 12.

For initial issuance no more than 2 permits per entity maybe awarded until it is shown there are permits left available. Each permit allows no more than 3 anglers per boat. Actual permits will be required to be obtained by any commercial, business or private entities that use the river to host trips. Local residents will be excluded from this requirement, provided they are not taking guests, other than family members, fishing. There will be a total of 14 permits issued, the criteria for issuance will be based upon 1) physical location of the entity or individuals base of operations to the fishery 2) Alaska residency 3) recent years and number of years of documented use during September 10 through October 20 4) entity or individuals record of compliance with all rules and regulations of the state of Alaska. Each factor will have a possibility of 10 points and the higher the points the higher placement to receive a permit(s) Points shall be awarded to applicants based on each of these factors. The closer an individual or entity's base of operations is to King Salmon on the Naknek river the more points to be awarded. For every 10 miles of distance a base of operations is from the Naknek river the applicant has 1 point deducted. If the entity or individual is a full time, permanent Alaska resident, 10 points will be awarded; non-resident applicants will receive no points. The longer use of the Naknek river during September 10 through October 20 through ADF&G log book records, the more points shall be awarded, if an applicant has proven use of the upper Naknek River since the inception of the logbook program they will receive 10 points, for every year usage is not recorded a point will be deducted. If the Entity or individual has a clean record of abiding by the rules and regulations of the State of Alaska, they will receive 10 points, for every recorded and convicted violation of an entity or individual a point will be deducted. If there are more than 14 qualified applicants scoring the maximum allotted points for the issuance of these permits, the permits will be drawn out of the hat until all 14 are filled. If there are not 14 applicants for these permits, the stipulation for a maximum of 2 permits per entity will be waived and applicants can hold a maximum of 3 permits for 5 years at which time the permittees will be re-evaluated. If there are still permits left over, they will be held in suspension until a qualified applicant applies to request them. These permits will not be transferable to another user, when an entity goes out of business or is no longer an active user for one or more years, the permits will once again be available for users to obtain with the same guide lines as outlined above. The permits will remain in the hands of the individual or entity to which they were awarded and will be evaluated once every five years and once again awarded as specified above with priority given to users who originally had permits issued to themselves or an entity that had a permit(s) issued to them, for re-issuance. The permits will be priced at a cost to cover the costs of the state to issue and maintain the program as determined by the states offices, these costs will be assessed

yearly and non-payment will be considered non-compliance and the permit will go back to the state and be available to a new or existing user.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Participation in the Naknek River, late fall, rainbow trout fishery has increased to the point of discomfort by all users from overcrowding on the water. The portion of river that is involved in this fishery is relatively short in length and quite limited in accessibility for anglers. This has significantly affected the quality of the experience anglers enjoy while fishing the upper Naknek river. The constitution of the state of Alaska protects quality as well as quantity in fisheries and this issue directly relates to the quality of experience available on the river since there are no current stock concerns for the rainbow fishery and there may not be for many years as this is primarily a catch and release fishery.

**PROPOSED BY:** Nanci Morris Lyon

(HQ-F18-051)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC XX.XXX. New section.**

Adopt the Southwest Alaska Rainbow Trout Management Plan, as follows:

Adopt the Southwest Alaska Rainbow Trout Management Plan into regulation.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The Southwest Alaska Rainbow Trout Management Plan was has become a widely respected document in fisheries across Alaska and the United States. It was originally developed for use by the Alaska Department Fish and Game in the Bristol Bay rainbow trout fisheries and specifically the Naknek and Kvichak rivers. It came out of many years of documented study of the rainbow trout populations and many hours of research and has been used numerous times by the department to establish rules and regulations in the rainbow trout fisheries of the region. It should be added to the regulations so it can be acknowledged as a tool for biologists to use when needed.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F18-052)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 09.369. Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.**

Close parts of the Northern District to commercial fishing when escapement goals are not met for two consecutive years, as follows:

5 AAC 09.369 (n): If the escapement goal for the Bear or Nelson Rivers is not met for two consecutive years from June 20 through July 31, the department shall manage the Bear River, Three Hills, and Ilnik Sections to conserve Bear River and Nelson River sockeye salmon stocks by allowing the passage of sockeye salmon from the northeast to the southwest of the Northern District as described in this subsection. Notwithstanding the provisions of 5 AAC 09.320, from June 20 through July 31, the commissioner shall, by emergency order, establish fishing periods for the Bear River and Three Hills Sections and that portion of the Ilnik Section between the longitude of Unangashak Bluffs at 159° 10.25' W. long., and the longitude of Three Hills at 159° 49.45' W. long., during which the waters that are between the three-mile seaward boundary line, described in 5 AAC 09.301, and a line that is one and one-half miles shoreward of the three-mile seaward boundary are closed for one 24-hour period during a seven-day period. The waters located to the southwest of the open waters where a 24-hour closure has occurred will have sequential closures that allow fishing only in the waters out to the one and one-half mile line described in this subsection for the first 24 hours of an open fishing period. When the department is assured that the escapement goal will be met for the river that did not meet the escapement goal for two consecutive years, then the rolling closures will no longer be in effect.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** To provide protection for the Nelson and Bear Rivers in the management of the Northern District fishery. If the escapement at Nelson or Bear Rivers is not met for two consecutive years, management action will be taken from Unangashak Bluffs in the Ilnik Section, as well as the Three Hills, and Bear River Sections to conserve stocks by implementing rolling closures.

**PROPOSED BY:** Nelson Lagoon Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F18-053)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 01.320. Lawful gear and gear specifications.**

Allow subsistence fishing with hook and line attached to rod or pole in Six Mile Lake, as follows:

5 AAC 01.320. Lawful gear and gear specifications.

**(b) (8) by hook and line attached to a rod or a pole in Six Mile Lake and within ½ mile of the outlet, as specified in (l) of this section**

(l) Subsistence fishing be the use of a hook and line attached to a rod or pole is prohibited, except

**(1) when fishing through the ice**

**(2) when fishing by hook and line attached to a rod or a pole in Six Mile Lake and within ½ mile of the outlet, the following provisions apply:**

**(a) limits as specified in 5 AAC 67.020**

**(b) permits as specified in 5 AAC 01.330**

**(c) a person may not sport fish for salmon and take salmon under a subsistence permit on the same day.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** There isn't opportunity to harvest fish from the beach for subsistence with a fishing pole during periods of subsistence fishing.

**PROPOSED BY:** Nondalton Tribal Council

(HQ-F18-054)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 01.310. Fishing seasons and periods.**

Repeal limits to subsistence fishing periods in the Nushagak District, as follows:

The new regulation would say 5 AAC 01.310 (d) Repealed

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Repeal 5 AAC 01.310 (d).

" (d) In the Nushagak District, in all waters upstream of a line from a point approximately two miles south of Bradford Point at 58\_E58.63' N. lat., 158\_E33.62' W. long. to Nushagak Point at 58\_E56.79' N. lat., 158\_E29.53' W. long., to a point at Red Bluff on the west shore of the Wood River at 59\_E09.58' N. lat., 158\_E32.36' W. long., and to Lewis Point on the north shore on the Nushagak River at 58\_E59.46' N. lat., 158\_E05.57' W. long., from 9:00 a.m. July 2 through 9:00 a.m. July 17, salmon may be taken only from (1) 9:00 a.m. Monday to 9:00 a.m. Tuesday; (2) 9:00 a.m. Wednesday to 9:00 a.m. Thursday; and (3) 9:00 a.m. Saturday to 9:00 a.m. Sunday. "

There is no conservation concern to restrict subsistence access.

**PROPOSED BY:** Nushagak Fish and Game Advisory Committee

(HQ-F18-055)

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## **PROPOSAL XXX**

### **5 AAC 01.320. Lawful gear and gear specifications.**

Allow the use of drift nets of not more than 10 fathoms for subsistence salmon fishing in the Wood and Nushagak Rivers in the vicinity of Dillingham, as follows:

ALLOW the use of drift nets of not more than 10 fathoms for subsistence salmon fishing in the Wood and Nushagak Rivers in the vicinity of Dillingham - but not in the commercial district, not upstream of a point in the Nushagak River and not upstream of Red Bluff in the Wood River (and reduce sport / subsistence conflicts, navigational issues with other boats and brush tangles).

Suggested boundaries and language:

Lawful Gear and Specifications: new language in

5AAC 01.320 (b)

.....

(7) in the Nushagak District from a point approximately two miles south of Bradford Point at 58\_E58.63' N. lat., 158\_E33.62' W. long. to a point at Red Bluff on the west shore of Wood River at 59\_E09.58' N. lat., 158\_E32.36' W. long., and upstream in the Nushagak River to Black Point subsistence fishing may be conducted with a drift gill net.

.....

Drift netting would spread out effort reducing controversies, require less preparation and allow fishers to quickly catch the fish needed. The nature of drifting would require operators to be "on-the-net" while its fishing - avoiding some of the problems with set nets.

Boundaries are selected to reduce avoid conflicts with other vessel traffic, sport fisheries etc. Some language may be needed to address proximity to set subsistence nets. Contingency language for addressing subsistence fishing in the Wood River when the commercial fishery is opened in the Wood River Special Harvest Area.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** EXISTING REGULATORY LANGUAGE that may apply:

5 AAC 01.320:

....

(b) Outside the boundaries of any district, salmon may only be taken by set gillnet, except that salmon may also be taken as follows:

.....

(c) Except as specified in (b) of this section, the maximum lengths for gillnets and beach seines used to take salmon are as follows:

(1) set gillnets may not exceed 10 fathoms in length in

(A) the Naknek, Egegik, and Ugashik Rivers;

(B) the Nushagak District during the emergency order subsistence openings described in 5 AAC 01.310(b);

(C) all waters of Nushagak Bay upstream of a line from a point approximately two miles south of Bradford Point at 58°E58.63' N. lat., 158°E33.62' W. long. to Snag Point at 59°E03.18' N. lat., 158°E25.59' W. long.;

(D) repealed 5/31/98;

(2) in the remaining waters of the Wood River and Nushagak River not described in (c)(1)(C) of this section, set gillnets may not exceed 25 fathoms in length;

.....

Currently subsistence salmon fishing in Nushagak Bay near Dillingham is only allowed with the use of set gillnets. Available sites for subsistence nets is very limited in the Dillingham area and competition for space can be very aggressive and sometimes contentious. Instances of unauthorized "borrowing" or even misuse of sites and gear such as anchors and running lines and stakes causes controversy every year. In addition it is a lot of time consuming work to set up a good set net site requiring anchors, lines, stakes or other on shore anchor points. Access to some sites is often limited by tide levels or weather making them harder to access and much harder to deploy, pick or to inactivate the gear.

**PROPOSED BY:** Nushagak Fish and Game Advisory Committee

(HQ-F18-056)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 06.358. Wood River Sockeye Salmon Special Harvest Area Management Plan.**

Allow set and drift gillnet fisheries when the Wood River Special Harvest Area is open by emergency order after July 17, as follows:

(5) when the Wood River Special Harvest Area is open under (c)(3) of this section, the Wood River Special Harvest Area will be **open to both gear groups regardless to allocation after July 17th when allocation goes away everywhere as in** 5 AAC 06.367(b) for the Nushagak District.

(e) The commercial salmon fishery in the Wood River Special Harvest Area may be opened only during closures of the subsistence salmon fisheries within the Wood River Special Harvest Area.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** (5) when the Wood River Special Harvest Area is open under (c)(3) of this section, the Wood River Special Harvest Area will be [ONLY OPEN FOR THE GEAR GROUP THAT IS BEHIND IN THE ALLOCATION SPECIFIED IN] 5 AAC 06.367(b) for the Nushagak District. (e) The commercial salmon fishery in the Wood River Special Harvest Area may be opened only during closures of the subsistence salmon fisheries within the Wood River Special Harvest Area.

If allocation truly goes away after July 17th then it should go away in the Wood River Special Harvest Area as well.

**PROPOSED BY:** Nushagak Fish and Game Advisory Committee

(HQ-F18-057)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 07.365. Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Plan.**

Allow subsistence fishing in non-spawning tributaries of the Kuskokwim River during subsistence salmon closures, as follows:

During subsistence salmon closures, that portion of the Pailleq, Agyaraq, Tuntutuliak, Kialiq, and Johnson Rivers, upstream from a line between ADF&G markers 100 yards upstream from its confluence with the Kuskokwim River, shall remain open to subsistence fishing with gillnets that are eight inches or smaller, with a maximum length of 50 fathoms.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Closure of Kuskokwim River and tributaries in recent years. Pailleq, Agyaraq, Tuntutuliak, Kialiq, and Johnson Rivers are non-spawning Kuskokwim tributaries that are important and traditional subsistence fishing locations for the local residents living nearby the aforementioned rivers. With increased regulations during the chinook season, the rivers may be negatively impacted and could become closed to subsistence harvest of fish. Since these rivers are non-spawning tributaries, local residents would like to see its subsistence fishing protected in regulation, as stated in ANILCA.

**PROPOSED BY:** Qinarmiut Corporation

(HQ-F18-058)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 01.240. Marking and use of subsistence-taken salmon.**

Remove the requirement to remove the tips of the tail fin of subsistence-taken salmon on the Yukon River, as follows:

Delete the regulation

~~5 AAC 01.240. Marking and use of subsistence taken salmon~~

~~(c) In Districts 1–3, from June 1 through July 15, a person may not possess king salmon taken for subsistence uses unless both tips (lobes) of the tail fin have been removed before the person conceals the salmon from plain view or transfers the salmon from the fishing site. A person may not sell or purchase salmon from which both tips (lobes) of the tail fin have been removed.~~

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Fin-clipping does not prevent people from selling into the commercial fishery Chinook Salmon that they take in the subsistence fishery because only a few Yukon subsistence fishermen do this. There are always going to be a few bad actors, we know who they are, they have been fined before, and this regulation has not stopped them. This regulation is burdensome on subsistence fishermen without any benefit.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alissa Nadine Rogers

(HQ-F18-059)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 01.210. Fishing seasons and periods.**

Reduce the period of subsistence closure prior to the opening of the commercial fishing season in Yukon Districts 1-3 and Subdistrict 4-A, as follows:

5 AAC 01.210. Fishing seasons and periods

(e) In Districts 1, 2, and 3, excluding the Innoko River drainage, **and Subdistrict 4A, excluding the Koyukuk River drainage**, salmon may not be taken for subsistence during the 24 **SIX** hours immediately before the opening of the commercial salmon fishing season.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** These closures do not prevent people from selling into the commercial fishery Chinook Salmon that they take in the subsistence fishery because only a few Yukon subsistence fishermen do this. There are always going to be a few bad actors, we know who they are, they have been fined before, and this regulation has not stopped them. This regulation is burdensome on subsistence fishermen without any benefit.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alissa Nadine Rogers

(HQ-F18-060)

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**ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES  
REGULATION PROPOSAL FORM 2018-2019**

Send completed form to:  
**PO BOX 115526, JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811-5526 or**  
**FAX (907) 465-6094 or E-MAIL dfg.bof.comments@alaska.gov**

*\*Indicates a required field*

<b>BOARD OF FISHERIES REGULATIONS</b>		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Subsistence	<input type="checkbox"/> Personal Use	<input type="checkbox"/> Sport
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial		
<b>*Which meeting would you like to submit your proposal to?</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Alaska Peninsula-Aleutian Island-Chignik Finfish	<input type="checkbox"/> Statewide Provisions for Finfish	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Areas Finfish	<input type="checkbox"/> Bristol Bay Area Finfish	
<b>Please answer all questions to the best of your ability. All answers will be printed in the proposal book along with the proposer's name (address and phone numbers will not be published). Use separate forms for each proposal. Address only one issue per proposal. State the issue clearly and concisely. The board will reject multiple or confusing items.</b>		
<b>1. Alaska Administrative Code Number: 5 AAC 01.210.(e)</b>		
<b>*2. What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?</b>		
These closures do not prevent people from selling into the commercial fishery Chinook Salmon that they take in the subsistence fishery because only a few Yukon subsistence fishermen do this. There are always going to be a few bad actors, we know who they are, they have been fined before, and this regulation has not stopped them. This regulation is burdensome on subsistence fishermen without any benefit.		
<b>*3. What solution do you recommend? In other words, if the board adopted your solution, what would the new regulation say? (Please provide draft regulatory language, if possible.)</b>		
<div style="text-align: center;"><b>5 AAC 01.210. Fishing seasons and periods</b></div> <p><i>(e) In Districts 1, 2, and 3, excluding the Innoko River drainage, [and Subdistrict 4A, excluding the Koyukuk River drainage,] salmon may not be taken for subsistence during the 24 [ SIX ] hours immediately before the opening of the commercial salmon fishing season.</i></p>		

**\*Submitted By:** Alissa Nadine Rogers

**Individual or Group**

P.O. Box 2405, Bethel, Alaska 99559

**\*Address**

**\*City, State**

**\*ZIP Code**

(907) 306-4345

alissa.n.rogers@gmail.com

**Home Phone**

**\*Work Phone**

**\*Email**

**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 01.210. Fishing seasons and periods.**

Reduce the period of subsistence closures during the commercial fishing season in Yukon Districts 1-3, as follows:

Delete the regulation.

5 AAC 01.210. Fishing seasons and periods

(e)(1) in Districts 1, 2, and 3,

(A) after the opening of the commercial salmon fishing season through July 15, salmon may not be taken for subsistence for [18] **six** hours immediately before, during, and for [12] **six** hours after each commercial salmon fishing period;

(B) after July 15, salmon may not be taken for subsistence for [12] **six** hours immediately before, during, and for [12] **six** hours after each commercial salmon fishing period;

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** If the Board does not get rid of these regulations as requested in my proposal “4a” I’m asking the Board to consider this proposal, which reduces closures before and after commercial fishing periods. These closures do not prevent people from selling into the commercial fishery Chinook Salmon that they take in the subsistence fishery because only a few Yukon subsistence fishermen do this. There are always going to be a few bad actors, we know who they are, they have been fined before, and this regulation has not stopped them. This regulation is burdensome on subsistence fishermen without any benefit.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alissa Nadine Rogers

(HQ-F18-062)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 71.030. Methods, means, and general provisions — Finfish.**

Require parts of sport-caught salmon in the Kuskokwim-Goodnews Area to be retained or disposed of away from shore, as follows:

Add new regulation

**5 AAC 71.030 Sport Fishing and Personal Use Fishery**

**Kuskokwim-Goodnews Area**

**Methods, means, and general provisions - Finfish**

**(d) In the State sport salmon fishery in the Kuskokwim River drainage, salmon heads and back bones shall be retained and Chinook Salmon heads, eggs, stomachs, tails, and backbones shall be retained. Nonedible parts shall be offered to local dog mushers and garden groups and only then discarded midriver away from shore or buried away from any community.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** At many communities, sport fishermen discard fish parts all over the beach where kids go swimming. Local residents observe fish parts on beaches in tributary streams also, especially the Kwethluk, Kasigluk, and Kisaralik river drainages where sport fishing pressure is high.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alissa Nadine Rogers

(HQ-F18-063)

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## **PROPOSAL XXX**

### **5 AAC 07.365. Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Plan.**

Close king salmon fisheries on the Kuskokwim River by emergency order on June 1, as follows:

#### 5 AAC 07.365. Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Plan

(c) In the king salmon fishery,

(1) when the projected escapement of king salmon is below the drainagewide escapement goal range, the commissioner shall close, by emergency order, the commercial, sport, and subsistence king salmon fisheries **on June 1**;

(2) when the projected escapement of king salmon is within the drainagewide escapement goal range, the commissioner shall open and close fishing periods, by emergency order, as follows:

(A) the commissioner shall close **on June 1**, by emergency order, the commercial, sport, and subsistence king salmon fisheries, and after June 11, to the extent practicable, the commissioner shall open, by emergency order, at least one fishing period per week for a directed subsistence king salmon fishery to provide harvest opportunity on surplus king salmon in excess of escapement needs,

(B) after June 11, fishing may be opened for commercial and sport fisheries to provide harvest opportunity on surplus king salmon in excess of escapement and subsistence needs;

(C) notwithstanding (c)(2)(A) of this section, before June 12 the commissioner shall open, by emergency order, at least one subsistence fishing period per week with four-inch or smaller mesh gillnets; the gillnet may only be operated as a set gillnet and no part of the set gillnet may be more than 100 feet from the ordinary high water mark;

(3) when the projected escapement of king salmon exceeds the drainagewide escapement goal range,

(A) the commissioner shall close **on June 1**, by emergency order, the commercial, sport, and subsistence king salmon fisheries, and after June 11, the directed subsistence king salmon fishery will be open seven days per week; and

(B) after June 11, the commercial and sport fisheries will be managed to provide harvest opportunity on surplus king salmon in excess of escapement and subsistence needs.

(C) notwithstanding (c)(3)(A) of this section, before June 12 the commissioner shall open, by emergency order, at least one subsistence fishing period per week with four-inch or smaller mesh gillnets; the gillnet may only be operated as a set gillnet and no part of the set gillnet may be more than 100 feet from the ordinary high water mark;

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** ADF&G's Kuskokwim Salmon Management Plan requires the State to close king salmon fisheries in the Kuskokwim River drainage through June 11. This closure is achieved by implementing a closure to the use of gillnets. In 2017, the closure to the use of gillnets began on May 20. Few Chinook Salmon pass the mouth of Kuskokwim before June 1, and local people customarily and traditionally harvest other species of fish with gillnets, especially whitefishes and the larger Sheefish that are harvested with 6 inch mesh size gillnets. The Management Plan should have a June 1 beginning date for the closure so that people can continue to harvest fish other than Chinook Salmon in gillnets.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alissa Nadine Rogers

(HQ-F18-064)

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## **PROPOSAL XXX**

### **5 AAC 07.365. Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Plan.**

Allow subsistence fishing for king salmon on the Kuskokwim River prior to June 11, as follows:

#### 5 AAC 07.365. Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Plan

(c) In the king salmon fishery,

(1) when the projected escapement of king salmon is below the drainagewide escapement goal range, the commissioner shall close, by emergency order, the commercial, sport, and subsistence king salmon fisheries;

(2) when the projected escapement of king salmon is within the drainagewide escapement goal range, the commissioner shall open and close fishing periods, by emergency order, as follows:

(A) the commissioner shall close, by emergency order, the commercial **and** sport [AND SUBSISTENCE] king salmon fisheries, and **in the subsistence king fishery from June 1 through June 25 the use of 6-inch or less mesh size gillnets will only be restricted, if necessary, during rolling closures implemented sequentially up the river in a step-wise progression consistent with Chinook Salmon run timing** [AFTER JUNE 11, TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE, THE COMMISSIONER SHALL OPEN, BY EMERGENCY ORDER, AT LEAST ONE FISHING PERIOD PER WEEK FOR A DIRECTED SUBSISTENCE KING SALMON FISHERY TO PROVIDE HARVEST OPPORTUNITY ON SURPLUS KING SALMON IN EXCESS OF ESCAPEMENT NEEDS,]

(B) after June 11, fishing may be opened for commercial and sport fisheries to provide harvest opportunity on surplus king salmon in excess of escapement and subsistence needs;

[(C) NOTWITHSTANDING (C)(2)(A) OF THIS SECTION, BEFORE JUNE 12 THE COMMISSIONER SHALL OPEN, BY EMERGENCY ORDER, AT LEAST ONE SUBSISTENCE FISHING PERIOD PER WEEK WITH FOUR-INCH OR SMALLER MESH GILLNETS; THE GILLNET MAY ONLY BE OPERATED AS A SET GILLNET AND NO PART OF THE SET GILLNET MAY BE MORE THAN 100 FEET FROM THE ORDINARY HIGH WATER MARK;]

(3) when the projected escapement of king salmon exceeds the drainagewide escapement goal range,

(A) the commissioner shall close, by emergency order, the commercial **and** sport [AND SUBSISTENCE] king salmon fisheries, and **in the subsistence king fishery from June 1 through June 11 the use of 6-inch or less mesh size gillnets will only be restricted, if necessary, during rolling closures implemented sequentially up the river in a step-wise progression consistent with Chinook Salmon run timing, and** after June 11, the directed subsistence king salmon fishery will be open seven days per week; and

(B) after June 11, the commercial and sport fisheries will be managed to provide harvest opportunity on surplus king salmon in excess of escapement and subsistence needs.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** ADF&G's Kuskokwim Salmon Management Plan requires the State to close king salmon fisheries in the Kuskokwim

River drainage through June 11. This closure is achieved by implementing a closure to the use of gillnets. There should be opportunity to harvest king salmon before June 11 every year.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alissa Nadine Rogers

(HQ-F18-065)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 09.360. Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan, and 5 AAC 15.357. Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan.**

Close certain fisheries until the Orzinski Lake sockeye escapements are met, as follows:

The Mitrofanina and Perryville districts will not open until red salmon escapement levels are met in the Orzinski red system.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The Chignik fishery is becoming a new and expanding fishery, especially in the Mitrofanina and Perryville districts. The interception of westbound reds in these areas may be having a detrimental effect on the Orzinski red returns.

**PROPOSED BY:** Sand Point Fish and Game Advisory Committee

(HQ-F18-066)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 09.360. Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan; and 5 AAC 15.357. Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan.**

Close the Perryville district and Mitrofanina section to commercial salmon fishing when the Southeastern District Mainland is closed due to escapement goals, as follows:

When the SEDM section of the south peninsula is closed because of escapement concerns, the Mitrofanina section and Perryville district will close to commercial salmon fishing until the SEDM reaches its escapement goals.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** In recent years the SEDM has not opened in late July and August until escapement levels had been reached. At the same time the Mitrofanina and Perryville districts were permitted to remain open while they were targeting west-bound fish.

**PROPOSED BY:** Sand Point Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F18-067)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 15.357. Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan.**

Create a test fishery in the Mitrofanina section, as follows:

The department shall conduct a seine test fishery in the Mitrofanina Section to assess the presence of immature salmon. If 100 or more immature salmon, per set, are present, the Commissioner shall close, by emergency order, the seine fishery in an area to be determined by the department.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The presence of immature salmon in the Chignik seine fishery. The only immature test fishery in the Western region right now is the south peninsula. What fish are being saved if there are no other immature test fisheries in the western gulf region?

**PROPOSED BY:** Sand Point Fish and Game Advisory Committee

(HQ-F18-068)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 09.366. Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula.**

Repeal the seine test fishery in the Shumagin Islands Section, as follows:

Repeal 09.366(i) from the post June management plan.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Lost fishing time and money caused by closures brought on the immature test fishery. What fish are being saved? Where are they going?

**PROPOSED BY:** Sand Point Fish and Game Advisory Committee

(HQ-F18-069)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 09.331. Gillnet specifications and operations.**

Repeal the minimum mesh size requirement for set gillnets in the South Alaska Peninsula, as follows:

Repeal 5 AAC 09.331(b)(3) and replace with (c), in the South Alaska Peninsula there is no minimum mesh size for set gillnets.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Set gillnets have different mesh size requirements for different areas and sections in the south peninsula fisheries. The effect is having to buy extra nets of different size mesh.

**PROPOSED BY:** Sand Point Fish and Game Advisory Committee

(HQ-F18-070)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan.**

Open the area from Cape Tolstoi to McGinty Point to June commercial salmon fishing, as follows:

5 AAC 09.365(c) The Shumagin Islands June fishery takes place in the Shumagin Islands Section and the area from Cape Tolstoi to McGinty Point.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Areas in the south peninsula June fishery that are closed for no reason, causing loss of fishing opportunities.

**PROPOSED BY:** Sand Point Fish and Game Advisory Committee

(HQ-F18-071)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan; and 09.366. Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula.**

Repeal closed waters in the South Alaska Peninsula Area, as follows:

Repeal 5 AAC 09.365(f) of the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Management Plan and 5 AAC 09.366(j) of the Post-June Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Lost fishing time and area in the South Alaska Peninsula Area.

**PROPOSED BY:** Sand Point Fish and Game Advisory Committee

(HQ-F18-072)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 09.360. Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan.**

Increase the Southeast District Mainland allocation of sockeye salmon, as follows:

The percentage of sockeye salmon destined for the Chignik River that are harvested in the SEDM fishery may be permitted to fluctuate above or below **10%** [7.6%] of sockeye salmon harvest in the Chignik area at any time before July 25.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Lost fishing time and opportunities in the Southeast District Mainland (SEDM) fishery. The SEDM has a 7.6% allocation at 80% while Kodiak has a 15% allocation based on a 90% catch of Chignik bound salmon.

**PROPOSED BY:** Sand Point Fish and Game Advisory Committee

(HQ-F18-073)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 09.360. Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan.**

Reduce the estimate of sockeye salmon destined for the Chignik River harvested in the Southeast District Mainland, as follows:

The estimate of sockeye salmon destined for the Chignik River has been determined to be **60%** [80%] of the sockeye salmon harvested in the East Stepovak, Stepovak Flats, Southwest Stepovak, Balboa Bay, and Beaver Bay sections, and before July 1 in the Northwest Stepovak section.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Lost fishing time and opportunities in the SEDM of Area M. The genetic stock assessment for the SEDM indicated the actual percentage of Chignik bound salmon caught in the SEDM is lower than 80%.

**PROPOSED BY:** Sand Point Fish and Game Advisory Committee

(HQ-F18-074)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 01.2XX.**

Allow the taking of the first king salmon entering the Yukon River for religious and ceremonial use, as follows:

Allow the taking of the first king salmon entering Yukon River for religious and ceremonial use.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** To all Yukon Yupik people an exemption to harvest first king salmon entering Yukon River for religious and ceremonial use. Currently it is a violation to do so during times of conservation or protecting first or second king salmon pulses. These closures often impose criminal or other penalties that pressure, compel, or even eliminate the religious practice.

**PROPOSED BY:** Stanley Pete

(HQ-F18-075)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 75.995. Definitions.**

Define “bow and arrow”, as follows:

5 AAC 75.995. is amended to read:

(x) “bow and arrow” a bow is defined as a long bow, recurve bow, compound bow, and crossbow. An arrow must have a barbed tip and be attached by a line to the bow.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Bow or bow and arrow is defined in regulation under 5 AAC 56, 57, 59, 60, 61, and 62. The use of bow and arrow for sucker, burbot, northern pike, or whitefish is referenced in 5 AAC 52, 69, 70, 71, 73, and 74, but bow and arrow is not defined. This would provide a statewide definition that could be referenced in all regulations that allow the use of bow and arrow. This would provide consistency in the sport fishing regulations.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F18-076)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 75.995. Definitions.**

Define “ecotourism”, as follows:

5 AAC 75.995. is amended to read:

(x) Unless otherwise provided in 5 AAC 47 – 5 AAC 75 “ecotourism” is defined as an activity that includes demonstration of fishing techniques, capture of fish and shellfish species that are released unharmed, and/or education and interpretation of the demonstrated fishery to their clients. The business must meet the requirements of 5 AAC 75.085.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** “Ecotourism” is referenced but not defined in regulation under 5 AAC 47.090 and 5 AAC 75.085. There has been increased interest by businesses to provide ecotourism activities to educate clients about Alaska fisheries and fishery resources. Some businesses are uncertain if they meet the ecotourism definition as it is not defined. This would provide clarity in the sport fishing regulations.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F18-077)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 07.365. Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Plan.**

Allow subsistence fishing in the Pailleq Slough during subsistence salmon closures, as follows:

**5 AAC 07.365 (d) (5)**

**During subsistence salmon fishing closures, that portion of Pailleq Slough upstream from a line 100 yards upstream from its confluence with the Kuskokwim River, shall remain open to subsistence fishing with gillnets.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The Kuskokwim River has experienced main stem and tributary subsistence fishing closures in recent years in order to conserve Chinook salmon. The community of Eek is located on the Eek River, which is a salmon spawning tributary of the Kuskokwim River. Pailleq Slough is located up river from Eek Island off of the mainstem of the Kuskokwim River and flows into Eenayarak River. During Chinook salmon conservation subsistence fishing closures, Pailleq has also been closed even though salmon do not typically migrate up these waters. Residents would like to keep Pailleq open to fishing even in times of Chinook salmon conservation.

Traditionally, residents near the Kuskokwim River mouth and Bering Sea coast, including the community of Eek, have maintained subsistence camps on or near Pailleq Slough and have practiced subsistence activities such as fishing and berry picking while living at these camps throughout the summer season. Residents harvest whitefish, Sheefish, pike and other nonsalmon species from this location. Today, the Pailleq Slough remains important due to its proximity to the community of Eek, its historical relevance, and its subsistence opportunities. People rely on this slough during the summer fishing season because it is much closer to Eek than having to travel south to the Quinhagak area, which requires more boat fuel and expenses, in order to fish. Residents depend on Pailleq Sough to meet their physical needs and to sustain their subsistence way of life and culture. They typically use driftnets in this location since setnets cannot be used due to the strong tidal action. Keeping Pailleq Slough open even in times of conservation would also relax pressure on subsistence users when the Kuskokwim River mainstem is closed by allowing users to easily harvest other fish species nearby.

**PROPOSED BY:** William Charlie Brown

(HQ-F18-078)

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## **PROPOSAL XXX**

### **5 AAC 05.310. Fishing seasons; and 5 AAC 05.369. Yukon River Coho Salmon Management Plan.**

Remove the set dates for closing the fall chum salmon and coho salmon fisheries in the Yukon Area, as follows:

#### **5 AAC 05.310. Fishing seasons**

Except as provided in 5 AAC 05.320 - 5 AAC 05.380, salmon may be taken only as follows:

(1) in Districts 1, 2, and 3, the commissioner shall open **and close** the season by emergency order [AND CLOSE THE SEASON ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1 AT 12:01 A.M. BY EMERGENCY ORDER];

(2) in District 4: except as specified in 5 AAC 05.369, in Subdistricts 4-A, 4-B, and 4-C, the commissioner shall open **and close** the season by emergency order [AND CLOSE THE SEASON ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1 AT 12:01 A.M. BY EMERGENCY ORDER];

(3) in District 5, in all subdistricts, the commissioner shall open **and close** the season by emergency order [AND CLOSE THE SEASON ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1 AT 12:01 A.M. BY EMERGENCY ORDER];

#### **5 AAC 05.369. Yukon River Coho Salmon Management Plan**

(e) In a year when a directed commercial coho salmon fishery is opened under this section in

(1) Districts 1, 2, and 3, the commissioner shall close [,BY EMERGENCY ORDER] the coho salmon fall season **by emergency order** [NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 10];

(2) Subdistrict 5-A, and Districts 4 and 6, the commissioner shall close [BY EMERGENCY ORDER,] the coho salmon fall season **by emergency order** [NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 5];

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Remove the set dates for closing the fall chum salmon and coho salmon fall season fisheries in all districts and subdistricts within the Yukon Area: Climate change is most likely responsible for alterations in environmental conditions and salmon migrations in many Alaskan rivers, including the Yukon River. In recent years, there has been a desire to fish later in the fall fishing season in some sections of the Yukon Area because of later running fall season salmon and also because of delayed ice formation on the river. However, both the fall chum and coho salmon fall season fisheries throughout the Yukon Area close by a set date in regulation, unless closed earlier by emergency order. Because salmon migrations, as well as environmental conditions, have been altered by climate change, we seek to remove all set closure dates for the fall season fisheries and recommend that the closures occur through emergency order. Note that an emergency petition was accepted by the BOF and a proposal was generated for deliberation at the March 2018 statewide meeting that removed the October 1 closure date for the District 6 fall season fishery, **5 AAC 05.310 (4)**. This proposal was passed unanimously by the BOF at this meeting. The basic rationale for removing the set dates for the all other Yukon fall seasons fisheries is similar. This proposal, with the suggested language, replaces the set closure date for all fall season fisheries throughout the Yukon Area with a closure specified by emergency order. If nothing is done, an emergency regulation may be requested in several years to extend the fisheries beyond the closure date in several districts and/or subdistrict fall season fisheries. The removal of the set date in lieu of closing the seasons by emergency order is not anticipated to have any negative effects on the commercial or the subsistence fisheries. Additionally, it would allow the department more control of the termination of the fall season

fisheries within the Alaskan portion of the Yukon River Drainage. This would benefit the commercial fishers of the Yukon Area by allowing them to fish longer and possibly harvest more fish during the fall season fisheries.

**PROPOSED BY:** Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Association (HQ-F18-079)

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## **PROPOSAL XXX**

### **5 AAC 05.200. Fishing districts and subdistricts.**

Divide District 2 into two subdistricts, as follows:

We believe the only solution for the fish buyer to consistently buy good quality summer chum salmon during the summer fishing season from District 2 is to divide District 2 into two subdistricts that can be opened separately or combined.

### **5 AAC 05.200. Fishing districts and subdistricts**

(b) District 2 consists of that portion of the Yukon River drainage from the northern edge of the mouth of the Anuk River upstream to an ADF&G regulatory marker located at Toklik, and includes the Anuk River drainage.

**(1) Subdistrict 2A consists of that portion of the Yukon River drainage from the northern edge of the mouth of the Anuk River upstream to the upriver boundary of Statistical Area 334-22. This subdistrict includes Statistical Areas 334-21 and 334-22.**

**(2) Subdistrict 2B consists of that portion of the Yukon River drainage that includes Statistical Areas 334-23, 334-24, and 334-25. The lower boundary of this subdistrict is the boundary line between Statistical areas 334-22 and 334-23. The upriver boundary of this subdistrict is the regulatory marker located at Tokik or the upstream boundary of District 2.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Divide District 2 into two subdistricts, 2A and 2B.

The Yukon River commercial fisheries consist of a gauntlet type fishery from the Yukon River delta up along the mainstem to the U.S./Canada border and within the Tanana River. Two races of chum salmon occur in the Yukon River drainage, summer chum and fall chum salmon. Summer chum salmon are distinguished by rapid maturation in freshwater, and smaller body size. Average weight is approximately 6 to 7 pounds. Summer chum salmon spawn primarily in run-off streams in the lower 700 miles of the drainage and in the Tanana River drainage. Although summer chum salmon are harvested for subsistence throughout the Alaskan portion of the Yukon River drainage, with minimal harvests within District 5B, 5C, and 5D, commercial fisheries have recently been confined to District 1, 2, and 6, the Tanana River, and sporadically in subdistrict 4A. The District 1 and 2 commercial fisheries for summer chum salmon are a flesh-based fishery, with a premium price paid for silver bright summer chum salmon with good flesh color and quality. The summer chum salmon market for District 1 and 2 summer chum salmon demands silver bright summer chum salmon with good flesh quality and color. However, because summer chum salmon rapidly mature in fresh water, the color of the fish along with the quality and color of the flesh deteriorates rapidly as they migrate up the Yukon River. By the time these salmon migrate into the upper statistical areas of District 2, starting with Statistical Area 334-23, these fish become obviously water marked with degraded pale color flesh and poor overall quality. Processors in District 1 and 2 that buy summer chum salmon from fishers must purchase the best quality summer chum salmon to remain competitive. However, because Yukon Area commercial salmon fisheries are prosecuted on a district-wide basis in the lower Yukon, it is difficult for the processors to purchase only good quality summer chum salmon from the entire District 2 fishery.

If nothing is changed, processors may refuse to purchase any District 2 harvests that appear to contain water-marked salmon or may not purchase summer chum salmon harvested in District 2.

We also considered not buying color-marked salmon, but we believe that this would lead to wanton waste and it is difficult to determine the portion of fish that are water-marked in that specific harvest. We also considered limiting fishers to the lower portion of District 2 or by Statistical Area, but this is problematic because fishers may fish in one statistical area and report their catch from another statistical area. We believe the only solution is to divide District 2 into two subdistricts that can be opened to commercial fishing by the department separately or combined.

We also considered not buying color-marked salmon, but we believe that this would lead to wanton waste and it is difficult to determine the portion of fish that are water-marked in that specific harvest. We also considered limiting fishers to the lower portion of District 2 or by Statistical Area, but this is problematic because fishers may fish in one statistical area and report their catch from another statistical area. We believe the only solution is to divide District 2 into two subdistricts that can be opened to commercial fishing by the department separately or combined.

**PROPOSED BY:** Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Association (HQ-F18-080)  
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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 01.270. Lawful gear and gear specifications and operation.**

Allow use of set gillnets with 7 ½” mesh to harvest salmon other than king salmon and other non-salmon fish species on the Kuskokwim River for subsistence purposes during times of king salmon conservation, as follows:

A gillnet mesh size may not exceed 7 1/2 inches, 60 feet in length and may only be operated as a set gillnet; the gillnet operators may anchor their gillnets using commercial metal or aluminum anchors or make shift anchors out of wood regardless of where the high water mark is at the location of the individuals traditional set net site.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The use of 4" gillnet during times of Chinook Salmon Conservation is inadvertently causing whitefish species to decline and in order for subsistence users to get a taste of other Salmon species, this particular proposal needs to be repealed and replaced.

People along the Kuskokwim River drainages have fished for white fish and chee fish right after the river ice breaks up. They only target those species until chinook and other salmon species migrate up the Kuskokwim River and river drainages to their spawning ground. We all know that other salmon species, i. e. chum and sockeye salmon migrate along with chinooks to their spawning grounds and those two salmon can be targeted with the 7 ½ inch mesh gill nets as outlined in 5 AAC 01.270 (m) (1) (A). This will ensure that we do not over fish all species of white fish and decimate the next generation of chinook salmon that migrate up the Kuskokwim River and its drainages. (See 5 AAC 01.270 (m) (1) for specifics on chum salmon in the 2016-2017 Subsistence and Personal Use Statewide Fisheries Regulations.)

People will over fish white fish and other small fish that come up the Kuskokwim River and its tributaries which in the future will cause us not to fish for those species if this regulation is not changed and may do more harm to the next generation of Chinook that migrate up to their spawning grounds. People along the Kuskokwim River drainages will have to look elsewhere to set their gill nets where they do not generally set their nets.

**PROPOSED BY:** Organized Village of Kwethluk

(HQ-F18-082)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 01.275. Waters closed to subsistence fishing; 5 AAC 07.365. Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Plan; and 5 AAC 71.010. Seasons and bag, possession, annual, and size limits for the Kuskokwim — Goodnews Area.**

Close all fishing in non-salmon spawning rivers of the Kuskokwim River within five miles of the confluence during times of king salmon conservation, as follows:

The Commissioner shall close non-salmon spawning rivers (Tagayanaq, Ishkowik, Tuntutuliak, Kialiq, Johnson, Kwiik and all other unnamed creeks, sloughs and rivers) in times of chinook salmon conservation as follows with the following restrictions: Non salmon spawning rivers shall be closed starting from the mouth to five miles upstream. Set nets and drifting with any size gear are prohibited in times of chinook salmon conservation within the 5 mile buffer.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** There is no current regulation on non-salmon spawning rivers in times of Chinook salmon conservation on the Kuskokwim River. For the residents of the Kuskokwim River to truly conserve chinook salmon for the future generations, the non-salmon spawning rivers must be closed five miles upstream from the mouth of these rivers.

**PROPOSED BY:** Organized Village of Kwethluk

(HQ-F18-083)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 01.295. Aniak River bag and possession limits; 5 AAC 07.365. Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Plan; and 5 AAC 71.010. Seasons and bag, possession, annual, and size limits for the Kuskokwim — Goodnews Area.**

Close fishing for king salmon on Doestock Creek when other Kuskokwim River fisheries are closed to the taking of king salmon, as follows:

(1) The bag and possession limit is as specified by species in 5 AAC 70.010, except that the bag and possession limit is for King salmon is two fish, with no size and annual limits; Chinook Salmon: During times of Chinook Salmon conservation taking of Chinook Salmon upstream from Doestock Creek on the Aniak River is prohibited unless the Chinook Salmon Conservation has been lifted for all rivers that drain into the Kuskokwim River.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** During times of Chinook Salmon conservation, if the remainder of the Kuskokwim river drainages are closed to subsistence, Doestock Creek on the upstream from Aniak river should also be closed. If one set of users are prohibited from taking Chinook salmon, all other users must also be prohibited.

**PROPOSED BY:** Organized Village of Kwethluk

(HQ-F18-084)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 07.365. Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Plan, and 5 AAC 71.010. Seasons and bag, possession, annual, and size limits for the Kuskokwim — Goodnews Area.**

Close sport fishing for king salmon in the Kuskokwim River drainage when other Kuskokwim River fisheries are closed to the taking of king salmon, as follows:

Kuskokwim River Drainage: (Downstream of a point located ¼ mile upstream of the confluence of the Kuskokwim River with the Holitna River, and all waters draining in to the Kuskokwim River Bay south of the Kuskokwim River): (include with current language)

King Salmon: During times of Chinook Salmon conservation, all waters draining into the Kuskokwim River will be closed to taking of Chinook Salmon unless the Chinook Salmon Conservation has been lifted for all rivers that drain into the Kuskokwim River.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** During times of Chinook Salmon conservation, there is no regulation where sport fishing is prohibited all throughout the Kuskokwim River as outlined in the Special Regulations for the Kuskokwim – Goodnews Drainages. If one set of users are prohibited from taking Chinook salmon, all other users must also be prohibited.

**PROPOSED BY:** Organized Village of Kwethluk

(HQ-F18-085)

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**PROPOSAL XXX**

**5 AAC 01.270. Lawful gear and gear specifications and operation.**

Allow set gillnets to be operated for subsistence purposes within 50 feet of each other in that portion of the Kuskokwim River drainage from the north end of Eek Island upstream to the mouth of the Kolmakoff River, as follows:

In that portion of the Kuskokwim River drainage from the north end of Eek Island upstream to the mouth of the Kolmakoff River, no part of the set gillnet located within a tributary to the Kuskokwim River may be set or operated within 50 feet of any part of another set gillnet.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** All throughout the Kuskokwim River drainage there are a few eddies to set gillnets during spring to fall and under ice set nets during winter months where we see nets set less than the current regulation. People along the Kuskokwim River drainages have set gillnets in eddies in spring to fall and under ice gear in winter which are usually less than 150 feet in length. In order to correct this, the department must adopt a revised regulation that meets the needs of set netters throughout the year.

**PROPOSED BY:** Organized Village of Kwethluk

(HQ-F18-086)

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