

My name is Gloria Stickwan. I am providing written testimony on the following proposals. Proposal 5, 6, 14, 18, 23, 23, 31, and 32.

PROPOSAL 5

5 AAC 24.361. Copper River King Salmon Management Plan.

- I support Proposal 5, with amendment to establish an optimal goal of 35,000 – 50,000 for king salmon in the Copper River
- Sustainable Escapement Goal has not been met in recent years
- Every year we are harvesting smaller King Salmon
- Reducing SEG number will result in less reproductive potential of King Salmon
- Studies have shown that recent cohorts of king salmon are spending only three years at sea, whereas 30 years ago they would spend four years at sea.
- The department's plan to lower the king salmon escapement goal to 21,000 salmon could potentially worsen this trend
- Smaller-sized king salmon require more escapement to compensate for this reduced reproductive potential.
- Lowering SEG for King Salmon will allow more harvest opportunity and less King Salmon will reach spawning grounds

PROPOSAL 6

5 AAC 01.630. Subsistence fishing permits; 5 AAC 77.591. Copper River Personal Use Dip Net Salmon Fishery Management Plan; and 5 AAC 52.XXX. New section.

- I support Proposal 6 to require in-season reporting of subsistence, sport fish, and personal use harvest and effort.
- I feel strongly that there is a need for more timely harvest data in the upriver subsistence, sport, and personal use fisheries.
- This would enable the Department to make informed management decisions, especially during times of low abundance.
- It could also help to build greater trust between fisheries managers and participants in Copper River fisheries.
- Sockeye abundance throughout the 2018 and 2020 seasons was extremely low
- Restrictions were place upon personal use and subsistence fisheries, and closures were mandated upon commercial fisheries for nearly the entire season
- Subsistence needs have not been met
- Amount Necessary for Subsistence uses of salmon from the areas in the Copper River from Gakona to Slana and Batzulnetas has only been met in 2 years during past 15 years since ANS was adopted
- ANS has not been met in 3 of the past 4 years in the Copper River from mouth of Tonsina to the mouth of Gakona
- Subsistence uses have not been able to have a reasonable opportunity to harvest Copper River salmon with a reasonable expectation of success as defined in AS 16.05.258(f)

PROPOSAL 14

- **5 AAC 01.620. Lawful gear and gear specifications.**
- I support Proposal 14, which would ban monofilament-type dipnets between June 1st and August 15th.
- Monofilament nets cause damage to Sockeyes and Kings.
- In the past 20 years there has been declining trend of Kings and Sockeyes
- I am harvesting more and more Jacks that are small in size
- Kings released back into the Copper River may not reach spawning grounds
- Fish in the Copper River should be protected from harm by monofilament nets
- It is not customary and traditional to fish with monofilament nets

PROPOSAL 18**5 AAC 77.591. Copper River Personal Use Dip Net Salmon Fishery Management Plan.**

Extend the lower boundary of the Chitina Subdistrict downstream ½ mile

- I strongly oppose Proposal 18, proposed by the Chitina Dipnetters' Association (CDA) and the Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee (Fairbanks AC), which would extend the area for personal use dipnetting downriver by one-half mile.
- I have seen low returns low sockeye returns in 2018 and 2020
- Fishing from a boat to harvest fish will have an impact upon Glennallen Subdistrict,
- Those who run fish wheels are harvesting insufficient Sockeyes and Kings
- Personal Use Fisheries are increasing in numbers, they are asking for more areas to dip net
- More areas to dip net will only increase more opportunities for the to harvest more Sockeyes and Kings
- Less Sockeyes and Kings will reach spawning grounds
- Subsistence uses should be a priority over Personal Use fisheries

PROPOSAL 23

5 AAC 01.610. Fishing seasons; 5 AAC 01.616. Customary and traditional subsistence uses of fish stocks and amounts necessary for subsistence uses; and 5 AAC 01.645. Subsistence bag, possession, and size limits; annual limits.

- I do not support Proposal 22.
- In December 2008, Customary and traditional uses of non-salmon was determined positive by the Alaska Board of Fisheries in the upper Copper and upper Susitna rivers
- There is no significant new information to change CT for fin fish

PROPOSAL 31**5 AAC 52.022. General provisions for season, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Upper Copper River and Upper Susitna River Area.**

- I oppose Proposal 31 to increase the sockeye bag limit to three in possession.
- The Upper Copper River. Sports Fisheries must be restricted during times of low escapement of sockeye salmon.
- Sockeye salmon returns have been met, but it is at the lower end of the 360,000-escapement range.
- The king salmon escapement goal was not met. Incidental catch of king salmon will occur. More king salmon may be damaged by catch and release.
- Subsistence Needs are not being met

PROPOSAL 32**5 AAC 52.023. Special provisions for season, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Upper Copper River and Upper Susitna River Area.**

- I do not support Proposal 32.
- I do not support sport-fish retention of trout until the population is sustainable
- I do not want to lose subsistence harvest opportunities for trout.
- If sport fishers retain too many trout from the Gulkana River drainage, it is possible that incidental retention of rainbow/steelhead trout by fishwheel users may be restricted.