

## Alaska Board of Fisheries Committee Summary

# COMMITTEE A

### **Sport and Subsistence Resident Species and Sport Salmon** January 19, 2013

---

#### Board Committee Members:

1. John Jensen, \*Chair
2. Orville Huntington

#### Alaska Department of Fish and Game Staff Members:

1. Tom Brookover – Deputy Director, Sport Fish
2. Lisa Olson – Deputy Director, Subsistence
3. Tom Taube – Regional Management Supervisor, Sport Fish
4. Jeff Estensen – Yukon Area Management Biologist, Commercial Fish
5. Bonnie Borba – Yukon Research Biologist, Commercial Fish
6. Caroline Brown – Subsistence Resource Specialist, Subsistence
7. John Burr – Yukon Area Management Biologist, Sport Fish
8. John Chythlook – Kuskokwim Area Management Biologist, Sport Fish
9. Audra Brase – Tanana Area Management Biologist, Sport Fish
10. Tim Viavant – Regional Management Biologist, Sport Fish
11. Brandy Baker – Tanana Area Assistant Management Biologist, Sport Fish
12. Al Cain – Law Enforcement Specialist, Sport Fish

#### Department of Public Safety:

1. Tory Oleck – Lieutenant, Alaska Wildlife Troopers

#### Advisory Committee Members:

1. Virgil Umphenour Jr. – Fairbanks AC

#### Public Panel Members:

1. Mike Sanders – Deneki Outdoors, Sport Fishing
2. Bryan Burke – Deneki Outdoors, Sport Fishing

#### Federal Subsistence Representative:

1. George Pappas

---

The committee met January 18, 2013 at 3:45 p.m. and adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

---

PROPOSALS BEFORE THE COMMITTEE WERE: (21 total) Northern pike (96 – 101), stocked waters and methods and means (88 – 95, 237), and sport salmon (153 – 154).

**PROPOSAL 96 – 5 AAC 74.010. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Tanana River Area.** This proposal would increase the season for northern pike to year-round.

**Comment Summary:**

Department: None.

Department of Law: None.

Federal Subsistence Representative: None.

**Public Panel Comments:**

- Fairbanks AC supports with modifications found in RC 2, page 59.

**Public Panel Recommendation: Consensus to support with substitute language found in RC 86.**

**PROPOSAL 97 – 5 AAC 73.010. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Yukon River Area.** This proposal would reduce northern pike bag and possession limits in the Yukon River from Holy Cross to Paimiut Slough.

**Comment Summary:**

Department:

- Does not believe there is any conservation concern for this stock.
- This proposal seeks to align the wintertime hook-and-line subsistence fishery with the sport fish bag limit. This should be considered in conjunction with Proposal 98, which seeks to limit the daily bag limit in the wintertime subsistence fishery to the sport bag limits.
- Adoption of this proposal would not affect the subsistence fishery.

Department of Law: None.

Federal Subsistence Representative: None.

Public Panel Comments:

- Fairbanks AC opposed.
- Public panel opposed.

**Public Panel Recommendation: Consensus to oppose.**

**PROPOSAL 98 – 5 AAC 01.234. Limitations on subsistence fishing with hook and line gear.** This proposal would reduce northern pike bag and possession limits for subsistence fishers in the Yukon River from Holy Cross to Paimiut Slough.

**Comment Summary: See comments under Proposal 97.**

Department: None.

Department of Law: None.

Federal Subsistence Representative: None.

Public Panel Comments:

- Fairbanks AC is opposed.
- Public panel is opposed.

**Public Panel Recommendation: Consensus to oppose.**

**PROPOSAL 99 – 5 AAC 01.225. Waters closed to subsistence fishing.** This proposal would repeal the regulation prohibiting subsistence retention of northern pike in portions of the Tanana River drainage

**Comment Summary:**

Department:

- This regulation was probably implemented in the early 1970s and does not reflect current subsistence law.

Department of Law: None.

Federal Subsistence Representative: None.

Public Panel Comments:

- Fairbanks AC is in support.
- Public panel was not opposed.

**Public Panel Recommendation: Consensus to support.**

**PROPOSAL 100 - 5 AAC 01.225. Waters closed to subsistence fishing.** This proposal would allow retention of northern pike in Yukon and Tanana subsistence salmon fisheries.

**Comment Summary:**

Department: None.

Department of Law: None.

Federal Subsistence Representative: None.

Public Panel Comments: None.

**Public Panel Recommendation: Consensus to support.**

**PROPOSAL 101 - 5 AAC 01.220. Lawful gear and gear specifications.** This proposal would ban the use of gillnets in the subsistence fishery for pike in both Ten Mile Lake and Mark Lake.

**Comment Summary:**

Department:

- Referenced RC 62 requesting withdrawal of support of the proposal.

Department of Law: None.

Federal Subsistence Representative: None.

Public Panel Comments:

- Recommended taking no action based on information in RC 62.

**Public Panel Recommendation: Consensus to oppose.**

**PROPOSAL 88 – 5 AAC 74.010. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Tanana River Area.** This proposal would close Rainbow Lake to fishing for rainbow trout from October 1–May 14.

**Comment Summary:**

Department:

- The different management categories in the *Stocked Waters Management Plan* were presented.
  - Regional—10 fish bag limit, only one fish over 18”.
  - Conservative—5 fish bag limit, only one fish over 18”.
  - Special—1 fish bag limit, 18” or greater in length.
- If the public is interested in the conservative management option, the department is willing to amend the proposal to that option.
- Future stocking levels would probably remain the same.

Department of Law: None.

Federal Subsistence Representative: None.

Public Panel Comments:

- Fairbanks AC is opposed, but was willing to support if the bag and possession limit was 5 fish and season was open year-round.
- Referenced past hatchery and stocking program shortfalls.
- Fairbanks AC was willing to support conservative management option under the *Stocked Waters Management Plan*.

**Public Panel Recommendation: Consensus to support with substitute language found in RC 87.**

**PROPOSAL 89 – 5 AAC 74.010. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Tanana River Area; and 5 AAC 74.065. Tanana River Area Stocked Waters Management Plan.** This proposal would close Little Harding Lake to fishing for northern pike and remove Little Harding Lake from the Tanana River Area stocked waters management plan.

**Comment Summary:**

Department: None.

Department of Law: None.

Federal Subsistence Representative: None.

Public Panel Comments:

- Fairbanks AC supports.
- Public panel did not oppose.

**Public Panel Recommendation: Consensus to support.**

**PROPOSAL 90 - 5 AAC 74.065. Tanana River Area Stocked Waters Management Plan.**

This proposal would remove Little Harding Lake, Harding Lake, Summit Lake, Monte Lake, and Donnelly Lake from special management and leave Rainbow Lake in special management.

**Comment Summary:**

Department:

- We oppose removing Harding Lake from Special Management Category.
- The adoption of Proposal 88 with amended language would put Rainbow Lake into the conservative management category of the *Stocked Waters Management Plan*.

Department of Law: None.

Federal Subsistence Representative: None.

Public Panel Comments:

- Fairbanks AC supports, except for the changes to the regulations at Rainbow Lake.
- Fairbanks AC supports leaving Harding Lake in the special management category under the *Stocked Waters Management Plan*.

**Public Panel Recommendation: Consensus to Support with amended language found in RC 88.**

**PROPOSAL 237 – 5 AAC 74.010(c)(18). Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Tanana River Area; 5 AAC 74.065. Tanana River Area Stocked Waters Management Plan.** This proposal would allow lakes of a specific size to be managed as trophy stocked waters.

**Comment Summary:**

Department: None.

Department of Law: None.

Federal Subsistence Representative: None.

Public Panel Comments: None.

**Public Panel Recommendation: Consensus to take no action based on Proposal 88.**

**PROPOSAL 91 – 5 AAC 74.010. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Tanana River Area; and 5 AAC 74.065. Tanana River Area Stocked Waters Management Plan.** This proposal would update the Tanana River Management Area stocked waters regulations and management plan.

**Comment Summary:**

Department: None.

Department of Law: None.

Federal Subsistence Representative: None.

Public Panel Comments:

- Fairbanks AC supports.

**Public Panel Recommendation: Consensus to support with substitute language found in RC 89.**

**PROPOSAL 92 – 5 AAC 69.130. Methods, means, and general provisions – Finfish; 5 AAC 70.030. Methods, means, and general provisions – Finfish; 5 AAC 71.030. Methods, means, and general provisions – Finfish; 5 AAC 73.030. Methods, means, and general provisions – Finfish; and 5 AAC 74.030. Methods, means, and general provisions – Finfish.** This proposal would allow large hooks in all waters for taking fish other than salmon.

**Comment Summary:**

Department: None.

Department of Law: None.

Federal Subsistence Representative: None.

**Public Panel Comments:**

- Fairbanks AC supports.
- Public Panel was not opposed.

**Public Panel Recommendation: Consensus to support.**

**PROPOSAL 93 – 5 AAC 71.010. Seasons and bag, possession and size limits for the Kuskokwim-Goodnews Area; and 5 AAC 74.010. Seasons and bag, possession and size limits for the Tanana River Area.** This proposal would clarify that a single-hook artificial lure is an artificial lure with one single-hook or one fly.

**Comment Summary:**

Department:

- Using only one hook reduces hooking mortality.
- This regulatory language has been fixed in many sections of the regulations in other regions.

Public Safety:

- This regulation was put into effect without meeting the original intent of the board, which was to only allow one hook.
- Current regulation allows for a trailing fly because the word “lures” is plural and implies that more than one hook is allowed.
- This regulation should be reviewed statewide for each area in order to clarify the intent of original regulation.

Department of Law: None.

Federal Subsistence Representative: None.

Public Panel Comments:

- Fairbanks AC opposed.
- Public panel supported.

**Public Panel Recommendation: No consensus.**

**PROPOSAL 94 – 5 AAC 74.010. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Tanana River Area.** This proposal would modify method and means regulation for the Chena River to be consistent with the area regulations.

**Comment Summary:**

Department:

- This is similar to Proposal 92.

Department of Law: None.

Federal Subsistence Representative: None.

Public Panel Comments:

- Fairbanks AC supports.
- Public panel was not opposed.

**Public Panel Recommendation: Consensus to support.**

**PROPOSAL 95 - 5 AAC 71.030. Methods, means, and general provisions - Finfish.** This proposal would prohibit putting fish parts in water where use of bait is prohibited.

**Comment Summary:**

Department:

- Proposal would not affect subsistence fisheries because there is no bait restriction in hook-and-line subsistence fisheries.

Public Safety:

- At the Bristol Bay meeting, the proposal was adopted with amendment to apply only to waters with a no-bait regulation. The regulation should be enforceable.
- We are opposed to this proposal as submitted.
- There is a problem with using the word “chumming” (no regulatory definition). There is also an enforceability problem with specifying the regulation applying only to guided angling.
- The language that was adopted in Bristol Bay is the most reasonable and likely the only enforceable regulatory language.
- Adding “intent” into the regulatory language makes it even more unenforceable.

Department of Law: None.

Federal Subsistence Representative:

- Referenced National Park regulations on “chumming” found in PC 4.

Public Panel Comments:

- Fairbanks AC opposes. Cleaning fish in a river could be illegal under this proposed regulation.
- Also oppose because of how broadly the regulation applies.
- Public panel is opposed to this proposal. In no-bait waters, if fish camps were putting lots of fish parts into the water, this would make sport fishing nearby illegal.
- A member of the public said this regulation was prompted by the practices of some specific guides. This could be fixed by using language to effect of “No chumming is allowed in single-hook, no-bait waters when accompanied by a guide.”
- The current proposal and the language adopted in Bristol Bay is unacceptable.
- Public panel would be willing to work with the department and with public safety on some acceptable language related to prohibiting the practice of chumming.

**Public Panel Recommendation: No consensus.**

**PROPOSAL 111 - 5 AAC 71.010. Seasons and bag, possession, and size limits for the Kuskokwim – Goodnews Area.** This proposal would close all sport fishing on the Eek River.

**Comment Summary:**

Department: None.

Department of Law: None.

Federal Subsistence Representative: None.

Public Panel Comments:

- Fairbanks AC is opposed for the same reasons that the department is opposed.
- Public panel is opposed.

**Public Panel Recommendation: Consensus to oppose.**

**PROPOSAL 112 - 5 AAC 01.270. Lawful gear and gear specifications and operations; 5 AAC 07.331 Gillnet specifications and operations; 5 AAC 71.010. Seasons and bag, possession, and size limits for the Kuskokwim - Goodnews Area.** This proposal would close all sport and commercial guide fisheries in the Kwethluk River from June 1 through July 25 and limit the size of net gear used in both subsistence and commercial fisheries for the same time frame.

**Comment Summary:**

Department: None.

Department of Law: None.

Federal Subsistence Representative: None.

Public Panel Comments:

- Fairbanks AC is opposed.
- Public panel is opposed.

**Public Panel Recommendation: Consensus to oppose.**

**PROPOSAL 113 - 5 AAC 71.010. Seasons and bag, possession, and size limits for the Kuskokwim - Goodnews Area(c)(7) and (8).** This proposal would prohibit catch and release fishing for salmon on the Kanektok and Arolik Rivers.

**Comment Summary:**

Department: None.

Department of Public Safety: None.

Department of Law: None.

Federal Subsistence Representative: None.

**Public Panel Comments:**

- Fairbanks AC is opposed.
- Public panel is opposed.

**Public Panel Recommendation: Consensus to oppose.**

**PROPOSAL 114 - 5 AAC 5 AAC 71.010. Seasons and bag, possession, and size limits for the Kuskokwim - Goodnews Area.** This proposal would prohibit sport fishing on all salmon spawning beds on the Kanektok and Arolik River drainages.

**Comment Summary:**

Department: None.

Department of Law: None.

Federal Subsistence Representative: None.

**Public Panel Comments:**

- Fairbanks AC is opposed.
- Public panel is opposed.

**Public Panel Recommendation: Consensus to oppose.**

**PROPOSAL 153 – 5 AAC 74.010. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Tanana River Area.** This proposal would repeal the regulation that closes Fielding Lake to salmon fishing.

**Comment Summary:**

Department: None.

Department of Law: None.

Federal Subsistence Representative: None.

Public Panel Comments:

- Fairbanks AC supports.
- Public panel supports.

**Public Panel Recommendation: Consensus to support.**

**PROPOSAL 154 - 5 AAC 73.010. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Yukon River Area.** This proposal would close the Black River and its tributaries to sport fishing for king salmon.

**Comment Summary:**

Department:

- There is almost no sport angling in the Black River drainage and no reported sport harvest of king salmon from the Black River drainage.
- BLM has not issued any special use permits for guiding on the river in 15 years.

Department of Law: None.

Federal Subsistence Representative: None.

Public Panel Comments:

- Fairbanks AC is opposed.
- Public panel is opposed.

**Public Panel Recommendation: Consensus to oppose.**