



10,000 years in our Traditional Homeland, Prince William Sound, the Copper River Delta, and the Gulf of Alaska

Record Copy
Board of Fish PWS Finfish
Subsistence Proposals

John C. Whissel
Native Village of Eyak

As requested by Mr. Jensen I am submitting my oral testimony as a Record Copy. This testimony included two points: a general summary of the Tribe's wishes to modify and reduce the scope of our proposed subsistence expansion in Proposals 28 and 29, and a general admonishment regarding conflict at hatchery Terminal Harvest Areas that has arisen since our last subsistence expansion and our wishes that this conflict be mitigated as you consider proposals to further expand subsistence fisheries.

Modification to Proposals 28 and 29: Our motivation in submitting these proposals was not so much to allow increased harvest of salmon, but to provide subsistence users fishing during times of run overlap to retain adequate target species (Chinook, sockeye, coho) and not have their permits filled by non-target species (pink, chum). Many subsistence users fish Area E during this time when they can encounter Chinook, sockeye, coho, pink, and chum salmon. The Tribe fishes every opener for members and during this time has had issues with encountering pinks and chums when targeting Chinook and sockeye. Most do not want these fish, but they must be retained, clipped and counted on our harvest tickets.

Proposal 28: Our initial thoughts on expanding limits were to propose parity with other limits for the same fish on the Copper River upriver, however no longer wish to pursue that limit in favor of supporting Proposal 20. Rather, we wish to allow Area E subsistence users a second, supplementary permit for pinks and chums equal to their household limits. This would allow these fish to be retained without foregoing opportunity to harvest target species.



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CDFU has submitted RC20 which would add clarification on when we would enter our second tier ANS and increase our household limits. We support RC20's inclusion in our modification to Proposal 28.

Proposal 29: There is some interest in targeting pinks and chums as well, and for those who wish to do so, opportunity can be limited because many of these openers are seine openers and the vast majority of subsistence users only have access to gillnet gear. In proposing use of gillnet gear in all commercial and subsistence openers regardless of gear type we realized we were creating a conflict, but knew that conflict could be negotiated between the proposal and the meeting, and in discussions across user groups we resolved to instead request that the area in Orca Inlet, now closed to subsistence fishing, be open during July to the harvest of pinks and chums by gillnet, and closed early enough to avoid harvesting coho. This would utilize resources that are not available to subsistence users, and eliminate gear group conflict on the commercial fishing grounds.

Hatcheries: In negotiating modification to Proposal 29 we learned that when we proposed to expand Subsistence opportunity to the board at our last meeting, resulting in Saturday subsistence openers, we created a conflict with subsistence users harvesting in Terminal Harvest Areas, particularly on Saturdays during broodstock take and cost recovery. Although subsistence fisheries enjoy our highest priority, they cannot supersede these hatchery-specific activities because these activities are required to perpetuate these runs. And so we wish to see ALL fisheries excluded from THAs during cost recovery fishing and broodstock take, until the hatcheries authorize access to harvest the surplus.