

**ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES**  
**January 2004**  
**ARCTIC-YUKON-KUSKOKWIM FINFISH**

***PROPOSALS GROUPED BY TOPIC***

*Following is a list of proposals that will be considered at the above meeting, sorted by general topic. A board committee roadmap will be developed and distributed prior to the meeting.*

PROP

NO. SUBJECT

**RESIDENT SPECIES**

- 101** Reduce bag limit in Quartz Lake.
- 102** Modify hook size restrictions.
- 103** Designate fly fishing only waters.
- 104** Modify bag and possession limits for Aniak River.
- 105** Modify gear and area restrictions on Kanektok River.
- 106** Modify gear and area restrictions on Kanektok River.
- 107** Create a regional stocked waters management plan.
- 108** Modify bag limit for lake trout and Arctic char.
- 109** Create a regional Arctic grayling management plan.
- 110** Modify wild trout regulations.
- 111** Modify Arctic grayling bag, possession and size limits in the Dalton Highway Corridor/  
Yukon River portion.
- 112** Modify Arctic grayling bag, possession and size limits in the Dalton Highway  
Corridor/North Slope portion.
- 113** Modify Arctic grayling bag, possession and size limits in the Delta Clearwater River  
drainage.
- 114** Modify the bag and possession limit in Quartz Lake.
- 115** Modify bag and possession limit of stocked waters on Bray Lakes and Beaver Lake.
- 116** Change season, bag and possession limit in Tok River area.

PROP

NO. SUBJECT

117 Change Arctic grayling bag, possession and size limit in the Chena River area.

118 Align sport fishing regulations of Goodnews River with the Kanektok River.

119 Modify ice house identification in the Tanana River drainage.

**KOTZEBUE AND NORTON SOUND-PORT CLARENCE AREAS:  
SALMON AND HERRING**

**Subsistence**

120 Expand area requiring a subsistence fishing permit in the Port Clarence and Norton Sound districts.

121 Require a subsistence permit in Niukluk River.

122 Limit length of set nets to 150 feet in the Port Clarence District.

**Commercial**

123 Allow herring bait fishery during CDQ crab fishery.

**Sport**

124 Close all sport fishing when subsistence fishing is closed in Norton Sound.

125 Require harvest records for sport fishing in Norton Sound.

126 Reduce bag and possession limit for salmon in Unalakleet River drainage.

127 Reduce bag limit for chinook salmon in the Unalakleet River drainage.

128 Restrict time when guides can operate in the Unalakleet River drainage.

129 Institute annual limit for chinook salmon in the Unalakleet River drainage.

**KUSKOKWIM AREA SALMON AND HERRING**

**Subsistence**

130 Repeal subsistence fishing schedule above District W-1.

131 Repeal subsistence fishing schedule above District W-1.

\*132 Review subsistence fishing schedule in Yukon and Kuskokwim rivers.

**Proposal 132 is also listed in the YUKON AREA SALMON section of this Topic List**

133 Relax subsistence fishing schedule in the Kuskokwim River.

134 Review subsistence fishing periods in the Kuskokwim River.

135 Allow use of any-colored buoy in the Calista-AVCP region.

PROP  
NO. SUBJECT

- 136 Increase allowable gillnet gear depth in the Kuskokwim area.
- 137 Reduce gear, bag, season, etc. limits on rod and reel subsistence in the Aniak River.

**Commercial**

- 138 Consider boundary line changes in District W-4.
- 139 Change Goodnews Bay District W-5 boundary line.
- 140 Close commercial fishing until June 16 in District W-4.
- 141 Increase aggregate length of gillnets in districts W-4 and W-5.
- 142 Rescind Goodnews Bay herring superexclusive use area.

**Sport**

- 143 Restrict outboard motor use in the Kwethluk area.
- 144 Prohibit sport fishing in the Kwethluk River (W-03-F-005)
- 145 Align sport fish management with subsistence openings in the Kuskokwim River.
- 146 Allow use of bait in the Kanektok River.
- 147 Institute Goodnews Bay controlled use area.
- 148 Adopt annual limit for chinook salmon in A-Y-K region.
- 149 Reduce bag limits for salmon in A-Y-K region.

**YUKON AREA SALMON**

**Subsistence**

- 150 Update Toklat and Yukon River fall chum management plans in relation to new BEG analysis.
- 151 Modify Toklat escapement goal for chum salmon.
- \*132 Review subsistence fishing schedule in Yukon and Kuskokwim rivers.  
**Proposal 132 is also listed in the KUSKOKWIM AREA SALMON AND HERRING section of this Topic List**
- 152 Relax subsistence salmon fishing schedule in the Yukon River.
- 153 Craft subsistence management plans for sections of Yukon River.

**PROP**

**NO. SUBJECT**

- 154** Reduce subsistence salmon fishing periods in districts 1-3.
- 155** Change subsistence salmon fishing periods in districts and 4.
- 156** Increase subsistence fishing periods in districts 6 and 5A.
- 157** Increase subsistence fishing periods in the Tanana River.
- 158** Change subsistence salmon fishing periods.
- 159** Modify gillnet gear restrictions for Birch Creek.
- 160** Relax gear restrictions for subsistence fishing in the Koyukuk River drainage.
- 161** Allow drift gillnets in districts 4-B and 4-C.
- 162** Allow drift gillnets in districts 4-B and 4-C.
- 163** Allow drift gillnets in districts 4-B and 4-C.
- 164** Allow subsistence fishing in upper Koyukuk River.
- 165** Close spawning streams to all fishing in the A-Y-K region.

**Commercial**

- 166** Close the Yukon River to commercial salmon fishing until 2011.
- 167** Develop management planning committees.
- 168** Reallocate commercial harvests on the Yukon River.
- 169** Modify restrictions on gear use in District 4-A.
- 170** Prohibit roe stripping on the Yukon River.
- 171** Decrease mesh size in districts Y1 and Y2.
- 172** Modify gillnet and fishwheel gear restrictions.

**Sport**

- 173** Open Goodpaster River to chinook salmon fishing.
- 174** Align sport fishery management with subsistence openings in the Yukon River.

**ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES**  
**January 2004**  
**ARCTIC-YUKON-KUSKOKWIM FINFISH**

**PROPOSAL 101 - 5 AAC 70.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession, and size limits in the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Area.** Amend this regulation as follows:

Current immediate closure with eventual “reduction in bag limit for Quartz Lake to five total fish per day with only one fish over 18 inches.”

**PROBLEM:** Overfishing/survival of stocked fish/fish can not reproduce naturally – more fish are being removed than are being put in and survive.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Fish will not grow large, let alone mature. Fishing success will decline and the lake will die. Current stocking cannot keep up with the current take.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?**

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** All fishermen who desire to catch fish for a “meal” and those who want to experience catching a large fish.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Those who are using the fishery for “subsistence” and removing large quantities of fish regardless of species or size.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Moderately lower limits – regulation enforcement is lacking and difficult and has little effect on take. Takers do not recognize species differences and take limit total regardless of species.

**PROPOSED BY:** Wendell Shiffler (HQ-03-F-002)  
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**PROPOSAL 102 - 5 AAC 70.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession, and size limits in the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Area; and 5 AAC 70.023. Special provisions for methods and means in the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Area.** Amend these regulations as follows:

Special Sport Fish Restrictions Explained  
Options for Restricting Gear and/or Waters Designation

Based on sport fish regulations for rivers designated as single-hook waters the maximum gap allowed between point and shank would be ½ inch (approx: hook size 2/0), which would meet part of our request for restricting hook sizes, in option one.

The first option that we would like for the board to consider is designating our Kuskokwim Bay rivers as single hook waters, with an exception for dates when king salmon are allowed to be taken: May 1 through July 25, when hooks sizes with a ¾-inch maximum gap between point and shank would be allowed. After July 25 gear restrictions for single hook waters would apply.

The second option that we would like for the board to consider for our Kuskokwim Bay rivers is to restrict single hook gear to a maximum gap of ¾ inches between point and shank (approx: hook size 5/0), during the king salmon run from May 1 to July 25.

Hook sizes with larger gaps than ¾ inch are not necessary for the average size king salmon (approx: 15 to 25 lbs.) that we have in our Kuskokwim Bay rivers. Hooks larger than 5/0 would be overkill and would cause more unnecessary physical damage to the fish.

Some anglers may also be concerned that using single hook gear smaller than 5/0 for king salmon would be inadequate. Especially when trying to land the fish and could cause fatal amounts of lactic acid to buildup in the fish's system, which would then reduce the fish's chance of survival if the angler released it back into the water.

#### Special Consideration for the Arolik

Specifically for the Arolik River sport fishery: We would like to propose that this smaller and more fragile river be designated as fly-fishing only waters. Some local sport fishing guides and other anglers who fly fish are in support of it being designated as a fly-fishing only river, so long as it will not negatively impact the local subsistence fishery or restrict the subsistence users. We believe that this designation would be beneficial in the long term, especially for the resident wild fish stocks.

Based on sport fish regulations for rivers designated as fly-fishing only waters, gear restrictions would apply, limiting the hook size to a maximum gap of 3/8 inch between point and shank, which we believe would be less damaging, especially if anglers who plan on fishing this river for recreation intend on releasing fish back into the water.

#### Restrict Use of Bait for Sport Fishing on the Arolik River to Align with other Kuskokwim Bay Rivers

It is commonly known throughout the sport fishing community that salmon fishermen who fish with salmon roe incidentally catch and kill more rainbow trout (to the detriment of the population) than anglers who target rainbow trout in a catch and release fishery using single hook gear, with no bait.

#### Pinched Barb Requirement (All Kuskokwim Bay Rivers)

Anglers who fish with barbed hooks cause more unnecessary physical damage to a fish's mouth, gill and eye areas when they are trying to extract the hook, than anglers who pinch their barbs down. Some fish survive their injuries from barbed hooks, but end up with physical deformities. Local villagers have caught many of these fish over the years while subsistence fishing. Most of the fish are skinny and unhealthy looking, causing the villagers to become concerned. Recreational fishermen should not be allowed to use barbed hooks, especially on rivers where native people harvest fish for subsistence.

#### May Not Remove Fish (All Species) from Water before Releasing (All Kuskokwim Bay Rivers)

Anglers who are intending on releasing a fish should not be allowed to remove the fish from the water. Exposing fish to air for extended periods of time reduces the fish's chances of survival, especially if the fish is dragged up on a gravel bar or netted then lifted into a boat before being released back into the water. Based on some articles that we have read, keeping a fish out of the water for over five seconds is too long. Conscientious anglers who need to take photos usually keep their fish in the water and meet the fish halfway, makes sense and the photos are more authentic.

#### Knotless Landing Nets Only (All Kuskokwim Bay Rivers)

Anglers should not be allowed to use knotted landing nets those types of nets contribute to scale loss and also cause more of the protective slime on a fish's skin to be scraped off, which is not healthy for the fish especially if it is to be released back into the water.

Kuskokwim-Goodnews Drainages Special Regulations  
Kanektok, Arolik and Goodnews River Drainages

Option One:

- In all flowing waters on the Kanektok, Arolik and Goodnews rivers, only gear designated for single-hook waters will be allowed with the exception that king salmon that may be taken with single hook gear with a maximum gap of  $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch between point and shank from May 1 through July 25.

Option Two:

- In all flowing waters on the Kanektok, Arolik and Goodnews rivers single hook gear is restricted to maximum gap of  $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch between point and shank from May 1 through July 25.

Preferred option specifically for the Arolik:

- In all flowing waters on the Arolik River, only gear designated for fly-fishing only waters will be allowed.
- In all flowing waters of the Kanektok, Arolik and Goodnews rivers, only unbaited, pinched-barb single-hooks may be used.
- In all flowing waters, only knotless landing nets may be used.
- A person who intends to release a fish may not remove it from the water before releasing it.
- In all flowing waters downstream of the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge wilderness boundary, no person may sport fish from a boat or the riverbank within 300 feet of a legally operating subsistence gillnet.

Rainbow trout:

June 8 – October 31, catch and release only,

All rainbow trout must be released immediately.

(Note: include the Goodnews River only if village residents support the idea).

Arctic char/Dolly Varden:

In all flowing waters, the bag and possession limit is three fish, no size limit.

Arctic grayling:

The bag and possession limit is two fish, no size limit.

Sheefish:

The bag and possession limit is two fish, no size limit.

**PROBLEM:** Immediate need for alignment of sport fish regulations for the Kuskokwim Bay rivers, specifically the Kanektok, Arolik and Goodnews rivers.

Over the last two decades the sport fishing effort on these three rivers in the Kuskokwim Bay area has increased dramatically. This huge increase of effort has negatively impacted many of these rivers' fish stocks and the local subsistence users who depend upon these fish to maintain their way of life.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Vital fish stocks including rainbow trout, Dolly Varden and Arctic grayling will decline below healthy sustained yield levels. With declines subsistence users will be denied the opportunity to harvest their river's fish for customary and traditional subsistence uses.

Local residents are becoming concerned that with increasing numbers of sport fishermen migrating to these Kuskokwim Bay rivers there will be a negative impact on the resources, especially the fisheries resources.

Since these three Kuskokwim Bay rivers are in close proximity of one another and have the same species of fish and run timings. We see no reason why the sport fish regulations for the Arolik and Goodnews rivers should not be aligned with the more conservative regulations for the Kanektok river. We also believe that if one river is less restrictive than the other two that river and resources will feel the greater impact of increased angler pressure. The residents of the adjacent community will have to carry the burden and deal with the problems associated with increasing numbers of anglers attracted to their home rivers by less restrictive sport fish regulations.

Under the 2002 sport fishing regulations for the Arolik River, sport fishermen are not restricted from using more than one hook and/or treble hooks with bait.

For the summer of 2002, based on information that we received from the USFWS there were 11 float trips by sport fishermen who gained access to the river via floatplane, through the Arolik Lake which is located in the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge. (11 float trips, 56 users, 25 rafts, approximately six days for each trip; total 336 user days). We believe they were attracted by the resident rainbow trout population and/or the less restrictive sport fish regulations, probably both. (There are not many rivers in Alaska where sport fishermen can target rainbow trout using salmon eggs.) With as much publicity as this river has had since 1995 and the controversy surrounding the current nonnavigable classification we expect those numbers to increase dramatically.

With this type of access occurring on our home rivers, it will not be long before unguided and unsupervised sport fishermen who have primarily fished salmon on the Kanektok River with their own boats, starting motoring over to the Arolik, attracted for the same reasons, which we believe would be devastating to the resident trout population.

In 1999 a joint venture established a camp policy requiring all their guests who fish the Arolik to use fly-fishing gear only and practice catch-and-release fishing. The only fish harvested from this river are salmon, and only if they have been hooked too deeply (bleeders). Those salmon are given to locals for their camp guests who wanted to fish the Arolik. As you can see, for the past seven seasons the recreational fishery (as provided by KRSI and the joint venture) has consistently been a fly-fishing gear only trip where catch and release is the standard practice for the day. This is the model that we would like for the board to use when considering regulation changes for the Arolik River. The joint venture's seasonal schedule for 2002 was from June 20 to August 29 (six days per week x four people per trip for 10 weeks = 240 user days).

Cumulative total for 2002 was 576 user days, which have been documented both by the USFWS TNWR and the joint venture operation. We expect those numbers to increase in the next few years if the board does not take action and implement more conservative regulations.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Yes, one of the Kanektok and Arolik rivers where baselines for salmon escapement have not yet been established, there is a need to be more conservative with this limited resource, especially with recent declines and fisheries disasters being declared in neighboring river systems such as the Yukon, Kuskokwim, Nushagak and their tributaries.

By aligning the sport fisheries regulations for the Kanektok, Arolik and Goodnews rivers with the addition of special restrictions also being imposed as conditions for aligning the rainbow trout regulations on the Arolik and Goodnews rivers with the more conservative regulations for the Kanektok River.

- It would restrict the types and sizes of gear that would be allowed. For example: single hooks with a ¾-inch maximum gap with pinched down barbs would be less physically damaging to a king salmon's mouth, gills and eye areas and would be quicker and easier to extract.
- It would restrict the use of bait for sportfishing. By restricting the use of bait on the Arolik it would reduce the impact on the rainbow trout and Dolly Varden population by salmon fishermen and other sport fishermen who intentionally target these species with salmon eggs. It is also a well known fact that rainbow trout and Dolly Varden cannot resist salmon eggs and when they do take a hook they usually swallow the hook deep into their mouths making it difficult to extract, usually damaging the gills.
- It would align the regulations for rainbow trout on the Arolik and Goodnews rivers with the more conservative regulations on the Kanektok River.
- It would require anglers to keep fish (all species) in the water if they are planning on releasing them, which in turn would increase the fish's chance of survival after being released.
- It would restrict the use of knotted landing nets, which are known to contribute to scale loss and the removal of protective (slime) that fish have on their skin.

If the board decides to support alignment of sport fish regulations for the Kanektok, Arolik and Goodnews rivers it would improve and benefit the overall fishery by conserving this limited resource for the long-term, both for the ethical sport fishermen and especially for the local subsistence fishermen who depends on these fish resources for food.

It is also our opinion that the majority of ethical sport fishermen who fish on the Kanektok, Arolik and Goodnews rivers would agree that more conservative sport fishing regulations are needed for preserving and/or restoring the historical size and age structure of resident fish stocks on these Kuskokwim Bay rivers.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Alignment of the aforementioned sport fishing regulations would directly benefit the fisheries resource by preserving it over the long term. Alignment of the regulations would be easier for enforcement purposes and management since there would not be any major regulation differences between the three Kuskokwim Bay rivers. For the ethical angler, it would preserve the integrity of the sport fishery and for the subsistence fishermen it would provide additional fish, which are an important food source for the local villagers living in this remote and economically depressed area.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** In the short-term, maybe disgruntled unethical sport fishermen who like less restrictive regulations.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Based on our personal observations over an eight-year period while guiding and fishing on the Kanektok and Arolik rivers and listening to reports from various user groups on our home rivers, we believe that more conservative sport fishing regulations are needed.

Sport fishermen have been advocating for years for reduced sport harvests for all species of fish, gear restrictions and not bait regulations on our Kuskokwim Bay rivers. The majority of anglers that we have spoken too agree this can only be achieved through the state regulatory process, not by requesting anglers to voluntarily comply.

Additional information for board consideration in regards to catch and release fisheries:

The board has historically rejected proposals to restrict anglers from practicing catch-and-release on rivers, which have established sport fisheries. Our native people who live near these rivers and especially our elders continue to believe that catch and release fishing violates traditional beliefs. Contributing factors perpetuating this belief include fish that have been caught by subsistence fishermen with hooking mutilations. For example: fish with torn mouths, fish with eyes popped out, fish that are deformed around the mouth area, from old injuries. Other factors include observations by local villagers of sport fishermen dragging fish on the gravel bars, then putting them back into the water. Fish that are netted then hauled into the boat then released back into the water. Fish that are handled by their gills or eyes sockets while sport fishermen take photos, then released back into the water, fresh fish that are found rolling and floating down the river belly up, the list goes on.

The majority of residents living in the Kuskokwim Bay area prefer not to participate in the sport fishery because of this belief, with the exception of a few who consider recreational fisheries an enjoyable and important part of their livelihood and/or lifestyle.

Being part of that minority, it is our opinion that if anglers wanted to voluntarily or by regulation be required to release fish, certain standards need to be adhered too, for properly handling and releasing fish back into the water. And if those standards are not being voluntarily complied with during a certain period of time (grace period) then the board needs to consider adopting additional regulations requiring their compliance.

For our rivers here in the Kuskokwim Bay area, 20-plus years of sport fishing activity is in our opinion a sufficient grace period. Additional restrictions are needed.

One method that we understand is used by the department for protecting and conserving wild fish stocks is to establish limited catch-and-release fisheries for targeted species, like rainbow trout. We believe this type of trout management is important, especially on rivers where sport fisheries have already been well established and there is a lot of angling pressure and targeting of this particular species. We understand that there will be some mortality, but with awareness, education and more restrictive regulations imposed by the board that are designed specifically for reducing the physical injuries on fish that anglers intend on releasing back into the water, will reduce mortality.

As long-time residents of the Kuskokwim Bay area, we believe our resources are in need of greater protection now more than ever before. In this proposal we are proposing aligning the sport fish regulation for the Arolik and Goodnews rivers with the more conservative regulations on the Kanektok River. The proposal also includes a limited catch and release sport fishery, for rainbow trout from June 8 to October 31 for the Arolik and Goodnews rivers as a temporary solution for protecting our wild rainbow trout stocks, until a better solution can be found.

And basically for preserving the most targeted species of fish in the State of Alaska, under the condition that the board also imposes special restrictions to reduce the direct physical impact to

all of our wild fish stocks. Fish stocks that our native people depend on for their livelihood as commercial fishermen and in some cases as sport fishermen, but most importantly and in all cases as subsistence fishermen because of the fact that all of our native people depend on our fish stocks, for food.

(Note: Additional fisheries proposals were submitted to the board basically to request more conservative sport fisheries regulations for the Kanektok River. If the board, after careful consideration decides to support and adopt this proposal we would like to request that the other fisheries proposals that we submitted for reducing sport harvests of salmon on the Kanektok be considered also for the Arolik and Goodnews rivers.)

**PROPOSED BY:** Native Village of Kwinhagak (HQ-03-F-005)

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**PROPOSAL 103 - 5 AAC 70.023. Special provisions for methods and means in the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Area.** Amend this regulation as follows:

Special Sport Fish Restrictions Explained

Specifically for the upper Kanektok and Goodnews River sport fishery within the boundaries of the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge: We would like to propose that the upper portions of these two rivers be designated as fly-fishing only waters. Some local sportfishing guides and other anglers who fly fish are in support of these portions being designated fly-fishing only waters, so long as the designation will not negatively impact the local subsistence fishery or restrict the local subsistence users. We believe that this designation would be beneficial in the long term, especially for the resident freshwater species like Dolly Varden, Arctic grayling, and rainbow trout which local residents depend on for food.

Based on sport fish regulations for rivers designated as fly-fishing only waters, gear restrictions would apply, limiting the hook size to a maximum gap of 3/8 inch between point and shank. Which we believe would cause less physical damage to our wild fish stocks, especially if anglers who plan on fishing these rivers for recreation intend on releasing fish back into the water. Also with this designation along with hook and gear restrictions anglers may be less willing to target larger fish like spawning chinook and other salmon in their spawning beds in the upper portions of these aforementioned rivers.

Kuskokwim-Goodnews Drainages Special Regulations

Upper Kanektok and Goodnews Rivers within the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge

Preferred Solution:

In all flowing waters on the upper Kanektok and Goodnews rivers within the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge, only gear designated for fly-fishing only waters will be allowed.

**PROBLEM:** Over the last two decades the sport fishing effort on the Kanektok and Goodnews rivers in the Kuskokwim Bay area has increased dramatically. This huge increase of effort has negatively impacted many of these river's fish stocks and the local subsistence users who depend upon these fish to maintain their way of life.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Vital fish stocks including rainbow trout, Dolly Varden, and Arctic grayling will decline below healthy sustained yield levels. With declines subsistence users will be denied the opportunity to harvest their river's fish for customary and traditional subsistence uses.

Local residents are becoming concerned that with increasing numbers of sport fishermen rafting down through the upper Kanektok and upper Goodnews rivers which are located within the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge there will be a negative impact on the resident fish stocks and increased targeting of spawning salmon from critical spawning habitat.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Yes, by designating the upper portions of the Kanektok and Goodnews rivers within the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge fly-fishing only waters, it would restrict the types and sizes of gear that would be allowed. For example: in waters designated Fly-fishing Only hook sizes would be restricted to a maximum gap of 3/8 inches between point and shank. With the implementation of special gear restrictions to limit the types of gear and hook sizes it may reduce the number of instances where anglers are attempting to target spawning salmon from their spawning beds, especially spawning chinook salmon. Gear and hook size restrictions may help to conserve and/or restore the historical size and age structure of resident fish stocks on these Kuskokwim Bay rivers.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Designating the upper portions of these two rivers within the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge as fly-fishing only waters would directly benefit the fisheries resource by conserving it over the long term since this designation would require all anglers who fish for recreation to restrict their gear and hooks sizes accordingly, which would in turn be less physically damaging to our resident wild fish stocks. For the ethical fly fisherman, it would preserve the integrity of the sport fishery and for the subsistence fishermen it would provide additional fish, which are an important food source for the local villagers living in this remote and economically depressed area.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** In the short-term, maybe sport fishermen who prefer less restrictive regulations.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Based on our personal observations over an eight-year period while guiding and fishing on the Kanektok River and listening to reports from various user groups on our home rivers. We believe that more conservative sport fishing regulations are needed.

Sport fisherman have been advocating for years for reduced sport harvests for all species of fish, gear restrictions and no bait regulations on our Kuskokwim Bay rivers. The majority of anglers that we have spoken to agree this can only be achieved through the state regulatory process, not by requesting anglers to voluntarily comply.

Additional information for board consideration in regards to designating the upper portions of these two rivers as fly-fishing only waters suggests one method that we understand is used by the board for protecting and conserving wild fish stocks is to designate certain rivers or sections of rivers with special designations like fly-fishing only waters which would then require anglers who fish for recreation to restrict gear types and/or hook sizes. We believe this time of management is important, especially on rivers where sport fisheries have already been well established and there is a lot of angling pressure and targeting of certain species of wild fish stocks. We believe this designation, if supported by the board, would help to reduce the physical injuries on fish that anglers intend on releasing back into the water, would also reduce mortality of targeted species like rainbow trout and reduce the targeting of spawning salmon from their spawning beds.

As long-time residents of the Kuskokwim Bay area, we believe our resources are in need of greater protection now more than ever before. In this proposal we are requesting a fly-fishing only waters designation for the upper portions of the Kanektok and Goodnews rivers within the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge, basically for preserving the most targeted species of fish in the State of Alaska and for protecting our other wild fish stocks that our native people depend on for food.

**PROPOSED BY:** Willard D. Church, Jr. and Albert J. Hunter (HQ-03-F-008)

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**PROPOSAL 104 - 5 AAC 70.022(e)(G). Waters; seasons; bag, possession, and size limits in the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Area; and 5 AAC 70.023. Special provisions for methods and means in the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Area.** Amend these regulations in the Aniak River drainage to provide the following:

Return Aniak River to regulations in line with other adjacent fisheries of the Kuskokwim region.

**PROBLEM:** Aniak River sport fishing regulations are out of proportion and much more restrictive than surrounding fisheries in the Kuskokwim drainage and yet the Aniak is a much bigger fishery with much bigger and more broad resources. There is no sound biological reason for this. These restrictions have been forced on us by a select few with inaccurate local perceptions on fishing pressure. Department surveys done each year recently show that this local perception is just not accurate.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Local Aniak fishermen will continue to be burdened with regulations that are out of line with the rest of the area and the rest of the state of Alaska. Aniak River is the most restricted river in all of rural Alaska and there is just no reason for it. The laws have changed so often and by so much and are so different than the rest of the area, that we do not know what the bag limits and seasons are anymore. I am very involved in the fish and game process and I do not even know what the law is anymore for a particular species at a particular time and in each particular area of the Aniak. Different parts of the river have different laws.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** No, but it does not hurt the fishery and it does improve the clarity and opportunity for all.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** All sport fishermen.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one really. Surveys illustrate fishing pressure on Aniak river super low.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Nothing else could make things more clear to fishermen and be more biologically justified.

**PROPOSED BY:** George Siavelis and Ron Powell (HQ-03-F-013)

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**PROPOSAL 105 - 5 AAC 70.022(e). Waters; seasons; bag, possession, and size limits in the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Area; and 5 AAC 70.023(d). Special provisions and methods and means in the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Area.** Amend these regulations in the Kanektok River drainage as follows:

- In all flowing waters, only unbaited, single-hook artificial lures may be used.
- In all flowing waters downstream of the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge wilderness boundary, no person may sport fish from a boat or the riverbank within 300 feet of a legally operating subsistence gillnet.

Rainbow trout:

June 8 through October 31, catch and release only.

All rainbow trout must be immediately released.

Arctic char/Dolly Varden:

In all flowing waters, the bag and possession limit is three fish, no size limit.

Arctic grayling:

The bag and possession limit is two fish, no size limit.

Sheefish:

The bag and possession limit is two fish, no size limit.

Special regulations:

Nonresident king salmon bag and possession limits:

Seasonal limit is three over 20 inches, only two of which may be over 28 inches;

Daily limit is ten that are 20 inches or less

Immediately upon landing a king salmon more than 20 inches long, fill out the harvest information on the back of your sport fishing license or harvest card.

Any king salmon removed from freshwater drainages of the Kanektok River must be retained, and becomes part of the annual bag limit of the person originally hooking it. A person who intends to release a king salmon may not remove it from the water before releasing it.

**PROBLEM:** Increasing problems associated with sport harvest of king salmon on the Kanektok River drainage, for example:

- Nonresidents harvesting only female king salmon for their eggs.
- Nonresidents harvesting their daily bag limit of king salmon, processing their catch, storing it in their freezers, then going out on the river and harvesting another daily bag limit when their first bag limit is out of their possession.
- Nonresidents who are unguided/unsupervised harvesting king salmon using group harvest limits rather than individual harvest limits as require by state regulation.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Increasing harvest and targeting of female king salmon on the Kanektok River by nonresident sport fishermen who only want to harvest them for their eggs. Nonresidents sport fishermen continuing to find loopholes in the state sport fish regulations to increase their daily bag limit. Continued noncompliance of state sport fish regulations by nonresidents sport fishermen harvesting group limits of king salmon, rather than individual bag limits.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Yes. On the Kanektok River where a baseline for king salmon escapement has not yet been established, there is a need to be more conservative with this limited resource. Especially with recent declines and fisheries disasters being declared in neighboring river systems such as the Yukon, Kuskokwim, Nushagak and their tributaries. It is our opinion that all ethical sport-fishermen would agree that sustaining this valuable but limited resource is and should be a priority. By reducing the sport harvest of king salmon it would ultimately benefit the future of the resource by allowing more king salmon to reach their spawning grounds.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Everyone, by reducing the sport harvest limits for king salmon it will greatly increase the potential for female king salmon to reach their spawning grounds, which would in turn benefit everyone including the resource.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Nonresident sport fishermen who harvest only female king salmon, for their eggs. Nonresident sport fishermen who are harvesting king salmon to fill their group's daily harvest limit. Nonresident sport fishermen and groups who harvest two daily bag limits per day.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Requesting that nonresident sport fishermen voluntary reduce their harvest and not target female king salmon was taken into consideration, but in order for resource conservation efforts to be effective, they need to be in regulation form, where they can be enforced by state and/or federal representatives.

**PROPOSED BY:** Native Village of Kwinhagak (HQ-03-F-018)

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**PROPOSAL 106 - 5 AAC 70.022(e). Waters; seasons, bag, possession, and size limits in the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Area; and 5 AAC 70.023(d). Special provisions for methods and means in the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Area.** Amend these regulations in the Kanektok River drainage as follows:

- Waters closed to sport fishing: from the mouth of the Kanektok River to the upstream end of the Quinhagak Airport: GPS Coordinates: (N 59° 45.691' W 161° 52.254').
- In all flowing waters, only unbaited, single-hook artificial lures may be used.
- In all flowing waters downstream of the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge wilderness boundary, no person may sport fish from a boat or the river bank within 300 feet of a legally operating subsistence gillnet.

Rainbow trout:

June 8 through October 31, catch and release only.

All rainbow trout must be immediately released.

Arctic char/Dolly Varden:

In all flowing waters, the bag and possession limit is three fish, no size limit.

Arctic grayling:

The bag and possession limit is two fish, no size limit.

Sheefish:

The bag and possession limit is two fish, no size limit.

**PROBLEM:** Need for a "Waters Closed to Sport Fishing" section on the lower Kanektok River (between the mouth of the river and the upstream end of the Quinhagak Airport).

This section of river is one of the primary areas used by local villagers for subsistence salmon fishing, especially during the king salmon season from May 15 – July 25. Heavy boat traffic and congestion of sport fishermen on the lower Kanektok River between the mouth of the river and the upstream end of the Quinhagak Airport negatively impacts the subsistence way of life of the local villagers, it also creates competition for limited fishing areas along this stretch of river. During commercial fishing season this section of river sees additional boat traffic before, during and after commercial fishing periods. In-between commercial fishing periods subsistence fishermen are setting their set nets and drift netting in this section of river for salmon and at times trying to set their net in-between sport fishing boats. Many families from the village use this section of river along the riverbanks for setting up their fish camps and boat docking areas. During the day between 8:00 am

and 6:00 pm there are numerous sport fishing boats anchored in the middle of the narrow river channels along this stretch of river and other boats in the same narrow channels back-trolling for salmon. The majority of these boats are from the three established camps situated along the lower river while the remainder are privately owned by nonresidents. At times it becomes difficult for local people to navigate through these same channels because of the heavy boat traffic. Villagers have been complaining that there are too many sport fishermen on this stretch of river making it difficult to set their salmon nets because of boats anchoring and trolling in the channels that the subsistence fishermen like to fish on.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Continued disruption of the subsistence way of life of the local villagers during this critical time of the year when important subsistence fish stocks are being harvested for food. Continued potential for boating accidents due to heavy boat traffic and congestion of sport fishermen on lower river. Increased pollution of local drinking water source (preferred by elders of the village) with petroleum by-products from outboard motor emissions.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Yes. Local villagers would be able to live their subsistence way of life without being negatively impacted by sport fishermen fishing near their fish camps and/or fish racks along this stretch of river, where the majority of the village's fish camps and racks are located. By closing this section of river to all sport fishing it would increase subsistence fishing opportunities for the local villagers, since they would not have to compete for limited space on this section of the river. Closing this section of river would also reduce the potential for boating accidents due to heavy boat traffic and sport fishermen fishing and anchoring in mid-channel.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** The primary benefactors would be the subsistence fishermen and their families since they would not have to compete with the seasonal sport fishermen, but since this is also a safety issue, everyone who motorboats on the lower Kanektok River between the mouth of the river and the upstream end of the Quinhagak Airport would benefit.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Considered requesting that sport fishermen voluntarily restrict themselves from sport fishing in this section of river because of the reasons stated above, but in order for this restriction to be effective it needs to be in regulation form, where it can be enforced.

**PROPOSED BY:** Native Village of Kwinhagak (HQ-03-F-019)  
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**PROPOSAL 107 - 5 AAC 70.XXX. Stocked Waters Management Plan for the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Area.** Create a new regulation as follows.

The Stocked Waters Management Plan proposes a regional bag limit of ten fish (all species combined), only one fish 18 inches or greater in length.

#### FISHERY MANAGEMENT CATEGORIES

High Yield: bag and possession limit of ten fish, with a limit of one fish over 18 inches. No additional gear or seasonal restrictions to current statewide regulations.

Description: These waters accommodate anglers who harvest a large portion of their catch. There are currently 123 stocked lakes within the A-Y-K region that fit within this grouping.

The basis for the large number of stocked waters within this category is directly related to angler demand for liberal bag limits and minimal restriction.

Management Objective: Create and maintain fisheries that provide a reasonable opportunity to catch the bag limit.

#### Lake Sub-Categories:

Large: Greater than 250 surface acres, road system access with multiple sites

Urban: Short drive from urban population center, road system access

Rural: Outside of major population center, access less than one mile from the road system

Remote: Either all season trail or fixed wing aircraft

Conservative Yield: bag and possession limit five fish, with a limit of one fish 18 inches or greater in length. Potential for gear and seasonal restrictions.

Description: These are stocked waters that owing to unique location, productivity or angler preference will be managed for a high catch rate and low harvest to catch ratio. The intent of this category is to provide for a greater proportion of the catch to be fish of larger size. This type of opportunity is in demand by the angling public. Currently Dune Lake is the only stocked water that is within this category.

Management Objective: Create and maintain the opportunity to catch and harvest the limit while providing an opportunity to catch one fish 18 inches or greater in length.

Special Management: bag and possession limit of one fish 18 inches or greater in length, or catch and release. Potential for seasonal or gear restriction.

Description: This category is intended to encompass stocked lakes that owing to access, productivity or unique fishery characteristics are deemed by the public as deserving unique management emphasis. Presently there are three (Harding, Little Harding, and Summit Lake) stocked waters within this category with public demand for more. The management emphasis is to produce larger fish with generally lower catch and harvest rates.

Management Objective: Develop and maintain fisheries to provide for catching several large fish within a day.

#### CRITERIA FOR ESTABLISHING NEW FISHERIES OR MOVING AN EXISTING STOCKED WATER BODY INTO A DIFFERENT MANAGEMENT CATEGORY

Any candidate water body must meet the standards in the statewide stocking policy which provides guidelines for selecting species for stocking based on disease and genetic concerns for certain areas of the state. This policy also dictates minimizing stocked fish mixing with wild fish populations.

#### NEW STOCKED WATER BODY

Requests to nominate and categorize new stocked waters can originate from the public, local fish and game advisory committees, or the department. The productivity characteristics of the water body will be of primary importance with public opinion assisting with placing water bodies into specific fishery management categories.

There are a number of factors that the department and public must consider when evaluating the creation of a new fishery. These factors in combination will ultimately determine the likelihood of developing a successful fishery.

The criteria under consideration relative to a particular water body are:

- size

- physical and chemical properties
- productivity
- presence of other species
- land status and public access

Additional things to consider might be:

- What is the public and the department's recommendation for a management category? Can the water body meet the criteria for the proposed management category?
- What is the impact to other fisheries?
- Can hatchery production accommodate this request or are adjustments to stocking of other fisheries necessary?
- What is needed for access improvements? (road, boat launch and parking facilities)
- What evaluation is required to monitor the fishery?

#### MOVING A STOCKED WATER BODY TO A DIFFERENT MANAGEMENT CATEGORY

Requests to move water bodies between categories can originate from the public, local fish and game advisory committees, or the department.

The process of changing a management category must consider all the elements listed under New Stocked Water Body in addition to those listed below:

- I) A shift from high yield to conservative yield could result from an assessment of fishery performance or recognition that an adjustment must be made because of changes in hatchery production;
  - i) if by evaluation of fishery performance or changes in department strategy (such as a planned change of hatchery products) such a shift will be considered to be a part of the long-term strategy;
  - ii) if a result of hatchery failure or other means, the shift in status could be considered temporary mitigation until such time that opportunity can be restored to preexisting levels.
- II) A shift from high yield or conservative yield to special management will be a result of public preference, or special circumstances and results of stocking.
- III) A shift from conservative to high yield will be a result of public and department input relative to demand and evaluation of hatchery production;
  - i) if by evaluation of fishery performance or changes in department strategy (such as a planned change of hatchery products) such a shift will be considered to be a part of the long-term strategy;
  - ii) if a result of hatchery production or other means, the shift in status could be considered such that opportunity can be restored to preexisting levels.

**PROBLEM:** The department has attempted to meet public demand by providing various fish products (fingerlings, subcatchables, and catchable size fish), fish species, and by supporting various regulations on an individual water body basis. However, increased angler demand for a broader diversity of fishing opportunity could place managers into potentially allocative situations with limited public input. Development of an A-Y-K stocked waters management plan would assist the public and fishery managers by creating a framework and criteria for providing a diversity of angling opportunities within the capabilities of the stocked waters program. It would also provide the board a means to evaluate regulatory proposals.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The department will not have consistent guidelines for managing stocked waters.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** No.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Recreational anglers, board and the department.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Status quo.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-03-F-054)

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**PROPOSAL 108 - 5 AAC 70.022 (a-c) and (e). Waters; seasons; bag; possession, and size limits in the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Area.** Amend these regulations as follows:

Lake trout and Arctic char/Dolly Varden in all lakes: the bag and possession limit is two fish in combination, with no size limit.

**PROBLEM:** The current background bag limit for lake trout is four while the bag limit for lake resident Arctic char is two. The life history traits of lake trout (lake char) and lake resident Arctic char are very similar. Populations of these closely related species are characterized by slow growth, delayed maturity, long life, and low population densities. These traits along with the low productivity environment they inhabit make these fish very vulnerable to exploitation even under restrictive bag limits. In many lakes in northern Alaska these two species coexist. It is difficult for many anglers to discriminate between lake trout and lake resident Arctic char; both species are defined as char under 5 AAC 75.995(7). A single bag and possession limit for lake resident populations of both species is needed in order to provide consistent regulations and to remove the potential for anglers to misidentify Arctic char and lake trout.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Anglers will continue to misidentify lake resident Arctic char and lake trout with the potential consequence of illegal harvests. An inconsistency will continue to exist in bag limits for these closely related species.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** No.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Recreational anglers who desire dependable fishing opportunities for lake trout and Arctic char/Dolly Varden.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Recreational anglers that harvest a bag limit of four lake trout per day.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-03-F-055)

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**PROPOSAL 109 - 5 AAC 70.XXX. Management Plan for Arctic Grayling for the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Area.** Create a new regulation as follows:

Management Plan for Arctic Grayling for the A-Y-K Area.

The plan will identify:

- a range of potential bag limits and will provide triggers for changes in bag limits;
- effective uses of minimum, maximum or slot length limits and clearly articulate when these management options will be applied and for what reason;
- criteria for establishing fishing seasons; and
- the process by which special management areas are to be established.

The regulations governing sport fishing for Arctic grayling are categorized with the level and kind of fishing effort present or by the type of opportunity desired as expressed through the public process.

Background: Bag and possession limit of ten fish with no size limit. No restriction in gear or season.

Description: Fishing sites that are remote and where fishing effort is low. Most water bodies located away from population centers and/or away from roads are in this category.

Management Intent: to encourage angling participation in these waters and to provide harvest opportunity with hook-and-line gear.

Conservative Yield: Bag and possession limit is five or fewer fish, with or without a length limit. Options for gear restrictions and seasonal closures.

Description: Fishing sites where fishing effort is higher, generally as a result of increased access. Most water bodies located on the road system and/or near population centers fit into this category.

Management Intent: to provide for conservative harvest and to maintain a desired size composition and/or catch rate.

Special Management: Very restrictive bag and possession limit or catch-and-release. Options for gear restrictions and seasonal closures.

Description: This category is intended to create fisheries that due to unique fishery characteristics are deemed by the public to deserve special management.

Management Intent: to provide diverse fishing opportunity.

Criteria under consideration for establishing special management waters could be:

- biological attributes/abundance and size characteristics of a population
- legal access to the fishery
- historical precedence for the fishery or type of fishery
- land status (if private land with legal access)
- unique physical attributes (spring or bog fed) of the stream or river
- proximity to urban centers
- research interest or importance

**PROBLEM:** There is currently no regionwide regulatory management plan for Arctic grayling. This is an impediment to evaluating regulatory proposals for this species by the public and the board. In the past, the department and public have developed proposals on a case-by-case basis for specific Arctic grayling fisheries. A unifying management plan would allow evaluation to be conducted on a regional basis, thereby promoting consistent, objective focused fisheries management across the region. This plan would provide the department, public and board with a cohesive reference to evaluate future regulatory change.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Perpetuation of a fisheries management system that reacts to conservation concerns or to desires by interest groups rather than a system that acts to implement clearly identified fishery objectives.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** No.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Recreational anglers, the board and the department.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Status quo.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-03-F-056)

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**PROPOSAL 110 - 5 AAC 70.022(e). Waters; seasons; bag, possession, and size limits in the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Area.** Amend existing wild trout regulations to provide consistency with the Statewide Wild Trout Fishery Management Plan, as follows:

During the March 2003 board meeting the board adopted a Statewide Wild Trout Fishery Management Plan. Conservative harvest limits of two trout per day, only one 20 inches or greater in length, with an annual limit of two fish 20 inches or greater in length were recommended in the plan as a statewide provision, unless circumstances exist whereby harvest limits can be increased or decreased.

**PROBLEM:** Most current bag, possession, and size limits for wild rainbow trout in the A-Y-K area are consistent with the statewide wild trout regulations, with the following three exceptions:

Within the Kasigluk River drainage the bag and possession limit for rainbow trout is one fish 14 inches or less in length; all trout caught greater than 14 inches must be released immediately.

In the Kisaralik River drainage above 60° 49.05' N. lat., 55' W. long. (near the new village lodge site), all rainbow trout caught must be released immediately; downstream of 60° 49.05' N. lat., 55' W. long., the bag and possession limit for rainbow trout is one fish 14 inches or less in length; all fish caught greater than 14 inches in length must be released immediately.

In the Kwethluk River drainage, including upstream and downstream from the confluence of the Kwethluk River and Pulamaneq Creek (Pocahontas Creek) located approximately 60° 31.96' N. lat., 161° 05.47' W. long. the bag and possession limit for rainbow trout is one fish 14 inches or less in length; all rainbow trout caught that are over 14 inches in length must be released immediately.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The existing area regulations will be inconsistent with statewide regulations for wild rainbow trout.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** No.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Recreational anglers.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None. This proposal provides the opportunity for the board and public to review and contrast existing area regulations with the Statewide Wild Trout Fishery Management Plan.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-03-F-057)

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**PROPOSAL 111 - 5 AAC 70.022(c)(10)(D)(iii). Waters; seasons; bag, possession, and size limits in the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Area.** Amend this regulation to provide the following:

In the Dalton Highway corridor (Trans-Alaska Pipeline corridor) within the Yukon River portion of the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Area ... the bag and possession limit for Arctic grayling is five fish, **no size limit** [12 INCHES OR MORE IN LENGTH; ALL ARCTIC GRAYLING CAUGHT THAT ARE LESS THAN 12 INCHES IN LENGTH MUST BE IMMEDIATELY RELEASED];

**PROBLEM:** The 12-inch minimum length limit regulation that is in place for Arctic grayling within the Yukon drainage portion of the Dalton Highway corridor (Trans-Alaska Pipeline Haul road) should be removed. The length limit was instituted using knowledge of Tanana area stocks and is based on the assumption that grayling will have the opportunity to mature, spawn, and contribute to the population before being available to harvest as a 12-inch or larger fish.

Recent information suggests that Arctic grayling inhabiting streams within the haul road corridor grow more slowly, and mature at larger size and at older age than do fish in the Tanana area. The length limit would need to be increased to at least 13 inches in order to be effective at protecting pre-spawning fish. Current estimates of effort, harvest and stock status indicate that these stocks can sustain greater levels of harvest. If it becomes necessary to reduce fishing mortality on these stocks, a reduction in bag limit with no length limit should be applied.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The current length limit is overly restrictive and has unnecessarily limited harvest opportunity.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** No.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Sport fishers that desire to harvest grayling less than 12 inches in length.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** 1) A bag and possession limit of five fish with a minimum length limit of 13 inches. This solution was not proposed because the regulation would focus all sport harvest on the mature portion of the population (age-8 and older). Distributing harvest over all age and size groups is preferred.

2) A bag and possession limit of less than five fish with no size limit. This solution was not proposed because studies indicate that current levels of catch and harvest are well within sustainable limits.

Improved access to the Dalton Highway fishery has been provided by substantial improvements to the road. Most of the highway between the Yukon River and Coldfoot was paved within the last two years. The department anticipates some increased use of the fishery by Alaskan and out-of-state visitors as a result of the better access. Removal of the length limit will also increase harvest. The combination of these two factors may result in harvests increasing above desirable levels. If estimates of catch and harvest indicate that target levels are exceeded, the department will act to reduce the bag and possession limit.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-03-F-058)

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**PROPOSAL 112 - 5 AAC 70.022(a)(14)(D). Waters; seasons; bag, possession, and size limits in the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Area.** Amend this regulation to provide the following:

In the Dalton Highway corridor (Trans-Alaska Pipeline corridor) within the North Slope portion of the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Area ... the bag and possession limit for Arctic grayling is five fish, **no size limit** [12 INCHES OR MORE IN LENGTH; ALL ARCTIC GRAYLING CAUGHT THAT ARE LESS THAN 12 INCHES IN LENGTH MUST BE RELEASED IMMEDIATELY];

**PROBLEM:** The 12-inch minimum length limit regulation that is in place for Arctic grayling within the North Slope portion of the Dalton Highway corridor (Trans-Alaska Pipeline Haul road) should be removed. The length limit was instituted using knowledge of Tanana area stocks and is based on the assumption that grayling will have the opportunity to mature, spawn, and contribute to the population before being available to harvest as a 12-inch or larger fish.

Recent information suggests that Arctic grayling inhabiting streams within the haul road corridor grow more slowly, and mature at larger size and at older age than do fish in the Tanana area. The length limit would need to be increased to at least 13 inches in order to be effective at protecting pre-spawning fish. Current estimates of effort, harvest and stock status indicate that these stocks can sustain greater levels of harvest. If it becomes necessary to reduce fishing mortality on these stocks, a reduction in bag limit with no length limit should be applied.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The current length limit is overly restrictive and has unnecessarily limited harvest opportunity.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** No.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Sport fishers that desire to harvest grayling less than 12 inches in length. With harvest pressure spread over all available size categories, the harvest of large size grayling may decrease.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** 1) A bag and possession limit of five fish with a minimum length limit of 13 inches. This solution was not proposed because the regulation would

focus all sport harvest on the mature portion of the population (age-8 and older). Distributing harvest over all age and size groups is preferred.

2) A bag and possession limit of less than five fish with no size limit. This solution was not proposed because studies indicate that current levels of catch and harvest are well within sustainable limits.

Improved access to the Dalton Highway fishery has been provided by substantial improvements to the road. Most of the highway between the Yukon River and Atigun Pass was recently paved or will be within the next year. The department anticipates some increased use of the fishery by Alaskan and out-of-state visitors as a result of the better access. Removal of the length limit will also increase harvest. The combination of these two factors may result in harvests increasing above desirable levels. If estimates of catch and harvest indicate that target levels are exceeded, the department will act to reduce the bag and possession limit.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department Fish and Game (HQ-03-F-059)

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**PROPOSAL 113 - 5 AAC 70.022(d)(11)(E). Waters; seasons; bag, possession, and size limits in the Artic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Area; and 5 AAC 70.023(c)(6). Special provisions for methods and means in the Artic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Area.** Amend these regulations in the Delta Clearwater River drainage to provide the following:

In the Delta Clearwater River drainage, including the Clearwater Lake drainage, Arctic grayling may be taken from January 1 through December 31 by catch and release fishing only, except that from July 10 through August 9, a person may retain Arctic grayling, with a bag and possession limit of one fish, 12 inches or less in length; all Arctic grayling caught that are more than 12 inches in length must be released immediately. **From January 1 through August 31, only unbaited, single-hook with no barb, artificial lures may be used; from September 1 through December 31, only unbaited, artificial lures with no barb may be used.**

We feel that any method that causes less injury to high use fisheries is beneficial.

**PROBLEM:** The Delta Clearwater River is a tremendous Arctic grayling fishery. Since the board established “catch and release” fishing for most of the year in 2000, the size the Arctic grayling are large and catch rates are the highest in the region. We feel that because of the high catch rates, higher than even the population size, that additional restriction be applied to help facilitate anglers in releasing fish. We feel that having a hook without a barb will help.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Because of the high catch rates, it is noticeable that many fish caught have hook injury to the mouth. Injuries such as scars, missing jaws, and ripped skin are noticeable on many fish. We feel less physical injury occurs from barb-less hooks because it is easier to remove.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?**

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Anglers who want to see Arctic grayling in good physical condition.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Anglers seeking who feel they cannot keep fish hooked without a barb.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None.

**PROPOSED BY:** Delta Advisory Committee (I-03-F-004)

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**PROPOSAL 114 - 5 AAC 70.022(d). Waters; seasons; bag, possession, and size limits in the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Area.** Amend this regulation as follows:

In Quartz Lake, bag and possession limit is ten fish per day and ten fish in possession.

Reduce the total bag limit to ten fish of any species.

**PROBLEM:** The present limit is ten fish per species. There are three stocked species of fish in Quartz Lake. This makes a limit of 30 fish per day. The lake cannot provide this level of harvest in light of recent developments at the state hatchery.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The quality of fishing will decrease, even with continued stocking of this lake. The quality of fish stocked in this lake in recent years has prevented adequate survival of fish, particularly rainbow trout. If current harvest levels stay the same or increase, then there will be less opportunity to catch fish.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?**

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** This is the largest stocked lake fishery in the Interior. The reduction of the bag limit will benefit everyone by maintaining adequate numbers of fish in the lake.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None.

**PROPOSED BY:** Delta Advisory Committee (I-03-F-006)

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**PROPOSAL 115 - 5 AAC 70.022(c). Waters; seasons; bag, possession, and size limits in the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Area.** Amend this regulation as follows:

A ten fish bag limit with one fish greater than 20 inches allowed on Bray Lakes and Beaver Lake.

**PROBLEM:** Fish composition of ridge system high altitude lakes. Bray Lakes and Beaver Lake are overstocked and minimally fished.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Fish composition will be heavily influenced by stocked fish. Lakes will remain overstocked with mature small fish.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Yes, uses fishing regulations to change the fish population and benefit the lake trout size composition of the ridge system high altitude lakes.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Those who choose to fish these lakes.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** None known.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?**

**PROPOSED BY:** Upper Tanana/Fortymile Advisory Committee (I-03-F-013)

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**PROPOSAL 116 - 5 AAC 70.022(d). Waters; seasons; bag, possession, and size limits in the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Area.** Amend this regulation as follows:

From the outlet of Mineral Lake to the confluence of Mineral Creek and the Little Tok River: Leave the season the same.

The remainder of the Tok River drainage: No closed season, bag limit of five per day, only one fish over 12 inches during May.

**PROBLEM:** Increase fishing opportunity on Little Tok River for grayling.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Will continue to receive minimal fishing activity resulting in wasted opportunity.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** A more liberal season and bag limit for whole area. Rejected because it does not adequately protect a sensitive spawning area below Mineral Lake.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Local and tourist fishermen who seek more accessible fishing opportunity.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one we are aware of.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?**

**PROPOSED BY:** Upper Tanana/Fortymile Advisory Committee (I-03-F-014)

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**PROPOSAL 117 - 5 AAC 70.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession, and size limits in the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Area.** Amend this regulation in the Chena River area as follows:

In all flowing waters of the Chena River and its tributaries above the Nordale Road Bridge, catch and release only for the entire year. Below the Nordale River Bridge, anglers' daily bag and possession limit is one grayling between June 1 and July 15. No grayling may be retained anywhere on the Chena River between July 16 and May 31.

**PROBLEM:** Lack of any harvest opportunity for grayling in the Chena River.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Catch and release was implemented by the department in response to an alarming drop in grayling abundance in the late 1980s. Since that time, both angler effort and grayling populations have greatly increased. The fishery has continued to be managed under strict catch and release regulations primarily because of the increased effort and

vulnerability of the grayling to overharvest. The department now estimates the current grayling population in the Chena River to exceed 27,000 covering all age and size classes. According to the department, 800-1000 of these fish can be harvested yearly.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?**

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Any angler wishing to keep a grayling. Children who can walk or ride a bike to the river in the downtown area and catch and keep a fish.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Because most of the grayling and almost all of the large spawners are above the Nordale River Bridge between June 1 and July 15, there should be no detrimental impact on the overall population. Anglers who value catch and release and catching big fish will not be impacted by a limited harvest of mostly smaller fish in the lower river. A limited harvest may keep the population from growing at its current rate.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Allowing a limited harvest on the upper river for a longer time period. Rejected because spawners need to be protected and because of the vulnerability of this resource to overharvest. The success of catch and release regulations in rebuilding this stock mandate a very conservative harvest regulation to avoid too many fish being vulnerable to harvest.

Continue with catch and release. Rejected because there has been no harvest for approximately 14 years and the stock is very healthy. There are no biological concerns which justify continued catch and release regulations. If the public desires to permanently make the Chena River a catch and release fishery for nonbiological reasons, we will be advised by their response to this proposal.

**PROPOSED BY:** Fairbanks Advisory Committee (I-03-F-019)  
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**PROPOSAL 118 - 5 AAC 70.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession, and size limits in the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Area; and 5 AAC 70.023. Special provisions for methods and means in the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Area.** Amend these regulations in the Goodnews River area to provide the following:

Align the sport fish regulations for the Goodnews River with the more conservative sport fish regulations for the Kanektok River, with special restrictions also being imposed as conditions for aligning the rainbow trout regulations, which we believe would also reduce the direct physical impact to all of our wild fish stocks that our village residents depend on for subsistence.

Options for Restricting Gear and/or Waters Designation;  
Based on the Alaska Department of Fish and Game sport fish regulations for rivers designated as single-hook the maximum gap allowed between point and shank would be a ½ inch (approximately hook size 2/0), which would meet part of our request for restricting hook sizes, in option one.

The first option that we would like for the board to consider is designating the Goodnews River as single hook waters, With an exception for the dates when king salmon are allowed to be taken: May 1 through July 25, when hooks with a ¾-inch maximum gap between point and shank would be allowed. After July 25 gear restrictions for single hook waters would apply.

The second option that we would like for the board to consider for the Goodnews River is to restrict single hook gear to a maximum gap of ¾ inches between point and shank (approximately hook size

5/0), during the king salmon run from May 1 to July 25. Hook sizes with larger gaps than  $\frac{3}{4}$  inches are not necessary for the average size king salmon (approximately 15 to 25 lbs.) that we have in our Kuskokwim Bay rivers. Hooks larger than 5/0 would be overkill and would cause more unnecessary physical damage to the fish. Some anglers may also be concerned that using single hook gear smaller than 5/0 for king salmon would be inadequate, especially when trying to land the fish, and could cause fatal amounts of lactic acid to buildup in the fish's system, which would then reduce the fish's chance of survival if the angler released it back into the water.

#### Pinched Barb Requirement

Anglers who fish with barbed hooks cause more unnecessary damage to a fish's mouth, gill and eye areas when they are trying to extract the hook than anglers who pinch their barbs down. Some fish survive their injuries from barbed hooks, but end up with physical deformities. Local villagers have caught many of these fish over the years while subsistence fishing. Most of the fish are skinny and unhealthy looking, causing the villagers to become concerned. Recreational fishermen should not be allowed to use barbed hooks, especially on rivers where native people harvest fish for subsistence.

#### May Not Remove Fish (All Species) From Water Before

Sport fishermen who are intending on releasing a fish should not be allowed to remove the fish from the water. Exposing fish to air for extended periods of time reduces the fish's chances of survival, especially if the fish is drudged up on a gravel bar or netted then lifted into a boat before being released back into the water. Based on some articles that we have read, keeping a fish out of the water for over five seconds is too long. Conscientious anglers who need to take photos usually keep their fish in the water and meet the fish halfway; makes sense and the photos are more authentic.

#### Knotless Landing Nets Only

Anglers should not be allowed to use knotted landing nets. Those types of nets contribute to scale loss and also cause more of the protective slime on a fish's skin to be scraped off, which is not healthy for the fish especially if it is to be released back into the water.

#### Kuskokwim-Goodnews Drainages Special Regulations Goodnews River Drainage

##### Option one:

- In all flowing waters on the Goodnews River, only gear designated for single-hook waters will be allowed, with the exception that king salmon may be taken with single-hook gear with a maximum gap of  $\frac{3}{4}$  inches between point and shank from May 1 through July 25.

##### Option two:

- In all flowing waters on the Goodnews River, single-hook gear is restricted to maximum gap of  $\frac{3}{4}$  inches between point and shank during the king salmon run from May 1 through July 25.
- In all flowing waters of the Goodnews River, only unbaited pinched-barb single-hooks may be used.
- In all flowing waters, only knotless landing nets may be used.
- A person who intends to release a fish may not remove it from the water before releasing it.
- In all flowing waters downstream of the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge Wilderness boundary, no person may sport fish from a boat or the riverbank within 300 feet of a legally operating subsistence gillnet.

#### Rainbow trout:

June 8 – October 31, catch and release only.

All rainbow trout must be released immediately.

#### Arctic char/Dolly Varden:

In all flowing waters, the bag and possession limit is three fish, no size limit.

Arctic grayling:

The bag and possession limit is two fish, no size limit.

Sheefish:

The bag and possession limit is two fish, no size limit.

**PROBLEM:** Need for alignment of sport fish regulations for the Goodnews River with the more conservative regulations on the Kanektok River. Over the last two decades the sport fishing effort on the Goodnews River has increased dramatically. This huge increase of effort has negatively impacted many of those river's wild fish stocks and the local subsistence users who depend upon these fish to maintain their way of life.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Vital fish stocks including rainbow trout, Dolly Varden and Arctic grayling will decline below healthy sustained yield levels. With declines subsistence users will be denied the opportunity to harvest their river's fish for customary and traditional subsistence uses.

Local residents are becoming concerned that with increasing numbers of sport fishermen migrating to the Goodnews River there will be a negative impact on the resources, especially the fisheries resources.

Since the Goodnews River has the same species of fish and run timings as the Kanektok River, we see no reason why the sport fish regulations for the Goodnews River should not be aligned with the more conservative regulations for the Kanektok River. We also believe that if the Goodnews River is less restrictive than the Kanektok, our river and resources will feel the burden of increased angler pressure. The village residents of the community will have to carry that burden and deal with the problems associated with increasing numbers of anglers attracted to our home river by less restrictive sport fish regulations.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Yes. With recent declines and fisheries disasters being declared in the neighboring river systems such as the Yukon, Kuskokwim, Nushagak and their tributaries, we believe there is a need to be more conservative with our limited fisheries resources. By aligning the sport fisheries regulations for the Goodnews River with the Kanektok River, with the addition of special restrictions also being imposed as conditions for aligning the rainbow trout regulations on the Goodnews River with the more conservative regulations for the Kanektok River:

1. It would restrict the types and sizes of gear that would be allowed. For example, single hooks with a  $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch maximum gap with pinched down barbs would be less physically damaging to a king salmon's mouth, gills and eye areas and would be quicker and easier to extract.
2. It would align the regulations for rainbow trout on the Goodnews River with the more conservative regulations on the Kanektok River.
3. It would require anglers to keep fish (all species) in the water if they are planning on releasing them, which would in turn increase the fish's chance of survival after being released.
4. It would restrict the use of knotted landing nets, which are known to contribute to scale loss and the removal of protective slime that fish have on their skin.

If the board decides to align alignment of sport fish regulations for the Goodnews with the Kanektok River it would improve and benefit the overall fishery by conserving this limited resource for the long term, both for the ethical sport fishermen and especially for the local subsistence fishermen who

depends on these fish resources for food. It is also our opinion that the majority of ethical sport fishermen who fish in the Goodnews River would agree that more conservative sport fishing regulations are needed for preserving and/or restoring the historical size and age structure of resident fish stocks on the river.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Alignment of the aforementioned sport fishing regulations with the addition of special restrictions would directly benefit the fisheries resource by preserving it over the long term. Alignment of the regulations would be easier for enforcement purposes and management since there would not be any major regulation difference between these two Kuskokwim Bay rivers. For the ethical angler, it would preserve the integrity of the sport fishery and for the subsistence fishermen it would provide additional fish, which are an important food source for the local villagers living in this remote and economically-depressed area.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** In the short term, maybe sport fishermen who like less restrictive regulations.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Based on local observations and listening to reports from various user groups on our home rivers, we believe that more conservative sport fishing regulations are needed. This can only be achieved through the state regulatory process, not by requesting anglers to voluntarily comply.

The board has historically rejected proposals to restrict anglers from practicing catch-and-release on rivers which have established sport fisheries. Our native people who live near these rivers and especially our elders continue to believe that catch-and-release fisheries violates traditional beliefs. Contributing factors perpetuating and reconfirming this belief include fish that have been caught by subsistence fishermen with hooking mutilations. For example: fish with torn mouths, fish with eyes popped out, fish that are deformed around the mouth area from old injuries. Other contributing factors include observations by local villagers of sport fishermen dragging fish up on the gravel bars, and then releasing them back into the water, fish that are netted by sport fishermen then hauled into their boats then released back into the water, fish that are handled by their gills or eye sockets while sport fishermen take photos then released back into the water, fish that are found rolling and floating down the river belly up, the list goes on.

Sport fishing activity has been occurring on our home river for over 20 years and the majority of anglers that fish our waters voluntarily release fish as their standard practice. We believe that if sport fishermen are to continue releasing fish, certain standards for properly handling and releasing fish back into the water need to be adhered to. And if those standards are not being voluntarily complied with during a certain period of time (grace period) then the board needs to implement additional sport fishing regulations requiring their compliance. 20 plus years is in our opinion a sufficient grace period, additional sport fishing restrictions are needed.

If the board approves aligning the rainbow trout regulations for the Goodnews River with the more conservative regulations on the Kanektok River we believe that these aforementioned standards need to become a mandatory requirement. Basically for protecting the most targeted species of fish in the state of Alaska and reducing the physical injuries and mortality on all of our wild fish stocks that we depend on for our subsistence. This proposal and recommendations are not to be considered a permanent solution it is only a temporary solution until a better solution can be found.

(Note: We were informed that additional proposals were submitted to the board to request reductions in the sport harvest of salmon and other freshwater fish back on the Kanektok River. If the record

approves those reductions we would like to have the Goodnews River also considered for the same reductions to continue with the alignment.)

**PROPOSED BY:** Village Council of Mumtraq and City Council of Goodnews Bay (W-03-F-004)  
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**PROPOSAL 119 - 5 AAC 70.030(d). Methods, means, and general provisions--Finfish.** Amend this regulation as follows:

In the Tanana River drainage, any ice house not removed from the ice at the end of the day's fishing must **have either current name and phone number, or Alaska ID number** [BE REGISTERED AND A PERMIT SECURED ANNUALLY FROM THE DEPARTMENT. A REGISTERED ICE HOUSE MUST HAVE THE PERMIT NUMBERS] displayed on one side [AND ON ITS ROOF] in distinguishable **characters or** numbers not less than 12 inches in height.

Ice houses must have either name and phone number or Alaska ID number if left overnight or longer on a lake.

**PROBLEM:** Do away with current numbers and registration.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** There is noncompliance in obtaining current icehouse registration. Protection officers have problems obtaining the information from different department offices to know who currently owns the icehouse. The department obtains the information to make sure ice houses are off the lake before the ice goes out. If icehouse ownership changes, this makes for additional difficulties knowing who is responsible for the structure and to ensure it is removed.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?**

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Owner of the ice house, the department, and Fish and Wildlife Protection.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?**

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?**

**PROPOSED BY:** Delta Advisory Committee (I-03-F-007)  
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**PROPOSAL 120 - 5 AAC 01.180(b). Subsistence fishing permits.** Amend this regulation as follows:

(b) A subsistence fishing permit is required as follows:

- (1) In the Port Clarence District: **in Port Clarence and all waters draining into Port Clarence, except for residents of the communities participating in the post-season subsistence salmon household surveys** [PILGRIM RIVER DRAINAGE INCLUDING SALMON LAKE];
- (2) In the Norton Sound District: [FOR NET FISHING] in all waters from Cape Douglas to **Cape Darby, except for residents of communities participating in the post-season subsistence salmon household surveys** [ROCKY POINT].

**PROBLEM:** This is a companion to proposal HQ-03-F-123, dealing with sport fishing records.

With declines in Nome's local salmon stocks, Nome families increasingly have been relying on salmon harvested in Norton Sound Subdistrict 2 and in the Port Clarence District. Residents of White Mountain, Golovin, Teller, and Brevig Mission also harvest salmon in these areas. Village harvests in these areas are being documented through annual subsistence household surveys, but Nome's harvests are not. In 2001, an estimated 2,900 salmon (47 percent of Nome's estimated total salmon harvest) were harvested outside the Nome permit area.

Undocumented salmon harvests by residents of Nome create two management problems: 1) Biologists are unable to accurately estimate salmon escapement in the Nuikluk river in Subdistrict 2 (where the department operates a salmon counting tower) because substantial undocumented harvests occur in the river above the tower site. 2) The total harvest of Norton Sound salmon stocks, which include several stocks of concern, is not being documented.

This proposal would expand the Nome subsistence salmon permit system to apply to most areas currently fished by Nome residents, while not duplicating the household survey system used in the villages. It would not require permits for families who reside in the villages that participate in the annual subsistence salmon survey project. There is no reason to require these families to report their harvests twice.

The proposal language was chosen to make it clear that all harvests in these areas are to be documented, if not through surveys then through permits. All Alaskans have the same right to participate in these fisheries, and all would be subject to some form of harvest reporting. Permits are most efficient in Nome; surveys are most efficient in smaller villages. This proposal tailors the harvest reporting system to two different types of communities.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Escapement estimates from the Nuikluk River counting tower will be less accurate. Perhaps as much as half of Nome's salmon total salmon harvest will be undocumented.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** No.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Managers and fishermen seeking accurate escapement estimates for the Nuikluk River, and accurate estimates of Nome's total salmon harvests.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Fishermen who will have to obtain permits.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** 1) Require subsistence salmon permits for all Nome residents no matter where they fished. This might appear to be an additional and unfair reporting requirement on Nome residents over other Alaskans.

2) Survey Nome annually to determine salmon harvests. This was done in 2001 and provided very useful information, but it was expensive (about \$70,000) and to some extent duplicated the permit system.

3) Require subsistence salmon permits for every Alaskan fishing in these waters. This would increase the department's administrative burden. It would also duplicate the village survey system

or (if surveys were discontinued) reduce the quality of harvest information currently available from villages.

4) Require subsistence salmon permits for anyone fishing in the Niukluk River. This is being proposed by the department. It would increase the department’s administrative burden. It also would duplicate the village survey system or (if surveys were discontinued) reduce the quality of harvest information currently available from the villages.

**PROPOSED BY:** Kawerak, Inc. (HQ-03-F-122)

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**PROPOSAL 121 - 5 AAC 01.180. Subsistence fishing permits.** Add in a new subdistrict for permitting purposes as follows:

(b) A subsistence fishing permit is required as follows:

...

**(3) In Subdistrict 2: Niukluk River drainage.**

**PROBLEM:** A lack of sufficient fishing opportunity in the Nome Subdistrict of Norton Sound has resulted in Nome residents driving to the Niukluk River or the Pilgrim River to fish. Subsistence permits are not required in the Niukluk River (Golovnin Bay Subdistrict), although subsistence permits are required in the Nome Subdistrict, and are required in the Pilgrim River, located in the Port Clarence District.

Most Nome area residents access the Niukluk River at the summer community of Council which is ten miles upriver of the department’s counting tower. Harvests by Nome subsistence fishers in the Niukluk River are not documented because postseason subsistence salmon surveys are not done in Nome. Residents of villages in the Golovnin Bay Subdistrict and in Nome have expressed concern about the increasing number of people coming from Nome to harvest fish in the Niukluk River.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Inadequate harvest and escapement estimates of the Niukluk River may result in lack of sufficient escapement.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** No.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** The department will have more accurate harvest and escapement assessments.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Those individuals who do not want to obtain a permit and perhaps those individuals who will have to report their harvests on a permit and respond to the annual postseason survey.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Provide exemption of permit requirement for residents of Subdistrict 2 communities that are surveyed postseason during the Northwestern subsistence salmon harvest project. Postseason subsistence harvest survey of Nome residents.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-03-F-129)

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**PROPOSAL 122 - 5 AAC 01.170. Lawful gear and gear specifications.** Amend this regulation as follows:

**(x) In the Port Clarence District, gillnets used to take salmon in Grantley Harbor may not exceed 150 feet in length.**

The new regulation should limit setnets in the Port Clarence Subdistrict to 150 feet in length. Teller residents traditionally use nets of that length to capture salmon. Longer nets of the type used by Nome residents are able to capture more fish while Teller residents must with more difficulty than the past set nets at different locations or combine gear to set nets in such a way as to intercept salmon from Nome nets.

**PROBLEM:** Competing salmon fishing practices at Grantly Harbor in the Port Clarence Subdistrict. Displaced Nome fishermen have been using longer nets than Teller residents traditionally use. The Nome subsistence salmon survey reported concerns by Teller residents and substantiates board action to curtail competitive practices that are negatively impacting Teller fishermen.

Set nets in the Port Clarence Subdistrict should be limited to 150 feet in length.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Displaced Nome fishermen will continue to fish in the Port Clarence Subdistrict with gear and exceed the inherent capability of Teller residents to acquire.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** The quality of the resource is likely to remain the same. Nome fishermen will continue to be displaced as long as fish in Grantley Harbor seem to be more plentiful than fish in the Nome area.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Teller residents.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Nome fishermen.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None.

**PROPOSED BY:** Kawerak, Inc. (HQ-03-F-125)

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**PROPOSAL 123 - 5 AAC 27.910. Fishing seasons and periods for Bering Sea-Kotzebue Area.** Amend this regulation to provide the following.

Allow a herring bait fishery to occur when the crab fishery CDQ is occurring. Allow sac-roe permit card to be used for bait fishery.

**PROBLEM:** The proposal is in support of relaxing Norton Sound bait herring regulations to better fit the needs of Norton Sound fishermen. Herring fishermen with limited entry sac roe permits wish to fish bait herring Subdistrict 7 (Nome Subdistrict) for use in commercial crab and halibut openers. The estimated bait used in these fisheries is 100 ton. This figure includes bait for winter crab fisheries. Sac roe permit holders have been allowed to fish bait after but not during sac roe openers in Eastern Norton Sound. For several reasons attempts to harvest sufficient amounts of bait herring in Eastern Norton Sound have failed due to: conflicting agendas of floating processors, not wanting

to detour to offload at Nome's cold storage facility, the need for Norton Sound sac roe fishermen to switch to smaller mesh gear, weather problems and conflicting regulations about coinciding fisheries. Current regulations do not allow the Norton Sound sac roe/bait fisheries to coincide with CDQ crab due to conflicts of interest and enforcement logistics.

As a result of these regulations, no reasonable window of opportunity is available for bait fishing in the Nome Subdistrict from June 15 until July 1, other than the allowed one ton for personal use per crab permit. This is traditionally the optimal time for fishermen to harvest bait herring within a feasible range of Nome's cold storage, Norton Sound Seafood Company. This proposal would allow the use of limited sac roe permits, similar to roe-on-kelp options, where the limited permit holder would opt to fish bait instead of sac roe. Open access for bait herring is not desirable as this would promote overharvesting and those July open access regulations should remain status quo. This proposal would be limited to the Nome Subdistrict between Topkok and Sinuk River in the event that bait needs were not already satisfied from status quo efforts in Eastern Norton Sound. Currently commercial crab and halibut permit holders are allowed to harvest one ton of bait herring per permit for commercial use. This harvest has been appreciated by local fishermen and this proposal is not intended to replace this privilege. However this proposal needs to coincide with this privilege as the bait needs of crab and halibut fishermen may exceed the one ton personal commercial use privilege. The average need for bait herring is closer to five ton of bait herring for crab and halibut. Not all crab and halibut fishermen are able to fish bait herring and thus need, for those fishermen with the ability to fish bait, to be allowed the opportunity to do so. Also let it be known that Norton Sound bait herring is greatly desired over bait herring from outside the region.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Crab fishers may not be able to secure sufficient quantities of bait and would need to import lower quality bait at a higher expense from other sources.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Yes.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Norton Sound commercial fishers. Crab fishers who want to obtain bait locally.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Importers of herring bait.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Allow a higher limit of herring to be taken than the one ton limit currently. But this is not as desirable because of the lack of personal freezer space available to each fisher.

**PROPOSED BY:** Robin Thomas (HQ-03-F-118)

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**PROPOSAL 124 - 5 AAC 04.320. Fishing periods; and 5 AAC 70.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession, and size limits in the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Area.** Amend these regulations in the Norton Sound area to provide the following:

In Norton Sound, when subsistence fishing is closed in a particular area or during a particular time, all other fishing activities in that same area or during that same time also shall be closed, including catch and release sport fishing.

**PROBLEM:** Norton Sound has experienced drastic declines in some of its salmon and grayling populations. Widespread subsistence closures have occurred in northern Norton Sound. In some cases sport fishing has remained open during these subsistence closures. This creates two problems.

First, even with catch and release sport fishing, some fish will die. When stocks are so low as to require subsistence closures, we need every fish to survive.

Second, Alaska's subsistence law gives subsistence a priority. Allowing sport fishing to continue when subsistence is closed does not conform to the state's subsistence priority. Biologists may be able to persuade the board that the biological costs are minor. Lawyers may be able to persuade the board that this is legal, but the public perception is that state is not upholding the subsistence priority in Norton Sound.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Fish will be less abundant.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** No.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** All managers and fishermen who want to see increasing populations of fish in Norton Sound.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Sport fishermen who want to catch and release fish in areas or during times closed to subsistence.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None.

**PROPOSED BY:** Kawerak, Inc. (HQ-03-F-124)

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**PROPOSAL 125 - 5 AAC 70.024. Harvest record required; annual limits.** Amend this regulation as follows:

The following provisions regarding harvest records and annual limits apply to sport fishing for finfish and shellfish in the waters of the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Area:

(1) in the Norton Sound Area:

...

**(x) in the Norton Sound District, a nontransferable harvest record is required and must be in the possession of each person sport fishing for salmon, except for residents of communities participating in the post-season subsistence salmon household surveys.**

**PROBLEM:** This is a companion to proposal HQ-03-F-122, dealing with subsistence salmon fishing permits. The companion proposal would expand Nome's subsistence permit system to include most of the waters used by Nome residents for salmon fishing, but it would not apply to people fishing under sport fishing regulations. The problem statement for that proposal describes the undocumented harvests in the Nome area, and that applies to this proposal as well. This problem statement describes the specific reasons for documenting harvests in Norton Sound area salmon sport fisheries.

This proposal would apply the same harvest reporting requirements to rod and reel fishermen, regardless of whether they were fishing under subsistence or sport fishing guidelines. It would not

require permits for families who reside in the villages that participate in the annual subsistence salmon survey project. The annual village subsistence salmon survey already asks about rod and reel harvests. There is no reason to require these families to report their harvests twice.

The proposal language was chosen to make it clear that all harvests in these areas are to be documented, if not through surveys then through permits. All Alaskans have the same right to participate in these fisheries, and all would be subject to some form of harvest reporting. Permits are most efficient in Nome; surveys are most efficient in smaller villages. This proposal tailors the harvest reporting system in two different types of communities.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Escapement estimates from the Nuikluk River counting tower will be less accurate. Perhaps as much as half of Nome's total salmon harvest will be undocumented.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** No.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Managers and fishermen seeking accurate escapement estimates for the Nuikluk River, and accurate estimates of Nome's total salmon harvests.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Fishermen who will have to obtain permits.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Increased documentation of subsistence harvests, which is proposed in a companion proposal.

**PROPOSED BY:** Kawerak, Inc. (HQ-03-F-123)

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**PROPOSAL 126 - 5 AAC 70.022(b)(I). Waters; seasons; bag, possession, and size limits in the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Area.** Amend this regulation in the Unalakleet River drainage as follows:

Daily bag and possession limit is four salmon, no size limit.

**PROBLEM:** Set limits of other salmon in possession.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Resource continues to be harvested with little regulation. Continued decline of salmon runs.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?**

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Future generations.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Nonresidents who target Coho to ship out of country and state.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?**

**PROPOSED BY:** R. Weaver Ivanoff (HQ-03-F-023)

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**PROPOSAL 127 - 5 AAC 70.022(b)(I). Waters; seasons; bag, possession, and size limits in the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Area.** Amend this regulation in the Unalakleet River drainage as follows:

In the entire Unalakleet drainage, the daily bag limit is one king salmon per day, and one in possession. No size limit.

**PROBLEM:** Set bag limits for king salmon.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** King salmon are targeted and overfishing may occur.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?**

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Future generations.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Nonresidents who target kings to ship out of state and country.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?**

**PROPOSED BY:** R. Weaver Ivanoff (HQ-03-F-022)

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**PROPOSAL 128 - 5 AAC 70.022(b)(I). Waters; seasons; bag, possession, and size limits in the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Area.** Amend this regulation in the Unalakleet River drainage as follows:

Guide boats: Fishing is allowed only from 6:00am to 6:00pm. Fishing is not allowed on Sundays or Mondays during June, August and September.

**PROBLEM:** Set times guided sportfishing is allowed.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Guided sportfishing will continue to fish 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Conflicts may occur with other sport fishers and fishers.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?**

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Other sport fishers and users.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Guides.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?**

**PROPOSED BY:** R. Weaver Ivanoff (HQ-03-F-021)

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**PROPOSAL 129 - 5 AAC 70.022(b)(I). Waters; seasons; bag, possession, and size limits in the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Area.** Amend this regulation in the Unalakleet River drainage as follows:

The total yearly limit in the entire Unalakleet River drainage is four king salmon and no more than two may be harvested from the North River drainage.

**PROBLEM:** Set a seasonal bag limit of four king salmon per year.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Fishers will continue to harvest the declining king salmon escapement.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** No.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** The entire village of Unalakleet.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Sport fishers who fish every day, seven days a week, and those who harvest 20 plus salmon, including nonresidents.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?**

**PROPOSED BY:** R. Weaver Ivanoff

(HQ-03-F-020)

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**PROPOSAL 130 - 5 AAC 07.365(c). Kuskokwim River Salmon Rebuilding Management Plan.**

Amend this regulation to provide the following:

The subsistence salmon fishing schedule in the Kuskokwim River would not apply to the middle and upriver villages upstream of the commercial District 1 boundary. The upper end of District 1 is located between the villages of Tuluksak and Kalskag, at the mouth of Bogus Creek. The new regulation would read:

(c) In the subsistence fishery, within the boundaries of District 1 of the Kuskokwim River drainage [IN THE KUSKOKWIM RIVER DRAINAGE], in the waters of the mainstem of the river and other salmon spawning tributaries unless otherwise specified by the department.

The following would be eliminated:

(c)(3) [AS THE SALMON RUN PROGRESSES THROUGH DISTRICTS 1-2, AND FURTHER UPSTREAM, THE PROVISIONS OF (1) OF THIS SECTION WILL BE IMPLEMENTED IN THE MAINSTEM OF THE KUSKOKWIM REIVER AND SALMON SPAWNING TRIBUTARIES]

**PROBLEM:** The subsistence salmon fishing schedule on the Kuskokwim River (four consecutive fishing days/three days no fishing) applies throughout the entire drainage, and was put in place to allow for blocks of salmon to pass through the fishery unmolested (Linderman, et al. 2002). The intent of the schedule was to improve the quality of escapement by stretching out the harvest and allowing portions of the run to migrate upriver with reduced fishing pressure. Presently, the schedule hinders the ability of middle and upriver fishers to meet subsistence needs.

During 2001, 78 percent of the entire Kuskokwim River subsistence harvest occurred in the lower river between the villages Eek and Tuluksak. This area includes Bethel, a large community with over 1,700 households (Annual Management Report for the Subsistence and Commercial Fisheries of the Kuskokwim area [Burkey et al.] 2001). There are approximately 2,741 households in the lower 100 mile stretch of river where the majority of the subsistence occurs; in contrast, there are

approximately 589 households in the 600 miles that constitute the middle and upper Kuskokwim Areas. The 2001 AMR states, “compared to the previous ten year annual subsistence salmon harvest chinook, chum and coho harvests were down. Specifically, the harvest of chinook salmon in the lower Kuskokwim drainage (villages from Tuluksak to Eek and including Kipnuk, Kongignak, and Kwigillingok) during 2001 was about 6 percent below the 1990-1999 average of 69,207. In the middle Kuskokwim area (Lower Kalskag to Chuathbaluk) the 2001 chinook harvest was 32 percent below in the 1990-1999 average of 9,357. Further upriver in the upper Kuskokwim drainage from Crooked Creek to Nikolai, the 2001 chinook harvest was 47 percent below the ten-year average of 4,197. Chum salmon harvests during 2001 were similarly low when compared to the 1990-1999 averages for these areas. In the lower Kuskokwim area the chum harvest was down by 7 percent and 33 and 60 percent in the middle and upper Kuskokwim areas respectively.” Similar results occurred during 2000.

These figures demonstrate the difficulty of fulfilling subsistence needs as one progress upriver. Fewer salmon reach the middle and upper river sections due to downriver harvest (subsistence and/or commercial), and four major tributaries (i.e., Eek, Kwethluk, Kisaralik, and Tulusak) that provide habitat for thousands of salmon. For these reasons it takes more time and effort to harvest the available salmon.

Since the 13 villages of the middle Kuskokwim area are over 100 miles from the intense pressure of the lower area, it is uncertain whether or not the fishing schedule, as is, would accomplish the objective of totally protecting a particular block of fish as it progresses upstream. With or without any schedule, portions on particular blocks of fish will come in contact with fishers as they continue upstream. The villages of the middle and upper areas are much less concentrated, having less than 600 households scattered throughout a 600 mile stretch of river. In regards to the schedule and its intent to reduce pressure on particular blocks of fish, the relatively small percentage of subsistence users of the middle and upper portions of the river results in a defector reduction of fishing pressure.

For these reasons the Kuskokwim Native Association is proposing to eliminate the schedule for the middle and upper portions of the river.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Residents of the middle and upper Kuskokwim River, where it takes longer and is more difficult to fulfill subsistence needs, will continue to be subject to the subsistence schedule.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Yes, indirectly. Fishers will be able to put up salmon sooner while the weather is generally better for drying fish, and before flies become more numerous as time passes. Flies can damage the fish while hanging on the drying racks.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** The residents of the 13 villages from Kalskag to Telida will benefit by not having to pull and reset their nets each week and will not have their daily fishing routines disrupted. If this proposal is enacted, it would then be consistent with the management approach used on the Yukon River, where subsistence schedule is either reduced or eliminated as one moves upstream in the drainage.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one would be likely to suffer if this proposal is adopted.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** No other solutions were considered.

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**PROPOSAL 131 - 5 AAC 01.260. Fishing seasons and periods.** Amend this regulation as follows:

Eliminate current subsistence schedule for the middle and upper Kuskokwim villages.

**PROBLEM:** The restrictive subsistence salmon fishing schedule on the middle and upper Kuskokwim River is an unnecessary burden on those subsistence users. The fishing schedule greatly reduces the opportunity to obtain a product of acceptable quality. The harvest numbers show that on the lower portion of the Kuskokwim between Eek and Tuluksak, approximately 80 percent of the total subsistence king salmon harvest is taken. The remaining 20 percent of the subsistence harvest is taken by the middle and upper Kuskokwim users.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Residents of the middle and upper Kuskokwim River will continue to be subject to the subsistence schedule where it is more difficult to harvest a salmon than in the lower portion of the river. We believe due to the existing schedule, concentrated effort could be detrimental to a small stock destined for a single drainage.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Fishers will be able to put up salmon earlier while the weather generally is better for drying fish, and the general quality of the fish in the run is better.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** The residents of the 15 villages from Kalskag to Elide will benefit by not having to pull their set nets out of the river each week for three days. If this proposal is enacted, it would then be consistent with a similar management approach used on the Yukon River.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?**

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**PROPOSAL 132 - 5 AAC 01.210(b). Fishing seasons and periods; 5 AAC 05.360(d) and (e). Yukon River King Salmon Management Plan; 5 AAC 07.310. Fishing seasons; 5 AAC 07.320. Fishing periods; and 5 AAC 07.365. Kuskokwim River Salmon Rebuilding Management Plan.** Amend these regulations to provide the following:

**PROBLEM:** Confusion of the board’s intent in the implementation of the windows regulations for the Kuskokwim and Yukon rivers.

The department had seven days per week, 24 hours per day fisheries on both rivers. After this started, the size of king salmon decreased upriver. I bought over 1,500 king salmon in districts 5 and 6 and only had two over 40 pounds. On the Tanana River, district 6 only 12 percent were female fish. Plus 40 percent of females had Ichthyophonous and very few were on the Chena and Salcha spawning grounds.

Note: The board deferred action on this proposal from the 2002/2003 meeting cycle to the January 2004 A-Y-K meeting.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** If we let seven days per week, 24 hours per day fishing take place with large mesh gear, the only thing that gets to the spawning grounds are runts.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?**

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?**

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?**

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?**

**PROPOSED BY:** Virgil Umphenour (HQ-03-F-040/HQ-02-F-425)  
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**PROPOSAL 133 - 5 AAC 07.365(d)(3). Kuskokwim River Salmon Rebuilding Management Plan.** Amend this regulation as follows:

(d)(3) the commissioner shall open and close the Kuskokwim River commercial chum salmon fishery by emergency order; if the inseason indicators of run timing and run strength provide sufficient assurances that upriver subsistence and populations viability needs will be met [INDICATE SUFFICIENT HARVEST ABUNDANCE TO ALLOW A COMMERCIAL CHUM SALMON FISHERY], the subsistence fishing schedules shall be relaxed or revert to the periods specified in 5 AAC 01.260.

**PROBLEM:** The ability of the “windowed” subsistence salmon fishing schedule on the Kuskokwim River to be relaxed or lifted and reverted back to the specifications in 5 AAC 01.260 is completely dependent on whether the run strength is sufficient to allow a commercial chum salmon fishery.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The severe disruptions to the customary patters, timing and duration of subsistence fishing activity, which can only be justified if salmon population viability or upriver subsistence needs require these restrictions, will continue.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** No.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** The subsistence fishing families of the Kuskokwim River.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?**

**PROPOSED BY:** AVCP, Inc. (HQ-03-F-170/W-03-F-010)  
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**PROPOSAL 134 - 5 AAC 01.260. Fishing seasons and periods.** Amend this regulation as follows:

(a) Unless restricted in this section, 5 AAC 01.275, **and 5 AAC 07.365**, salmon may be taken in the Kuskokwim Area at any time.

(b) In District 1 and in those waters of the Kuskokwim River between Districts 1 and 2, [EXCLUDING THE KUSKOKUAK SLOUGH,] salmon may be taken at any time except

...

(c) **repeal** [IN DISTRICT 1, KUSKOKUAK SLOUGH ONLY, SALMON MAY BE TAKEN AT ANY TIME EXCEPT

(1) FROM JUNE 1 THROUGH JULY 31, SALMON MAY NOT BE TAKEN FOR 16 HOURS BEFORE AND DURING EACH OPEN COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHING PERIOD IN THE DISTRICT]

**PROBLEM:** The subsistence fishing seasons and periods section does not reference the Kuskokwim River Salmon Rebuilding Management Plan. Since the rebuilding plan establishes the subsistence fishing schedule it should be referenced in 5 AAC 01.260, the subsistence fishing seasons and periods section. Additionally this proposal addresses the Kuskokuak Slough subsistence-fishing schedule. Currently there are two differences in the subsistence fishing schedule between Kuskokuak Slough and the remaining portion of District 1 and those waters of the Kuskokwim River between Districts 1 and 2. The two differences are: 1) from June 1 to July 31 subsistence fishing can occur immediately after commercial fishing periods in the Kuskokuak Slough, and 2) after July 31 subsistence fishing can occur prior to, during and after commercial fishing periods in the Kuskokuak Slough. In order to make the subsistence fishing regulations consistent and concise it is appropriate to make the Kuskokuak Slough regulations the same as the remainder of District 1 and that portion of the Kuskokwim River between District 1 and District 2.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** There will be no reference to the Kuskokwim Rebuilding Plan and the subsistence fishing schedule established by the plan in the subsistence fishing chapter of the regulations. If the Kuskokuak Slough subsistence fishing regulations remain different from the subsistence fishing regulations for the remaining portion of District 1 and the Kuskokwim River between Districts 1 and 2 the regulations will remain inconsistent and confusing.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** No.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** All subsistence fishers are likely to benefit as a result of clear and concise regulations.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one will suffer as a result of reference to the rebuilding plan. Those subsistence fishers that fish in Kuskokuak Slough from June 1 to July 31 immediately after commercial fishing and those subsistence fishers that may fish after July 31 prior to, during and after commercial fishing periods may suffer. However, subsistence fishing time in Kuskokuak Slough would be the same as the remainder of District 1.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** No action was considered, and rejected.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-03-F-130)

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**PROPOSAL 135 - 5 AAC 01.270(g). Lawful gear and gear specifications and operations.**

Amend this regulation to provide the following:

(g) Kegs or buoys attached to subsistence gillnets may be any color except red during any weekly commercial salmon fishing period, **except for in the Calista-AVCP region, where kegs or open buoys of any color, including red, may be used.**

**PROBLEM:** The prohibition of using red colored buoys on subsistence gillnets during commercial salmon fishing periods.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The continued undue hardship to subsistence fishing families having to purchase additional buoys.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** No.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Subsistence fishermen of the Calista-AVCP region.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None will solve the problem.

**PROPOSED BY:** AVCP, Inc. (HQ-03-F-169/W-03-F-009)

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**PROPOSAL 136 - 5 AAC 01.270(h). Lawful gear and gear specifications and operation.**

Amend this regulation as follows:

The maximum depth of gillnets, regardless of mesh size, is 45 meshes in depth.

**PROBLEM:** The requirement of subsistence gillnets with greater than six-inch mesh be no more than 35 meshes in depth.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Subsistence and commercial fishing families, often one and the same, have customarily used nets of eight-inch mesh, which are also often the only nets they own. State and federal regulations currently prohibit the use of nets with greater than six-inch mesh if the nets are more than 35 meshes in depth, effectively banning the only gear many families own.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** No.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Subsistence fishing families in the Kuskokwim area.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None will solve the problem.

**PROPOSED BY:** AVCP, Inc. (HQ-03-F-168/W-03-F-008)

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**PROPOSAL 137 - 5 AAC 01.295. Aniak River bag and possession limits.** Amend this

regulation to provide the following:

No bait, gear, species, season, bag or possession limit on subsistence rod and reel fishing on any part of Aniak River.

**PROBLEM:** Recent law changes making it impossible for Aniak resident rod and reel subsistence fishermen to harvest enough fish to eat during summer months on the upper Aniak River. All surrounding Kuskokwim area fisheries, which in fact are smaller, have no limit on subsistence rod and reel. There is no conservation reason for Aniak to be so different. Aniak regulations exist because of the local perceptions only, not sound biological or conservation reasons. Recent comprehensive surveys by the department on the Aniak River illustrate low fishing pressure of all kinds.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** These few subsistence fishermen will continue to be denied the right to feed themselves just because they spend most of their summer on a different stretch of the river and because they choose to use rod and reel which is more selective and lower impact on the resource. Harvests are small.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?**

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Aniak residents that subsistence fish above the Doestock. Everybody really because we will be able to feed ourselves and still have a much lower impact on the fishery because we will not be forced to use a net.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Nobody. I am proposing to reduce catch. Instead of taking hundreds of fish with a net, I would like to choose how many we take with a rod and reel.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** No other way to allow us to feed ourselves and still use rod and reel so we can be selective and low impact. We are being forced to use nets.

**PROPOSED BY:** George Siavelis (HQ-03-F-014)

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**PROPOSAL 138 - 5 AAC 07.200(c). Fishing districts.** Amend this regulation to provide the following:

Preferred Solution

Based on the lack of current fisheries research data available, W4 Quinhagak commercial fishermen believe that the boundary line change was not completely justified. Also based on local reports, W4 commercial fishermen agreed to the original emergency order change just for chinook salmon season. To my department's knowledge, W4 fishermen did not agree to the board changing the northern boundary line permanently.

The preferred solution requests: 1) Revisiting this intercept fisheries concern. 2) Moving the northern boundary line back to the original location at the northernmost edge of Wealung Creek, until such time that current fisheries research proves that W4 commercial fishermen do in fact intercept a significant amount of Kuskokwim River-bound chinook salmon from the overall Kuskokwim River run. If research process that this is in fact the case, then we would recommend the first alternate solution listed below. Additionally, if current research proves that W4 commercial fishermen are also intercepting a significant amount of chum salmon from the overall Kuskokwim River run, then we would agree to the second alternate solution listed below.

W4 commercial fishermen would support these two alternative solutions only as emergency orders, and only until such time as the chinook and chum salmon stocks on the Kuskokwim River have rebounded to allow for a sustainable subsistence harvest.

#### First Alternate Solution

This boundary change should be only in effect as an emergency order and only during chinook salmon management, as it was originally agreed to by W4 fishermen. When the department switches over to sockeye management in District W-4 then the original boundary at the northernmost edge of Weelung Creek should be used and maintained throughout coho management.

5 AAC 07.200 Fishing Districts. District 4 consists of Kuskokwim Bay between ADF&G regulatory markers placed at the northernmost edge of Oyak Creek and at the southernmost edge of the mouth of the Arolik River.

Sockeye and Coho Salmon Management: District 4 consists of Kuskokwim Bay between ADF&G regulatory markers placed at the northernmost edge of Weelung Creek and at the southernmost edge of the mouth of the Arolik River.

#### Second Alternate Solution

Chinook – Chum Salmon Management: District 4 consists of Kuskokwim Bay between ADF&G regulatory markers placed at the northernmost edge of Oyak Creek and at the southernmost edge of the mouth of the Arolik River.

Coho Salmon Management: District 4 consists of Kuskokwim Bay between ADF&G regulatory markers placed at the northernmost edge of Weelung Creek and at the southernmost edge of the mouth of the Arolik River.

**PROBLEM:** Change in District W-4 boundary for commercial fishing of salmon: Prior to the 2001 season the board changed the Kuskokwim Management Area northern boundary of the District W-4 from the mouth of the Weelung Creek to the mouth of the Oyak Creek in an attempt to minimize the interception of king and chum salmon bound for the Kuskokwim River. This boundary change was in conjunction with the Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Plan. The boundary change when it was implemented by the department was to be in effect for the entire season of commercial fishing.

The current regulation states: 5 AAC 07.200 Fishing Districts. (c) District 4 consists of Kuskokwim Bay between ADF&G regulatory markers placed at the northernmost edge of Oyak Creek and at the southernmost edge of the mouth of the Arolik River.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Based on reports from Quinhagak W-4 commercial fishermen, when the department originally proposed moving the northern boundary line from the northernmost edge of Weelung Creek to the northernmost edge of Oyak Creek it was understood by local commercial fishermen that it was only for chinook salmon management and not intended to expanded into sockeye and coho salmon management.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Yes. By moving the northernmost boundary back to the original location at Weelung Creek, it will improve the fishermen's opportunities to harvest more fish from an expanded area.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Commercial salmon fishermen who fish in District W-4 Quinhagak waters.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Have not considered any other solutions.

**PROPOSED BY:** Native Village of Kwinhagak (W-03-F-002)

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**PROPOSAL 139 - 5 AAC 07.200. Fishing districts.** Amend this regulation as follows:

Boundaries to go two miles up the north coastline and two miles down the south coastline.

**PROBLEM:** Extend the boundaries from the north and south spits of Goodnews Bay two miles along the coastline.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** When water level is too low, fishing nets get plugged up with green algae and underwater growth. Thus, a great decrease in participation for the fishery.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Definitely, yes. The abundance of fish that can be caught in a shorter time, and to be delivered to the tender.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** CVRF, tenders, plants, commercial fishermen, local businesses, and an economic boost for the community.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?**

**PROPOSED BY:** Esther R. Fox (W-03-F-003)

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**PROPOSAL 140 - 5 AAC 07.367. District 4 Salmon Management Plan.** Amend this regulation as follows:

No commercial salmon fishery before June 16.

**PROBLEM:** Upriver subsistence salmon fishermen need more early run kings for personal consumption. These early runs have the best quality.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Continued reduced take of early best quality chinook salmon for upriver subsistence fishermen.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Yes. The early runs of king are the very best for freezing as well as drying.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** All subsistence fishermen on the Kuskokwim.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Lower Kuskokwim commercial fishermen.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Complete ban on commercial chinook fishery on Kuskokwim. Thought that we would try just shortening the commercial opening by two days as first step.

**PROPOSED BY:** Central Kuskokwim Advisory Committee (HQ-03-F-062)

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**PROPOSAL 141 - 5 AAC 07.331(a). Gillnet specifications and operations.** Amend this regulation as follows:

(a) The aggregate length of a set or drift gillnet may not exceed 50 fathoms.

**(1) In Districts 4 and 5 the aggregate length of a set or drift gillnet may not exceed 100 fathoms, the commissioner may by emergency order restrict the aggregate length to not exceed 50 fathoms for conservation purposes, the restrictions based on a level of abundance.**

**PROBLEM:** Need for a regulation modification to increase the aggregate length of set or drift gillnets from 50 fathoms to 100 fathoms in the districts W4 and W5 commercial salmon fishery to improve local participation and meet historical harvest levels.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Continuing decline in the number of permit holders participating in the districts W4 and W5 commercial salmon fishery. Historical commercial harvest levels will continue to not met by W4 and W5 fishermen.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Yes. Commercial fishermen using an aggregate length of 100 fathoms would need less time to fill their slush bags with salmon, which would in turn reduce the time it takes to get the fish from the net to the processor, improving the quality. (Less items in the boat means better quality fish.)

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Commercial salmon fishermen who fish in districts W-4 and W-5 waters.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Have not considered any other solutions.

**PROPOSED BY:** Native Village of Kwinhagak (W-03-F-001)

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**PROPOSAL 142 - 5 AAC 27.899(a). Superexclusive use areas in Kuskokwim Area.** Amend this regulation as follows:

Goodnews Bay is no longer a superexclusive area.

**PROBLEM:** Goodnews Bay being a superexclusive area. Uplift the superexclusive for Goodnews Bay.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** No participants in the fishery.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** More herring harvested to meet the quota.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** CUA, commercial fishermen, families, world market.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?**

**PROPOSED BY:** Esther R. Fox (HQ-03-F-117)

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**PROPOSAL 143 - 5 AAC 70.023(d). Special provisions for methods and means in the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim area.** Amend this regulation in the Kwethluk area as follows:

Beginning on the 60° 45' N. lat., 161° 20' W. long., use of jet-driven propulsion systems and propelled-driven outboard motors larger than 40 horsepower are prohibited.

**PROBLEM:** Impacts to migrating salmon stocks by jet-driven inboard and outboard vessels, disruption to spawned salmon roe in shallow water, reduction of aggregated inboard and outboard motors larger than 40 horsepower on the Kwethluk River.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Continued degradation to shallow spawning beds and habitat of the Kuskokwim River salmon, trespassing and increased human activities on Native allotments, continued near-collisions of travelers on the Kwethluk River.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Yes. Limits disruptions to salmon spawning habitats and reduces near misses and collisions of vessels on the Kwethluk River, ensuring healthier salmon runs and protection of habitat.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Every user of the Kwethluk River.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None.

**PROPOSED BY:** Kwethluk IRA Council (W-03-F-007)

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**PROPOSAL 144 - 5 AAC 70.022(e)(12)(J). Waters; seasons; bag, possession, and size limits in the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Area.** Amend this regulation as follows:

In the Kwethluk River, sport fishing is prohibited.

**PROBLEM:** Disruptions of spawning salmon migrations and the degradation of water quality and the environment of the Kwethluk River drainage due to increased sport fishing activities on the Kwethluk River.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Continued disruptions of migrating Kuskokwim River salmon stocks to spawning habitats of the Kwethluk River and increased water quality and environmental damages to the Kwethluk River drainage.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Yes. Uninterrupted migrations and healthier salmon returns, reduced environmental and water quality damages, preservation, protection of spawning habitats of Kuskokwim River salmon stocks.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Commercial fishermen, subsistence users, and sport fishers.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** None.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None.

**PROPOSED BY:** Boris L. Epchook (W-03-F-005)  
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**PROPOSAL 145 - 5 AAC 07.365(e)(1). Kuskokwim River Salmon Rebuilding Management Plan.** Amend this regulation to provide the following:

The sport fishery in the Kuskokwim drainage shall be managed in accordance with the subsistence salmon net and fishwheel openings and closures set forth in 5 AAC 07.365(c)(1)-(3); if the commissioner further restricts the fishery by emergency order for conservation purposes, the restrictions will be based on the level of abundance.

**PROBLEM:** Sport fishing is currently allowed seven days per week on the Kuskokwim River and its tributaries, while subsistence salmon net and fishwheel fishing is being restricted to four days per week during the months of June and July.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The already-waning public support for the Kuskokwim Salmon Rebuilding Plan, as it relates to subsistence restrictions, may evaporate completely, and subsistence users will likely defy the subsistence schedule.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** No.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Subsistence users in the Kuskokwim drainage will feel their efforts to help rebuild the salmon stocks will be shared by other user groups, namely sport fishermen; state management will have some of its lost credibility restored; and the salmon will benefit from public support for the plan.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Minor inconvenience for sport fishermen.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Lifting the subsistence schedule completely may be an option in some years – as was done in 2002.

**PROPOSED BY:** AVCP, Inc. (HQ-03-F-172/W-03-F-012)  
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**PROPOSAL 146 - 5 AAC 70.023(d)(3). Special provisions for methods and means in the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Area.** Amend this regulation in the Kanektok River drainage as follows:

Allow the use of bait in the lower 15 miles of the Kanektok River from June 15 to July 15 to coincide with the king salmon run.

**PROBLEM:** Restore diversity of opportunity to the Kanektok River king salmon fishery. Return this fabulous fishery back to the multiple use fishery it was in 1997 and earlier. Eliminate the preference established for specific user groups at the expense of other user groups. Remove the stigma attached to bait fishing and its harmful effects on the king run and rainbow fishery in the Kanektok River. Current regulations do not allow the use of bait while fishing for king salmon in the Kanektok River. Reinstating the use of bait. If increased mortality is believed to be associated with the use of bait then limit the use of bait to the lower 10 or 15 miles of the river. If you feel that is not enough protection then consider limiting the length of the season so that fishing is taking place only during the peak of the run.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** If this problem is not resolved the various user groups will continue to compete for the same holding water where they have enough current to run Wiggle Warts, Flatfish or Kwikfish. By allowing bait (salmon eggs) you can effectively drift or bobber fish dead water or water with very little current and can be quite useful. This spreads out the pressure and can be done from the shore or gravel bar. It is a great experience and bigger challenge to land a king salmon while fishing on a gravel bar than to hook it fishing from a boat and chasing it with an outboard motor.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** This proposal would restore much of the quality of the experience we enjoyed before bait was eliminated in 1998. We could spread out again on the river and not compete so much with the other user groups. The tranquility of the moment is diminished when you are running a motor over the fish and over the holes all day long. The experience is much more rewarding when it is you against the natural elements as you battle a huge king without the aid of a boat or net.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** The beneficiaries if this proposal is adopted could be all the user groups along the river. The advocates of bait fishing would have a small section of the river they could now fish utilizing their favorite techniques. That user group has suffered under the existing regulations. The large guide camps that have numerous boats running up and down the river will also benefit because there will be more room for them to fish. (Many of the bait fishermen will fish the slow water that the boats would not fish anyway.)

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No user group should suffer if the proposal is adopted. This is not a proposal that removes or eliminates an activity of anyone else. Quite the contrary. This provides more diversity of opportunity and discriminates against no one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Originally we considered reinstating the use of bait for the entire length of the river. We modified it to accommodate the concerns of some folks that believe bait fishing increases mortality of salmon and rainbow trout. We have fished the river using bait prior to 1998 and our experience was that the concerns over hooking mortality were exaggerated. Conversations we have had with department biologists would support our views. Escapement numbers are used to determine the health of a salmon run rather than by counting dead salmon. The Kanektok supports a sport fishery, subsistence fishery, and a commercial fishery. The commercial fishery harvests over 20,000 kings per year. The king run is quite healthy.

We considered proposing closing of the river above the 20-mile mark to protect the spawning areas but did not want it to appear this is a war against other user groups.

We also considered proposing the closure of king fishing from July 15 to August 15 because these maturing spawning kings are constantly getting caught and released and many are dieing as they get older and older. We did not follow through because we realized the commercial guide camps are making a living on the river

Without the input from private, individual sports fishing interests, the board in 1998 acted upon concerns that were presented to them by commercial guiding enterprises. These groups convinced the board that there were dangerous levels of mortality because of the use of bait. Studies conducted in Oregon on hooking mortality on salmon indicate that as many as 10 percent of the salmon that are hooked and released do indeed die. But that mortality is not the result of the use of bait any more than it is because of several other factors. Mortality may be even greater when fly fishermen take 30 to 45 minutes to land a king. The fish is so stressed out that it will die. Most experienced biologists agree that the best opportunity for survival in a hook and release fishery is when the gear is strong enough and big enough to land the fish quickly and return it to the river unharmed. Fishing on these maturing kings late in July while hooking and releasing them must take its toll. Running boats up and down the river week after week as the water levels drop also has an impact on their survival rate. There are many factors that contribute to mortality rates but the use of bait when these strong fish first enter this 90-mile long river is not the sole contributor or the largest contributor to mortality.

**PROPOSED BY:** Wayne E. Holm and Larry B. Lund (HQ-03-F-033)

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**PROPOSAL 147 - 5 AAC 70.023(d). Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means in the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Area.** Amend this regulation as follows:

Goodnews Bay Rivers Controlled Use Area. For all three rivers that consists of the North, Middle, and South forks lakes to the mouth of the Goodnews Bay River are closed to the use of any boat equipped with inboard or outboard motor(s) with an aggregate horsepower in excess of manufacturer's rating of 40 h.p. for taking big game, including transportation of big game hunters, their hunting gear, and/or parts of big game, and will include all sport fishing guides, and recreational users both residents and nonresidents during the period May 15 to September 30, 2007.

**PROBLEM:** Need for limiting outboard motor horsepower to a maximum of 40 hp from May 15 to September 30.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The Tribal and City Councils of Goodnews Bay and the community residents are very concerned about the safety of their village residents who motorboat on the Goodnews rivers during the summer months. Commercial sport fishing operations on the river who use large boats with (150 to 80 hp) inboard jet drive engines and/or large outboard motors with jet drive units have been observed driving too fast on the narrow shallow channels of the river. These commercial operators have caused boating accidents where village elderly residents and their grandchildren were hurt. There have been other unreported accidents (boat collisions) with this commercial operation's boats since the company was established.

The Goodnews River is a small meandering river with shallow narrow channels, in some sections the channels are only 8 to 12 feet wide. During low water years with little rainfall, the channels are even narrower and shallower. In dry summers a 20-inch shaft outboard motor is unable to travel up the river with water levels very low, and at dry summers the river can only be four feet wide. Large boats with big outboard engines and/or inboard jet drive engines are extremely dangerous during these low water years since they have to maintain higher speeds to keep the boat up on step while

they navigate through these narrow meandering (winding) channels. This is considered to be extremely dangerous for other users on the river, there is an increased potential for boating accidents with local villagers who operate smaller boats on the river.

Other problems identified by the local residents include degradation of the river environment which is also considered critical habitat for spawning salmon and other nonanadromous species like rainbow trout and Arctic grayling. These large boats with jet drives have been observed driving through critical salmon spawning areas, which are also known to be rearing areas for salmon fry (fish under one inch) and parr (small fish, one to three years old). These large boats with their jet drive outboards and/or inboard jet pumps are causing considerable damages to salmon spawning beds. Jet pumps are known to suck up a lot of salmon eggs and small fish when they drive through the sloughs, shallow water along the edge of gravel bars, and narrow braided channels of the main river where salmon are known to spawn.

The majority of sport fishing operations in the Kanektok and Arolik rivers in Quinhagak use 40 hp for the past 20 years. Their river is wider and deeper than our river.

The majority of results from the survey of 74 residents in our community wanted to have outboard/inboard limit in our rivers. Results from the survey: 40/74 for 40hp, 21/74 for 50hp, 13/74 for 70hp, 1/74 for 30hp.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Yes. Reducing the outboard size we will protect our fish habitats to enhance the return of salmon and other fish species for future use. It will also prevent further erosion in old historical sites, and spawning grounds for all species of fish in our rivers and lakes.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** The community residents, both subsistence/commercial and sport fishermen will be safe from further boating accidents in our rivers in the future.

This would directly benefit the fisheries resources by preserving spawning grounds over a longer period of time. This will also enhance the salmon to come back to its natural spawning grounds.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?**

**PROPOSED BY:** Alice G Julius, Goodnews Bay Tribe (HQ-03-F-017)  
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**PROPOSAL 148 - 5 AAC 70.022 Waters; seasons; bag, possession, and size limits in the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Area; and 5 AAC 70.024 Harvest record required; annual limits.** Amend these regulations to provide the following:

Kanektok, Arolik and Goodnews River Drainages  
Preferred solution: Establish special regulations for the sport harvest of king salmon on the Kanektok, Arolik and Goodnews rivers similar to the special regulations in Bristol Bay salt and fresh waters.

Special Regulations in the Kuskokwim Bay Drainages  
King salmon, seasonal limit:

The total seasonal limit in Kuskokwim Bay drainages is five king salmon, only two of which may be over 28 inches. Of these five king salmon, no more than four may be harvested from either the Kanektok or Goodnews river drainages and no more than two may be harvested from the Arolik River drainage.

In the Kuskokwim Bay drainages only king salmon over 20 inches or longer are included in the seasonal limit.

King salmon removed from the water must be retained:

Any king salmon removed from freshwater drainages of the Kanektok, Arolik and Goodnews rivers must be retained, and becomes part of the bag limit of the person originally hooking it. A person who intends to release a king salmon may not remove it from the water before releasing it.

Recording requirements:

When anglers harvest king salmon 20 inches or longer from either the Kanektok, Arolik or Goodnews river drainages, they must immediately record their harvest on the back of their fishing license, or for anglers not required to be licensed, on a harvest record card.

Species	Open Season	Seasonal bag, possession and size limits
king salmon	May 1 – July 25	over 20 inches – five (only two over 28 inches)
(See special regulations king salmon seasonal limit)		
		Daily bag, possession and size limits
		20 inches or less – ten

Alternative Solution: Establish a seasonal bag limit for king salmon over 20 inches for each river in the Kuskokwim Bay drainage, specifically the Kanektok, Arolik and Goodnews drainages.

Species	Open Season	Seasonal bag, possession and size limits
king salmon	May 1- July 25	over 20 inches – three (only two over 28 inches)
		Daily bag, possession and size limits
		20 inches or less - ten

Seasonal limit:

The total seasonal limit for each river in the Kuskokwim Bay drainage is three king salmon, only two of which may be over 28 inches. Only king salmon over 20 inches are included in the seasonal limit.

King salmon removed from the water must be retained:

Any king salmon removed from the freshwater drainages of the Kanektok, Arolik and Goodnews rivers must be retained, and becomes part of the bag limit of the person originally hooking it. A person who intends to release a king salmon may not remove it from the water before releasing it.

Recording requirements:

Immediately upon landing a king salmon more than 20 inches long, fill out the harvest information on the back of your sport fishing license or for anglers not required to be licensed, on a harvest card.

**PROBLEM:** Alaska Sport Fishing Regulations Summary Region III: Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim and Upper Copper/Upper Susitna River Regulatory Areas Regulations effective April 15, 2002 through April 2003.

#### Kuskokwim-Goodnews Drainages

Bag, possession and size limits, general regulations

General Regulations for all waters of the Kuskokwim-Goodnews area are listed below. Special regulations for individual water bodies appear afterward.

Species	Daily bag, possession, and size limits
king salmon	over 20 inches – three (only two over 28 inches)
	20 inches or less – ten

Under the 2002 Alaska Sport Fishing Regulations Summary, the daily bag limits for king salmon in the Kuskokwim-Goodnews area are considered to be excessive especially for the Kanektok and Arolik rivers by the majority of sport operators on the river.

In this proposal we are proposing a reduction in the daily bag limit for king salmon by proposing the establishment of a seasonal limit on the Kuskokwim Bay rivers, specifically the Kanektok, Arolik and Goodnews rivers. The Goodnews River was included in this proposal for alignment purposes and we believe that if one river in our Kuskokwim Bay area is less restrictive that particular river will feel the burden of increased angler pressure and the adjacent community would have to carry the extra burden of increased angler pressure and the adjacent community would have to carry the extra burden and deal with the problems associated with increasing numbers of anglers attracted to their river by less restrictive regulations.

This proposal is not to be taken or misunderstood as an attempt to reduce or restrict commercial fishing time or periods for the local fleet. This proposal is an honest effort by concerned anglers to reduce the sport harvest of king salmon on these Kuskokwim Bay rivers, for the reasons stated above. Escapement data for king salmon has been included for comparative purposes to show the difference in escapement numbers from 1997 to 2002. This information is not complete escapement data, because of the fact that there is a lack of information available for salmon numbers below the Kanektok River weir and no escapement data available for the Arolik River.

If reductions in the sport harvest of salmon specifically king salmon could help in increasing escapement numbers and run strengths, then by all means we would like to make our contributions to improving the fisheries resource on these aforementioned rivers.

In addition, part of this proposal is identifying concerns brought up by local village residents, which have become a concern on the river and were included in this proposal for the main purpose of bringing them to the attention of the board. And if the board would like to consider these problems as contributing factors for supporting a reduction in the king salmon limits that would be fine with the local village residents.

Local concerns, stated below:

Increasing problems associated with sport harvest of king salmon in the Kuskokwim Bay drainages. For example, Kanektok River:

- For the past seven years certain groups of sport fishermen have been observed harvesting only female king salmon, for their eggs.

- For the past seven years certain groups of unguided sport fishermen have been observed harvesting their daily bag limit of king salmon, processing their catch, storing it in their freezers then going out on the river and harvesting another daily bag limit when their first bag limit is out of their possession.
- For the past seven years certain groups of unguided/unsupervised sport fishermen have been observed harvesting king salmon using group harvest limits rather than individual harvest limits as required by state regulation.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Increasing harvest and targeting of female king salmon on the Kanektok River by sport fishermen, who only want to harvest them for their eggs. Sport fishermen continuing to find loopholes in the state sport fish regulations to increase their daily bag limit. Continued noncompliance of state sport fish regulations by unethical sport fishermen harvesting group limits of king salmon, rather than individual bag limits.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Yes. On the Kanektok and Arolik rivers where baselines for king salmon escapement have not yet been established, we believe there is a need to be more conservative with this limited king salmon resource, based on information from the department for 2002 comparing to 1997, just five years earlier.

2002 Kanektok River weir (approx: mile 42)

July 1, 2002 – September 20, 2002

Escapement: king salmon 5,343

Commercial: 11,480

Subsistence: no information available as of January 23, 2003

Sport: no information available as of January 23, 2003

Estimates for king salmon spawning below the weir are unknown at this time.

1997 Kanektok River counting tower (approx: mile 4)

June 11, 1997 – August 21, 1997

Escapement: king salmon 16,731

Commercial: 35,510

Subsistence: 3,433

Sport: 800

Cumulative total: 56,474

2002 Arolik River (no escapement project)

No estimates for king salmon escapement are available at this time.

With recent declines and fisheries disasters being declared in neighboring river systems such as the Yukon, Kuskokwim, Nushagak and their tributaries there should be more conservation efforts for sustaining our limited king salmon stocks on our Kuskokwim Bay rivers. It is also our opinion that all ethical sport fishermen would agree that sustaining this valuable but limited resource is and should be a priority. And by reducing the sport harvest of king salmon it would ultimately benefit the future of the resource by allowing more king salmon to reach their spawning grounds. This reduction would also contribute to restoring our king salmon stocks back to their previous historic levels.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Everyone, by reducing the sport harvest limits for king salmon it will greatly increase the potential for king salmon to reach their spawning grounds, which would in turn benefit everyone including the resource.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Sport fishermen who preferred the excessive daily bag limits for king salmon.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Some sport fishermen on the river have been advocating for years for reductions in the sport harvests of king salmon on the Kanektok River. The majority of anglers that we have spoken too believe that establishing more conservative bag limits for salmon is needed because of the fact that the current bag limits are believed to be too excessive. The majority of commercial operators on the river have already established camp policies reducing the harvest of salmon by their guests, some camps have had their policies in place for 20-plus years, which the local community recognizes as a very meritorious effort on their part, for conservation. But the fact remains most unguided/unsupervised sport fishermen who frequently come out to our river could not care less for any type of local conservation effort to conserve our declining wild fish stocks. And we believe that in order for conservation efforts to be effective they need to be in regulation form where they can be enforced.

**PROPOSED BY:** Native Village of Kwinhagak (HQ-03-F-006)

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**PROPOSAL 149 - 5 AAC 70.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession, and size limits in the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Area.** Amend this regulation as follows:

Kanektok, Arolik and Goodnews River Drainages

Preferred solution: Establish reduced bag limits for the sport harvest of other salmon on the Kanektok, Arolik and Goodnews rivers.

Special Regulations in the Kuskokwim Bay Drainages

Species: Daily bag, possession and size limit:

Other salmon Two, no size limit

**PROBLEM:** Sport fishing regulations, Region III: Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim and Upper Copper/Upper Susitna River, effective April 15, 2002 through April, 2003.

Kuskokwim-Goodnews Drainages

Bag, Possession and Size Limits: General Regulations

General regulations for all waters of the Kuskokwim-Goodnews area are listed below. Special regulations for individual water bodies appear afterward.

Species Daily bag, possession, and size limit

Other salmon Five, no size limit

Under the 2002 Alaska Sport Fishing Regulations Summary the daily bag limits for other salmon in the Kuskokwim-Goodnews area are considered by the majority of commercial sportfishing operations on the Kanektok River to be excessive, especially for the Kanektok, Arolik and Goodnews rivers.

In this proposal we are proposing a reduction in the daily bag limit for other salmon. The Goodnews River was included in this proposal for alignment purposes and we believe that if one river in our Kuskokwim Bay area is less restrictive that particular river will feel the burden of increased angler pressure and the adjacent community would have to carry the extra burdened and deal with the problems associated with increasing numbers of anglers attracted to their river by less restrictive regulations.

This proposal is not to be taken or misunderstood as an attempt to reduce or restrict commercial fishing time or periods for the local fleet. This proposal is an honest effort to reduce the sport harvest of these particular species of salmon on these Kuskokwim Bay rivers, for the reason stated above.

In addition, part of this proposal is identifying concerns brought up by local village residents, which have become a concern on the river and were included in this proposal for the main purpose of bringing them to the attention of the board. And if the board would like to consider these problems as contributing factors for supporting a reduction in the daily bag limits for these other salmon species that would be fine with the local village residents.

Local concerns, stated below:

Increasing problems associated with sport harvest of other salmon on the Kuskokwim Bay drainages. For example, Kanektok River:

- Certain groups of unguided sport fisherman have been observed harvesting their daily bag limit of coho salmon, processing their catch, storing it in their freezers, and then going out on the river and harvesting another daily bag limit when their first bag limit is out of their possession.
- Certain groups of unguided/unsupervised sport fishermen have been observed harvesting coho salmon using group harvest limits of salmon, rather than individual bag limits.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Sport fishermen continuing to find loopholes in the state sport fish regulations to increase their daily bag limit. Continued noncompliance of state sport fish regulations by sport fisherman harvesting group harvest limits of salmon, rather than individual bag limits.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Yes. With recent declines and fisheries disasters being declared in neighboring river systems such as the Yukon, Kuskokwim, Nushagak and their tributaries we believe there should be more local grassroots conservation efforts for conserving our limited salmon stocks on our Kuskokwim Bay rivers.

For example: on the Kanektok and Arolik rivers where baselines for chinook, sockeye, chum, pink and coho salmon escapement have not yet been established, we as anglers believe there is a need to be more conservative with this limited salmon resource until such time as a baseline line is established. As anglers, we understand the importance of inriver escapement and the importance of returning salmon to their natural spawning grounds. And we believe by reducing the sport harvest of salmon it would ultimately benefit the future of the resource by allowing more salmon to reach their spawning grounds and fulfill their primary goal, which is to spawn.

It is also our opinion that all ethical sport fishermen would agree that sustaining this valuable but limited resource is and should be a priority and by reducing the daily bag limits to a reasonable

limit that is sufficient for personal use would be in our best opinion a way of contributing to the sustainability of this fisheries resource.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Everyone, by reducing the sport harvest limits for other salmon it will greatly increase the potential for salmon to reach their spawning grounds, which in turn would benefit everyone including the resource.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Sport fishermen who preferred the excessive daily bag limits for other salmon.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Sport fishermen on the river have been advocating for years for reductions in the sport harvests of salmon on the Kanektok River. The majority of anglers that we have spoken to believe that establishing reduced daily bag limits for salmon is needed because of the fact that the current bag limits are believed to be too excessive. The majority of commercial operations on the river have already voluntarily established camp policies reducing the harvest of all species of salmon by their guests. But the fact remains most unguided/unsupervised sport fishermen who frequently come out to our river are not supportive of any type of local grassroots conservation effort to conserve our wild fish stocks.

**PROPOSED BY:** Willard D. Church, Jr. and Albert J. Hunter (HQ-03-F-009)

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**PROPOSAL 150 - 5 AAC 01.248. The Toklat River Fall Chum Salmon Rebuilding Management Plan; and 5 AAC 01.249. Yukon River Drainage Fall Chum Salmon Management Plan.** Amend these regulations to provide the following:

Management plans are typically complex and integrate several specific regulations. The overall plan objective would remain the same: “to ensure adequate escapement of fall chum salmon into the Yukon River drainage and to provide management guidelines to the department.” The conceptual highlights of the revised plan would:

- Allow some subsistence harvest on a lower run size than the current plan based on the available surplus identified by the biological escapement goal (BEG) analysis.
- Tributaries would be managed individually where sufficient information is available.
- Harvest triggers would be set at levels that buffer escapement goals and subsistence needs. Because subsistence is a high priority use, subsistence harvest would be managed to attain the lower end of the escapement goal range. Other harvest uses would be managed to attain escapements near the upper end of the range. When the run is strong, more fish would be passed to the spawning grounds to bolster future returns.
- The Toklat Fall Chum Salmon Rebuilding Management Plan would be integrated into the Yukon River Drainage Fall Chum Salmon Management Plan with the removal of the regulatory optimal escapement goal (OEG) of 33,000 and managed consistent with the rest of the drainage for established BEGs.

**PROBLEM:** The Yukon River Drainage Fall Chum Salmon Management Plan should be updated in light of the recent BEG analysis and it should incorporate and update the Toklat River Fall Chum Salmon Rebuilding Management Plan to clarify the plan by assembling related regulations together which would reduce redundancy in regulatory text. The plan would recognize new information, utilize new monitoring tools, and build in flexibility for responding to changing levels of salmon productions and patterns of use.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Subsistence fishers will continue to have a difficult time meeting their subsistence needs in the fall even though some harvestable surplus may be available.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Unknown.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** All users.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Unknown.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?**

**PROPOSED BY:** Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association (HQ-03-F-074)  
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**PROPOSAL 151 - 5 AAC 01.248. The Toklat River Fall Chum Salmon Rebuilding Management Plan.** Amend this regulation as follows:

The escapement goal for fall chum salmon on the Toklat River will be the biological escapement goal (BEG) which ranges from 15,000 to 33,000 fish. The department can manage toward the lower end in years of poor returns.

**PROBLEM:** The optimal escapement goal (OEG) of 33,000 fall chum salmon in the Toklat River Management Plan is an unrealistic target. Achieving the OEG, even in years of relatively high returns, is difficult.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Subsistence opportunities downstream of the Toklat River have been reduced or eliminated because of the requirement to attain the OEG.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** No.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Subsistence fishermen.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Those who would prefer the OEG.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Lowering the OEG number. The BEG range is more realistic and will probably be the best solution for adequate escapement and subsistence fishing opportunities.

**PROPOSED BY:** Tanana-Rampart-Manley Advisory Committee (I-03-F-003)  
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**PROPOSAL 132 - 5 AAC 01.210(b). Fishing seasons and periods; 5 AAC 05.360(d) and (e). Yukon River King Salmon Management Plan; 5 AAC 07.310. Fishing seasons; 5 AAC 07.320. Fishing periods; and 5 AAC 07.365. Kuskokwim River Salmon Rebuilding Management Plan.** Amend these regulations to provide the following:

**PROBLEM:** Confusion of the board's intent in the implementation of the windows regulations for the Kuskokwim and Yukon rivers.

The department had seven days per week, 24 hours per day fisheries on both rivers. After this started, the size of king salmon decreased upriver. I bought over 1,500 king salmon in districts 5 and 6 and only had two over 40 pounds. On the Tanana River, district 6 only 12 percent were female fish. Plus 40 percent of females had Ichthyophonous and very few were on the Chena and Salcha spawning grounds.

Note: The board deferred action on this proposal from the 2002/2003 meeting cycle to the January 2004 A-Y-K meeting.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** If we let seven days per week, 24 hours per day fishing take place with large mesh gear, the only thing that gets to the spawning grounds are runts.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?**

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?**

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?**

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?**

**PROPOSED BY:** Virgil Umphenour (HQ-03-F-040/HQ-02-F-425)

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**PROPOSAL 152 - 5 AAC 05.360(e). Yukon River King Salmon Management Plan.** Amend this regulation as follows:

(e) If inseason run strength indicates **and provides sufficient assurances that upriver subsistence and population viability needs will be met** [A SUFFICIENT ABUNDANCE OF KING SALMON TO ALLOW A COMMERCIAL FISHERY,] the subsistence fishing schedule shall **be relaxed or** revert to the periods specified in 5 AAC 01.210.

**PROBLEM:** The ability of the “windowed” subsistence salmon fishing schedule on the Yukon River to be relaxed or lifted and reverted back to the specifications in 5 AAC 01.210 is completely dependent on whether run strength is sufficient to allow a commercial king salmon or fall chum fishery.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The severe disruptions to the customary patters, timing and duration of subsistence fishing activity, which can only be justified if salmon population viability or upriver subsistence needs require these restrictions, will continue.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** No.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** The subsistence fishing families of the Yukon River.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?**

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**PROPOSAL 153 - 5 AAC 01.210. Fishing seasons and periods.** Amend this regulation as follows:

A lower, middle, and upper Yukon River management plan to be implemented that helps to provide a more fair distribution of subsistence fishing opportunity along the entire Yukon River.

**PROBLEM:** Based on regulations and management practices, there has not been a fair distribution of subsistence fishing opportunity among all Yukon River subsistence fishers in a number of years recently. In addition to uneven distribution of subsistence fishing opportunity, there have been years when subsistence and/or escapement priorities were not met while a commercial fishery was allowed. During a poor chinook and summer chum salmon season, in some areas along the Yukon, subsistence fishermen were allowed to fish and were able to meet most of their subsistence needs; in other areas of the Yukon, the subsistence fishery was heavily restricted or closed by the time the fish reached there. We would like to see the board carefully consider the recent distribution of subsistence fishing opportunity for the summer chum and chinook salmon and implement regulatory changes which will help to provide a more fair distribution of opportunity for subsistence fishers along the entire length of the Yukon in Alaska.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** There would continue to be an unfair distribution of the allowable subsistence harvest opportunity with “haves and have-nots” depending on ZIP code. It is not fair to have fishers in one area of the Yukon be able to subsistence fish to meet most or all of their subsistence needs while subsistence fisheries in another area of the Yukon drainage are heavily restricted or closed and people cannot even get a small fraction of the fish they need for subsistence.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** The problem here is being able to get a fair share of the summer chum and chinook salmon resource in the priority (subsistence) fishery to meet basic family needs. There needs to be a more equitable distribution of the available subsistence fishing opportunity among all subsistence users along the entire Yukon River.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** We subsistence users are seeking an opportunity to get a fair share of the harvestable surplus of Yukon River chinook and chum salmon to feed our families. We recognize and support resource conservation for our grandchildren and great grandchildren as the first priority and are just seeking a fair shake when it comes to distribution of the harvestable surplus of Yukon River chinook and summer chum salmon available for river-wide subsistence harvest.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Subsistence is the priority fishery in law; fair distribution of the allowable subsistence harvest is the goal of this proposal. Our intent is that regulations provide a framework for fishery management that allows all subsistence users along the Yukon River to be able to participate equally and fairly in the available subsistence harvest in any given year.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** This is a challenging issue given the nature of the Yukon subsistence fishery and the distribution of thousands of subsistence fishers along the Yukon in Alaska. We would like to work with all Yukon subsistence users, agencies and the board to find more equitable regulatory solution.

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**PROPOSAL 154 - 5 AAC 01.210(b). Fishing seasons and periods.** Amend this regulation as follows:

When there are no commercial salmon fishing periods, the subsistence fishery in the Yukon River drainage will be based on a schedule implemented chronologically, consistent with migratory timing as the salmon run progresses upstream. The commissioner may alter fishing periods by emergency order, if the commissioner determines that preseason or inseason run indicators indicate it is necessary for conservation purposes. The fishing periods for subsistence salmon fishing in the Yukon River drainage will be established by emergency order as follows:

- (1) Coastal District, Koyukuk River and Subdistrict 5-D: seven days per week;
- (2) Districts 1 – 3: two **18-hour** [36-HOUR] fishing periods per week;
  - (A) **for Districts 1-3, any subsistence or commercial fishing period must be conducted within the two 18-hour fishing periods per week.**
- (3) District 4, and Subdistricts 5-B and 5-C; two 48-hour fishing periods per week;
- (4) Subdistrict 5-A and District 6: two 42-hour fishing periods per week; and
- (5) Old Minto Area: five days per week.

**PROBLEM:** For the Yukon-Northern Area, reduce the fishing schedule in districts 1, 2, and 3 from two 36-hour periods per week to a maximum of two 18-hour periods per week for any subsistence or commercial fishing period. The intent is to have a maximum of two 18-hour salmon fishing periods per week for any type of salmon fishing opening within these districts, either subsistence or commercial.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** If this issue is not addressed then there will continue to be unequal opportunity for all subsistence users throughout the Yukon River drainage. Currently, the windowed schedules is not sufficient to meet subsistence user needs in the upper river villages nor are spawning escapement needs being met on Canadian chinook salmon. Initially, more salmon are available in the lower river districts and many fishers are able to meet their annual subsistence salmon needs.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** The quality of salmon harvested should remain the same.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** All users will benefit from increased escapements past the lower river districts. Subsistence users in the upper river villages would likely see improvement in their subsistence catches. This change would also help spread the harvest out to other areas in the river and would not likely impact the overall harvest for chinook or chum salmon.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** The lower river commercial fishermen in districts 1, 2, and 3 will still be allowed to harvest the majority of salmon available in the Yukon River but would have less time to do so. However, there are greater number of salmon migrating through the lower river and takes less time to harvest salmon.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** No other solutions were considered.

**PROPOSED BY:** Eastern Interior Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (HQ-03-F-121)

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**PROPOSAL 155 - 5 AAC 01.210. Fishing seasons and periods.** Amend this regulation to provide the following:

District 3 regulatory subsistence fishing periods: two 36-hour periods/week. Schedule to begin June 8, 2004, 8:00 p.m. Tuesday to 8:00 a.m. Thursday/8:00 p.m. Friday to 8:00 a.m. Sunday.

District 4 regulatory subsistence fishing periods: two 48-hour periods/week. Schedule to begin June 15, 2004, 6:00 p.m. Tuesday to 6:00 p.m. Thursday/6:00 p.m. Friday to 6:00 p.m. Sunday.

**PROBLEM:** Current Yukon River salmon subsistence fishing schedule falls on weekdays, primarily. Fishers who are employed are at a disadvantage, by just being able to subsistence fish on their days off.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Subsistence fishers who work will only be able to fish for salmon after work, or lose income by taking time off to fish.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Yes. Maintains conservation windows of time during which salmon migrate up river unexploited. Reduced impact on run components.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Subsistence fishers who are employed should be provided a schedule that allows salmon harvest on weekends.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None.

**PROPOSED BY:** Jack Reakoff (HQ-03-F-034)

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**PROPOSAL 156 - 5 AAC 01.210(b). Fishing seasons and periods; and 5 AAC 05.367. Tanana River Salmon Management Plan.** Amend these regulations as follows:

The normal subsistence fishing schedule in the Tanana River Salmon Management Plan will be two 48-hour periods per week, with the exception of the Minto area which will remain at five days per week.

**PROBLEM:** Change the standard subsistence fishing schedule in the Tanana River Management Plan (TRMP) from two 42-hour periods per week to two 48-hour periods per week.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Fishermen in Subdistrict 5A lost their normal subsistence fishing schedule of two 48-hour periods per week since that area was included into the TRMP. The board and the public's intention, when 5A was included into the TRMP, was that 5A would retain the traditional fishing schedule of the rest of District 5. Two 48-hour periods per week for the entire Tanana River, except for the Minto area, will simplify management and restore the traditional fishing schedule of 5A. The department has the authority to reduce the fishing schedule inseason as needed to insure adequate escapement.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** No.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Fishermen on the Tanana River, including Subdistrict 5A.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Unknown.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None.

**PROPOSED BY:** Tanana-Rampart-Manley Advisory Committee (I-03-F-002)

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**PROPOSAL 157 - 5 AAC 01.210. Fishing schedules and periods; and 5 AAC 05.367. Tanana River Salmon Management Plan.** Amend these regulations to provide for the following:

To increase fishing time during times of harvestable surplus and to open the Tanana River to seven days a week after October 1, as it used to be using the old Minto schedule.

**PROBLEM:** There is no mechanism in the Tanana River Management Plan to increase harvest time in times of harvestable surplus.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Subsistence fishers have a difficult time meeting subsistence needs in the fall.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Yes. Allows for use of harvestable surplus.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Subsistence users.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?**

**PROPOSED BY:** Minto-Nenana Advisory Committee (I-03-F-001)

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**PROPOSAL 158 - 5 AAC 01.210. Fishing seasons and periods.** Amend this regulation as follows.

Subsistence for salmon will remain open for Alaska Natives who will subsist at their own discretion throughout the year like they use to for many generations.

**PROBLEM:** Subsistence fishing on the Yukon Delta for salmon. Current regulation for subsistence is cut off before, during and after a state commercial fishery opening. I propose that the restrictions placed on subsistence be entirely lifted so our Native peoples can go back to our traditional lifestyles and subsistence fish anytime as before and not be heavily burdened with schedules we never had before. Our Native peoples have always planned ahead and weather watching was the main reason for going out, not by a clockwatch.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** All these regulations placed upon our Native peoples have been heavily felt in our hearts. All our people have lost the most sensitive and harmonious lifestyle that keeps our families together. We no longer are able to contribute to the very essence of our lives including absolute respect for fish and game which was taught by our grandfathers and grandmothers. These resources have been harvested wherever our Native peoples happen to be. These resources are harvested during the spring, summer, fall and winter seasons.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?**

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** This change will bring subsistence back into our own hands and we will go back to living in harmony with each other and our elders will go back to their responsibilities with our tribes. All tribes on the Yukon Delta have survived to this day because of their great respect for everything that comes with the harvest of fish and game.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** There will be no impact on fish populations; the only impact to come will come from outside our Native peoples; we have always taken great care of our resources and now these changes have put a barrier between these resources and our peoples.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?**

**PROPOSED BY:** Mike Moses (HQ-03-F-060)

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**PROPOSAL 159 - 5 AAC 01.220. Lawful gear and gear specifications.** Amend this regulation to provide the following:

Increase the mesh size regulation for Birch Creek.

**PROBLEM:** We would like the board to consider increasing mesh size for the Birch Creek.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Birch Creek residents will be restricted to using only three-inch mesh nets.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** The proposal will give residents the opportunity to fish bigger fish.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** The residents of Birch Creek and the surrounding area that utilize the Birch Creek for fishing

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?**

**PROPOSED BY:** Yukon Flats Advisory Committee (I-03-F-016)

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**PROPOSAL 160 - 5 AAC 01.220. Lawful gear and gear specifications.** Amend this regulation as follows:

During a season when inseason salmon restrictions are necessary, subsistence fisheries may use gear size to target nonsalmon species, at their discretion, seven days per week. If more than five salmon are taken in a 24-hour period the net must be pulled for 24 hours before being set again.

**PROBLEM:** Inability of subsistence users to adequately meet subsistence needs for freshwater species during salmon management concerns on the Koyukuk drainage.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** People will not have enough fishing time (two days) and large enough mesh to catch sheefish to meet needs.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?**

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Subsistence users of the Koyukuk drainage.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?**

**PROPOSED BY:** Koyukuk River Advisory Committee (I-03-F-012)

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**PROPOSAL 161 - 5 AAC 01.220(e). Lawful gear and gear specifications.** Amend this regulation in Districts 4, 5, and 6 as follows:

(3) no person may operate a drift gillnet that is more than 150 feet in length during the seasons described in (1), (2), **and (4)** of this subsection.

**(4) in subdistricts 4B/4C king salmon may be taken by drift gillnets from June 10 through July 14, and chum salmon may be taken by drift gillnets after August 2.**

**PROBLEM:** Increasing user conflicts due to decreased subsistence fishing time as a result of the “windowed” subsistence fishing schedule. The current subsistence fishing schedule in subdistricts 4B/4C from June 15 through September 30, allows salmon to be taken from 6:00pm Tuesday and from 6:00pm Wednesday until 6:00pm Friday. Drift gillnetting is not allowed within subdistricts 4B/4C. This change in fishing schedule with limited gear types has resulted in reduced subsistence fishing opportunities for residents of subdistricts 4B/4C. The compressed schedule has forced people to obtain their subsistence fish within a limited time period. To maximize efficiency many people have begun traveling to Subdistrict 4A where drift gillnetting is allowed. People are having to compete for driftnet sites and for a limited fishery resource during the open fishing windows. Additional reasons for this problem are a limited number of set net sites within subdistricts 4B/4C. The sites available are shared with several individuals. Having setnet sites with the reduced fishing schedule means twice the amount of traveling and fuel to remove the set nets. Also, many people in area villages have shifted to a cash economy and work jobs Monday through Friday. The current schedule only allows for one six hour open period on weekends when people would not normally be at work.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** There will continue to be user conflicts between village residents. With the compressed fishing schedule, restricted fishing opportunity during normal non-work hours, and limited set net sites and gear types, people may not be able to meet their subsistence fishing needs.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Yes, by allowing drifting people have greater flexibility in where they fish and have a better chance of being able to obtain and process fresh fish.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Subsistence fisheries users of 4B and 4C will benefit by ensuring the use of a gear type that allows them to meet their subsistence needs within the scheduled time period. Village residents in 4A will benefit with reduced fishing pressure by 4B/4C residents on their traditional fishing sites.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Salmon stocks and/or fishermen upriver from subdistricts 4B/4C, as drifting is more efficient this could have an impact on fish available to upriver users and escapement goals which should be addressed through restricted driftnetting.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Alter the current subsistence fishing schedule by increasing the number of hours or moving the two 48-hour openings to include the weekends.

**PROPOSED BY:** Huslia Tribal Council (HQ-03-F-028)

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**PROPOSAL 162 - 5 AAC 01.210. Fishing seasons and periods.** Amend this regulation as follows:

In Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C, downstream from the mouth of the Yuki River, you may take king salmon by drift gillnet less than 150 feet in length from June 10 through July 14, and chum salmon by drift gillnets after August 2.

**PROBLEM:** The subsistence drift gillnet fishing area where residents of the village of Koyukuk fish in Subdistrict 4A is always imposed on by fishers coming from the surrounding villages due the lack of driftnet fishing areas nearer their communities because of existing regulations. Spreading the fishing pressure to other areas would help relieve the competition for the few important fishing sites near the village of Koyukuk and would not increased harvest of king salmon.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** If this problem is not solved, competition will continue to increase for Subdistrict 4A drift gillnet sites and it will be more difficult for residents of the village of Koyukuk to meet their subsistence needs. In addition, the subsistence fishers from other communities will continue to impact drift gillnet fishing sites in Subdistrict 4A, travel long distances to meet their subsistence needs for salmon, burn more fuel to reach these sites, and be at a higher safety risk because of time/distance travel needs. There will be overcrowding at the traditional fishing sites for the village of Koyukuk. Fishers from Ruby and Galena are all traveling further at great expense to congest in an area where other villages are already harvesting.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** This proposal would improve the quality of the resource because many of the subsistence fishers would have a shorter distance to travel back to their communities for final preparation and storage. The subsistence fishers for the middle Yukon villages would benefit from passage of this proposal, especially those who now have to travel long distances to drift net for their subsistence needs.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Subsistence fishers in the middle Yukon villages would benefit from passage of this proposal, especially those who now have to travel long distances to drift net for their subsistence needs.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** No other solutions were considered.

**PROPOSED BY:** Western Interior Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (HQ-03-F-165)

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**PROPOSAL 163 - 5 AAC 01.220(e). Lawful gear and gear specifications.** Amend this regulation as follows:

**(e)(1) ...and in Subdistricts 4-B and C, downstream from the mouth of the Yuki River, you may take king salmon by drift gillnet less than 150 feet in length from June 10 through July 14, and chum salmon by driftnets after August 2.**

**PROBLEM:** The subsistence drift gillnet fishing area where residents of the village of Koyukuk fish in Subdistrict 4A is always imposed on by fishers coming from the surrounding villages due to the lack of driftnet fishing areas nearer their communities because of existing regulations. Spreading the fishing pressure to other areas would help relieve the competition for the few important fishing sites near the village of Koyukuk and would not increase harvest of king salmon.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** If this problem is not solved, competition will continue to increase for Subdistrict 4A drift gillnet sites and it will be more difficult for residents of the village of Koyukuk to meet their subsistence needs. In addition, the subsistence fishers from other communities will continue to impact drift gillnet fishing sites in Subdistrict 4A, travel long distances to meet their subsistence needs for salmon, burn more fuel to reach these sites, and be at a higher safety risk because of time/distance travel needs. There will be overcrowding at the traditional fishing sites for the village of Koyukuk. Fishers from Ruby and Galena are all traveling further at great expense to congest in an area where other villages are already harvesting.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** This proposal would improve the quality of the resource because many of the subsistence fishers would have a shorter distance to travel back to their communities for final preparation and storage. The subsistence fishers for the middle Yukon villages would benefit from passage of this proposal, especially those who now have to travel long distances to drift net for their subsistence needs.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Subsistence fishers in the middle Yukon villages would benefit from passage of this proposal, especially those who now have to travel long distances to drift net for their subsistence needs.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** No other solutions were considered.

**PROPOSED BY:** Western Interior Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council(HQ-03-F-119)

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**PROPOSAL 164 - 5 AAC 01.220(f). Lawful gear and gear specifications.** Amend this regulation as follows:

In the middle fork and south fork of the Koyukuk River, gillnet mesh size may not exceed 3 ½ inches.

Legal subsistence methods and means may be used year round except gillnet fishing is closed July 1-Oct. 31 on the middle fork and south fork drainages to protect spawning salmon.

**PROBLEM:** The subsistence priority is not being provided for residents of the Dalton Highway area. Subsistence fishing is closed on many waters, while sport fishing remains open. There were limited subsistence fisheries in this area historically. We would like to see subsistence fishing allowed for human consumption only, while conserving fisheries and protecting salmon.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Continuing concern that a subsistence priority is not being provided as required by law.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** No.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** This would provide a limited subsistence whitefish and Arctic grayling opportunity for village residents mainly.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** The intent is to maintain continued healthy freshwater fish populations while protecting salmon. No one should suffer.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?**

**PROPOSED BY:** Jack Reakoff (HQ-03-F-027)

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**PROPOSAL 165 - 5 AAC 01.225. Waters closed to subsistence fishing; 5 AAC 05.350. Closed waters; and 5 AAC 70.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession and size limits in the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Area.** Amend these regulations as follows:

All spawning streams will be closed to any fishing ½ mile downstream from the mouth and ¼ mile upstream. No fishing until the department by emergency order opens when they have reached the escapement goal and the department makes sure they monitor these spawning streams.

**PROBLEM:** To close all spawning streams starting from Andreafski from all the way to the border, ½ mile downstream of each spawning stream and ¼ mile on the upper stream side. No fishing until you reach escapement goal or over. Then you can open for subsistence first then commercial, etc. This would be chinook, summer chums, fall chums and coho.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** We have had fisheries disaster since 1999 to present. Our spawning streams have not reached their spawning goals (reached) since 1998. We will never have subsistence and commercial fisheries if we do not do this now, before everything gets closed.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Yes. This proposal would improve spawning of the resources without interference and improve the salmon resource when they come back to spawn.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** The resource.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** None.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None.

**PROPOSED BY:** John Hanson (HQ-03-F-004)

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**PROPOSAL 166 - 5 AAC 05.310. Fishing seasons.** Amend this regulation as follows:

There will be no commercial harvesting of Yukon River salmon until May 2011.

**PROBLEM:** Lack of salmon available for subsistence harvesters, inability of the department and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to meet treaty obligations concerning Canadian Yukon salmon escapement, and to stop forty-plus years of “oops” management.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Current management plans depend on statistical models, which often lead to inappropriate inseason decisions. If this style of management continues, salmon stocks will continue to decline and smaller stocks will continue to lose genetic diversity.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Yes. This proposal would serve to rebuild threatened salmon stocks. It would also improve the overall health of the salmon populations by increasing the genetic diversity of threatened stocks. A six-year moratorium for commercial salmon fishing would protect and provide abundant escapement throughout an entire life-cycle of all Yukon River salmon species.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Initially the approximately 1400 subsistence households (Holder 1998), self use, and sport harvesters would be the first to benefit; however, commercial harvesters would also benefit once salmon stocks have recovered to the point that a carefully controlled commercial fishery can be allowed.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Initially the commercial industry will suffer, however there are more self-users, subsistence harvesters, and sport fishers. Managing a mixed-stock salmon fishery, using statistical models and arbitrary biological escapement goals to allow a commercial fishing season on a severely reduced stock is reckless management. I would also point out that the affected commercial fishers can fish other available fisheries until the salmon recover, and the U.S. government has been providing agricultural subsidies for decades, perhaps this would be a way to save the commercial salmon industry until salmon stocks can recover.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Return to the pre-1961 quota system and allocate 65,000 chinook salmon for commercial harvest. Impose a similar quota on commercial chum harvests. This proposal would not address the immediate concerns about reduced genetic diversity of severely reduced stocks.

Suspend commercial fishing for each species until a complete life-cycle has passed, and reopen commercial fisheries in turn as the particular species reaches the one life-cycle point. This proposal would initiate a complicated enforcement system as run timing of some species overlap.

**PROPOSED BY:** Gary Lawrence (HQ-03-F-167)

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**PROPOSAL 167 - 5 AAC 05.310. Fishing seasons.** Amend this regulation to provide the following:

We would like to see the board develop management planning committees to address the problem. Develop quotas based on community, economic, sport and subsistence needs.

**PROBLEM:** We would like the board to consider closing the commercial harvest for seven years along the Yukon River and its tributaries.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The salmon will continue to decline and we will lose a very valuable resource.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** The proposal will improve future quality and quantity of the resource.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** All people along the Yukon River and tributaries that depend on the resource for food.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Commercial fishermen for seven years.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?**

**PROPOSED BY:** Yukon Flats Advisory Committee (I-03-F-017)

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**PROPOSAL 168 - 5 AAC 05.360. Yukon River King Salmon Management Plan; 5 AAC 05.362. Yukon River Summer Chum Salmon Management Plan; and 5 AAC 05.365. Yukon River fall chum salmon guideline harvest ranges.** Amend these regulations as follows:

Yukon River salmon commercial harvest allocations would be as follows:

5 AAC 05.360(b)(2). The department shall manage the Yukon River commercial king salmon fishery for a guideline harvest range of 0 – 62,500 [67,350 – 129,150] king salmon, distributed as follows:

- (A) Districts 1 and 2: 0 – 50,000 (80.0% of total) [60,000 – 120,000] king salmon;
- (B) District 3: 0 – 1,100 (1.8% of total) [1,800 – 2,200] king salmon;
- (C) District 4: 0 – 4,600 (7.4% of total) [2,250 – 2,850] king salmon;
- (D) District 5:
  - (i) Subdistricts 5-B and 5-C: 0 – 4,700 (7.5% of total) [2,400 – 2,800] king salmon;
  - (ii) Subdistrict 5-D: 0 – 800 (1.3% of total) [300 – 500] king salmon;
- (E) District 6: 0 – 1,300 (2.1% of total) [ 600 – 800] king salmon;

Summer chum salmon:

5 AAC 05.362(f). The department shall manage the commercial summer chum salmon fishery for a guideline harvest range of 0 – 870,000 [400,000 – 1,200,000] summer chum salmon to be distributed as follows:

- (1) Districts 1 and 2: 0 – 350,000 (40.2%) [251,000 – 755,000] fish;
- (2) District 3: 0 – 7,000 (0.8%) [6,000 – 19,000] fish;
- (3) Subdistrict 4-A: 0 – 406,000 (46.7%) fish [113,000 – 338,000 FISH, THE EQUIVALENT ROE POUNDAGE OF 61,000 – 183,000 POUNDS, OR A COMBINATION OF POUNDS OF ROE AND NUMBERS OF FISH];
- (4) Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C: 0 – 57,000 (6.6%) [16,000 – 47,000] fish;
- (5) Subdistricts 5-B, 5-C and 5-D: 0 – 3,600 (0.5%) [1,000 – 3,000] fish;
- (6) District 6: 0 – 46,000 (5.3%) [13,000 – 38,000] fish;

Fall chum salmon:

5 AAC 05.365(a). The department shall manage the Yukon River commercial fall chum salmon fishery for a guideline harvest range of 0 – 180,500 [72,750 – 320,500] chum salmon, distributed as follows:

- (1) Districts 1, 2 and 3: 0 – 78,000 (43.2%) [60,000 – 220,000] chum salmon;
- (2) District 4: 0 – 41,000 (22.7%) [5,000 – 40,000] chum salmon;
- (3) Subdistricts 5-B and 5-C: 0 – 36,000 (19.9%) [4,000 – 36,000] chum salmon;
- (4) Subdistrict 5-D: 0 – 4,500 (2.5%) [1,000 – 4,000] chum salmon;
- (5) District 6: 0 – 21,000 (11.6%) [2,750 – 20,500] chum salmon.

**PROBLEM:** The allocation of salmon for commercial harvests between districts in the Yukon River need to be more equitable for all users. This reallocation would provide a more balanced approach to commercial harvests for all salmon for all districts of the Yukon River.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** If this allocation problem is not solved, the lower river districts 1, 2, and 3 will continue to be given more opportunity for economic gain than other upriver districts. This disproportionate allocation does not allow for equal opportunity as required in the state constitution. This would help to partially address concerns of equal opportunity as stated in the Constitution of the State of Alaska.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?**

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** The subsistence fishers for the middle and upper Yukon villages would benefit from a higher percentage of commercially available salmon.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** The lower river commercial fishermen in districts 1, 2, and 3 will still be allowed to harvest the majority of salmon available in the Yukon River but would have a lower allocation than in previous years.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Another option would be to address the state constitution literally, which would result in equal percentages of commercial harvest ranges throughout the river. This option does not appear feasible at this time.

**PROPOSED BY:** Eastern Interior Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (HQ-03-F-120)  
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**PROPOSAL 169 - 5 AAC 05.360. Yukon River King Salmon Management Plan.** Amend this regulation as follows:

Allow commercial fishermen to change gear type during times that commercial fishing is authorized.

(g) notwithstanding 5 AAC 05.330(b) any commercial limited entry permit holder may operate a drift gillnet during commercial openings for king salmon in the Y-4A subdistrict during the years when summer chum salmon are a stock of concern.

(h) notwithstanding 5 AAC 05.330(b) any commercial limited entry permit holder may operate either a set net or fishwheel for the harvest of king salmon in the Y-4A subdistrict during the years when there are no summer chum salmon concerns.

**PROBLEM:** Lack of opportunity to harvest commercial allocation of king salmon.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Commercial fishermen will continue to be denied the opportunity to harvest king salmon.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?**

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Commercial fishermen.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None.

**PROPOSED BY:** Richard Burnham (I-03-F-015)

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**PROPOSAL 170 - 5 AAC 05.360. Yukon River King Salmon Management Plan; 5 AAC 05.362. Yukon River Summer Chum Salmon Management Plan; 5 AAC 05.365. Yukon River fall chum salmon guideline harvest ranges; and 5 AAC 05.369. Yukon River Coho Salmon Management Plan.** Amend these regulations to prohibit the following:

Roe stripping illegal for District 1 to 6 pm the Yukon River on all salmon – king, fall chum, summer chum, and coho.

**PROBLEM:** It did not take too long to almost wipe out the fall chum and summer chum after the adoption of roe-directed fisheries.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Conservation problems will continue for the Yukon River. King salmon will be targeted next.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** The balance of nature at and around spawning stream is not there anymore.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Yukon River fisheries from Y-1 to Y-6.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Roe-directed fisheries. The whole river has suffered by the greed of a few people long enough.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None, this is the only way we will get the fish back and restore the balance of nature at the spawning grounds.

**PROPOSED BY:** Lower Yukon Advisory Committee (I-03-F-010)

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**PROPOSAL 171 - 5 AAC 05.331. Gillnet specifications and operations.** Amend this regulation as follows:

There is standard six-inch mesh size for districts Y-1 to Y-2.

**PROBLEM:** We would like the board to consider decreasing mesh size for districts Y-1 and Y-2 to six-inch mesh. That would allow some of the larger spawning fish to the spawning grounds.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The salmon will continue to decline and we will lose a very valuable resource.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** The proposal will improve future quality and quantity of the resource.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** All people along the Yukon River and tributaries that depend on the resource for food.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Fishermen that are using larger than six-inch mesh size nets.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?**

**PROPOSED BY:** Yukon Flats Advisory Committee (I-03-F-018)  
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**PROPOSAL 172 - 5 AAC 05.331. Gillnet specifications and operations; and 5 AAC 05.333. Fishwheel specifications and operations.** Amend these regulations to provide the following:

Cut depth and length of fishwheel leads. Cut depth of drift nets to 47 percent of river depth. In Y-1 to Y-3 our driftnets are about 47 percent of the river depth.

**PROBLEM:** Gear restriction on fishwheel leads and drift and set net depth.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Conservation problems will continue for the whole river. We have had gear restriction from False Pass to Districts 1-3 (Yukon). None upriver.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** It will put the burden of conservation equally from False Pass to the Canadian border.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Rebuilding fisheries on the whole Yukon River.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one – the whole river will be equal.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Restriction on False Pass and districts Y-1 to Y-3 are not working.

**PROPOSED BY:** Lower Yukon Advisory Committee (I-03-F-011)  
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**PROPOSAL 173 - 5 AAC 70.022(d)(11)(K). Waters; seasons; bag, possession, and size limits in the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Area.** Amend this regulation as follows:

(k) In the Goodpaster River drainage, king salmon may be taken from January 1 through December 31 by catch and release fishing only, any king salmon caught must be released immediately. Sport fishing for king salmon is closed above the confluence of the South Fork  
[IS CLOSED TO SPORT FISHING FOR SALMON];

The opportunity to catch and release king salmon exists in the lower river where no spawning occurs. Above the South Fork (river mile 33), where salmon spawning exists, the river should be closed to sport fishing of king salmon.

**PROBLEM:** Currently, no sport fishing for king salmon is allowed in the Goodpaster River drainage. In recent years runs of king salmon have been noticeable in the Goodpaster River drainage and opportunity to catch king salmon is possible

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The opportunity to catch king salmon will not exist.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?**

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Anglers desiring an opportunity to catch king salmon close to Delta Junction.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** The idea of allowing harvest of king salmon rejected in order to promote production potential of the king salmon run.

**PROPOSED BY:** Delta Advisory Committee (I-03-F-005)

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**PROPOSAL 174 - 5 AAC 05.360(f). Yukon River King Salmon Management Plan.** Amend this regulation as follows:

The sport fishery in the Yukon River drainage will be managed in accordance with the subsistence salmon net and fishwheel openings and closure set forth in 5 AAC 05.360(d)(1)-(5). Sport fishing restrictions necessary for conservation purposes will correspond to the level of abundance of king salmon.

**PROBLEM:** Sport fishing is currently allowed seven days a week on the Yukon River and its tributaries, while subsistence salmon net and fishwheel fishing is being restricted in the majority of the districts and subdistricts.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The already-waning public support for the Yukon River King Salmon Management Plan, as it relates to the subsistence restrictions, may evaporate completely, and subsistence users will likely defy the subsistence schedule.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** No.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Subsistence users in the Yukon drainage will feel their efforts to help rebuild the salmon stocks will be shared by other user groups, namely sport fishermen; state management will have some of its lost credibility restored; and the salmon will benefit from public support of the plan.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Minor inconvenience for sport fishermen.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Lifting the subsistence schedule completely may be an option in some years – as was somewhat done in 2002.

**PROPOSED BY:** AVCP, Inc.

(HQ-03-F-191/W-03-F-013)

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