



November 28, 2022

Ms. Märit Carlson-Van Dort, Chair Alaska Board of Fisheries
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, Alaska 99811-5526

Dear Chair Carlson-Van Dort and Members of the Alaska Board of Fisheries:

OBI Seafoods respectfully requests that the Nushagak King Action Plan and related proposal discussions and deliberations set to happen at the BOF Bristol Bay Finfish meeting be postponed until the BOF Statewide meeting in March 2023.

Five weeks ago, at the October Work Session, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG) drafted a memo to the Board outlining reasons the Department believed the Nushagak King Salmon should be considered a Stock of Concern at the management level per the "Policy for the management of sustainable salmon fisheries." The BOF agreed with this assessment and requested ADFG develop an Action Plan and bring it to the Board at the start of the BB BOF meeting. As you are aware, the report came out one week ago and will be presented for the first time on day one of the Bristol Bay Meeting. Where we appreciate the attention in the development of this action plan, it has not allowed ample time for the affected stakeholders to thoroughly review and comment on the proposed action plan prior to the start of the meeting.

It was suggested that the Nushagak-Mulchatna King Salmon Management Plan and King Salmon Harvest Reporting agenda items be pushed later in the Bristol Bay Finfish Roadmap, but this is not an acceptable solution as stakeholders that are concerned about this issue will need to give up participation in other issues that impact them to focus on their comments and questions for the Action Plan.

We would prefer the Action Plan and proposals affected by the plan be pushed to the March 2023 Statewide Finfish meeting. Looking at the Agenda and Roadmap for the Statewide Finfish meeting, it appears there would be ample time to take up this issue. The Statewide Finfish meeting only has 19 proposals scheduled and it is a 4-day meeting. In comparison, the Bristol Bay Finfish meeting has 52 proposals scheduled and it is a 5-day meeting. Historically, Statewide Finfish meetings also have less public testimony than Bristol Bay Finfish meetings, thus leaving freeing up more time at the Statewide Finfish Meeting.

The BOF process is built upon strong public participation and by choosing to postpone the Nushagak King Action Plan and related proposal discussions and deliberations to the March 2023 Statewide meeting, the Board would be upholding this process.

Sincerely,

Mark Palmer

Mark Palmer, President/CEO
OBI Seafoods, LLC