

**ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES**  
**Teleconference on Yukon River Coho Salmon Management Plan (5 AAC 05.369)**  
**September 8, 2009**

**Summary of Actions**

The Alaska Board of Fisheries met by teleconference September 8, 2009. Seven of seven board members were present and public listen-only sites were available at Fish and Game offices in Emmonak, Anchorage, and Juneau. The purpose of the teleconference was to consider a petition submitted by the Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Association requesting an amendment to the Yukon River Coho Salmon Management Plan (5 AAC 05.369) to allow late season directed coho salmon commercial fishing.

The department described conservation concerns regarding summer and fall chum salmon and the availability of a harvestable surplus of coho salmon. The department noted that 95 percent of the chum run had passed areas being considered for coho fishing and that communities along the Yukon River had experienced extreme hardship due poor returns of king and chum salmon earlier in the summer. Estimates of the potential amount of incidental catch of chums in a coho directed fishery ranged from 1,000 to 2,000. The department described measures that could be taken if the incidental catch rate of chum salmon raised concern, such as curtailing harvest or stretching out the time between fishing periods. The board expressed interest in also allowing coho fishing opportunity in the upriver districts if possible. The department explained that it would manage the fishery to allow for expanded fishing time sequentially in upper river districts.

The board adopted a finding of emergency based on an unexpected and unforeseen resource situation, consistent with 5 AAC 96.625, and board delegate authority to the commissioner to make the specific regulatory change to 5 AAC 05.369 to allow for a late season coho salmon harvest opportunity. The board also expressed its intent to review the Yukon River Coho Salmon Management Plan (5 AAC 05.369) during the January 26-31, 2010 Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Finfish meeting.