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final open period is only 64 hours long. This plan will increase allowable fishing time in hours during June by a factor of 2.89 compared with the 2001 regulation. It will increase the number of days available for fishing by a factor of 2.11. A significant amount of the added time will come during nighttime hours, when harvests are expected to be significantly lower than during daytime hours. Depending upon the efficacy of nighttime fishing and other changes in behavior of fishermen, it is anticipated that harvests in the June fishery may double compared to those since 2001, depending upon the annual abundance of sockeye and chum salmon returns. The new 2004 regulations bring the allowable fishing time in the June fishery back to levels experienced prior to 2001 but, with reductions in fleet size and other changes since the late 1990s, it is unlikely that catches will exceed, or even return to, levels experienced prior to 2001.

The board has given weighty consideration to concerns expressed about potential impacts of the plan amendments on Bristol Bay sockeye and western Alaska chums! While the exact net effect that these regulatory changes may have on the South Peninsula June fishery catches is unknown, subsequent harvest rates on Bristol Bay sockeye and AYK chums are not expected to increase beyond the levels experienced in the 1980s and 1990s. Thus, the impact of the June fishery on those stocks, and subsistence fisheries on those stocks, is expected to be minimal. Over the past 20 years or so, the board has experimented with different management approaches for the June fishery, making significant changes every time it has met on the area's fisheries. The 2004 amendments represent another approach in response to the perceived failures of the 2001 measures. If after another three years the 2004 measures result in unexpected consequences, the board will be able to make adjustments accordingly. Based on the information before the board now, no significant harmful impacts are expected on AYK salmon stocks from the 2004 changes.

**V. The 2004 Regulatory Amendments are Consistent with Sustained Yield and all other Statutory and Regulatory Standards.**

The 2004 June Fishery Management Plan is consistent with sustained yield principles, the subsistence statute (AS 16.05.258), the Policy for the Management of Sustainable Salmon Fisheries (5 AAC 39.222) and the Policy for the Management of Mixed Stock Salmon Fisheries (5 AAC 39.220). The board considered the allocation criteria applicable to the fisheries as set out in AS 16.05.251(e) and 5 AAC 39.205.

The board considered the best scientific data available in making its decisions about the June fishery (5 AAC 39.222(d)(2)(A)). As noted above, there is a substantial amount of data on the June fishery and the fishery resources harvested there. Indeed, the board is often faced with tough decisions for other fisheries where there is much less scientific information available to consider than is available for the June fishery. The board believes the decision it has made here is based on sound science and consideration of all the appropriate data and factors. The board considered all the department reports, the advisory committee reports and comments, and the public testimony and written comments. In addition to the information presented at the February 2004 meeting, the board had also recently held a meeting on AYK fishery issues in January 2004 and Bristol Bay issues in December 2003 and there received extensive reports, written comments and testimony concerning western Alaska salmon stocks. The board relied on all this information in reaching its decisions on the June fishery.

**A. Sustained Yield.**

Submitted by Dale Carlson  
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