

Darin Gilman's Public Testimony

Hello Board and Staff, my name is Darin Gilman a Cordova resident for 29 years and commercial drift gillnetter for the last 14 years. I am currently serving as the CDFU gillnet chair representative.

Support Proposal 6. Timely and Accurate reporting is prudent amongst up-river user groups. Loose management of the upper copper river is a dated management practice. 2020 is a prime example of how this management is dated, we narrowly met our SEG goal for sockeye salmon and we had no knowledge of this till far past the fish were gone and spawned. It's the year 2021 its disingenuous to act like reporting online within 3 days of harvest is a burden to a user.

Prop 7. CDFU is in support of addressing the commercialization of subsistence. Commercializing a non-commercial resource is clearly disconnected from the what the intent of subsistence opportunity means.

Proposal 18. CDFU oppose this proposal. Moving the southern boundary of the fishery would just move the congestion of boats further down the river. Moving the boundary further south would allow the PU fishery to harvest fish in Haley Cr and Canyon Cr which are crucial resting areas for the sockeye and king salmon before ascending Woods Canyon.

Proposal 19. This proposal shares the burden of conservation between user groups on years of low abundance of salmon. In 2018 and 2020 the commercial drift fleet took most of the burden of conservation, losing approximately 90 percent of our historical fishing opportunity. Large part of this is due to the hard in river numbers that is hamstringing ADFG on the lower copper.

Proposal 27. CDFU opposes proposal 27 the Alaska Wildlife Troopers state that it would be almost impossible to enforce this 7 days a week fishery in the vast area of Prince William Sound and the Lower Copper River. There also is a glaring problem in the Main Bay subdistrict with PWSACS cost recovery efforts due to the increased boating traffic into the district. Allowing 7 days a week subsistence fishery would just cause this issue to become much more prevalent.

Proposal 28. Referencing CDFU's RC20 there is already two separate ANS's that address the Lower Copper Rivers subsistence needs. Fish and Game has the authority to up the subsistence limits if the Commercial fleet isn't allowed ample opportunity to harvest salmon.

Proposal 38. Support proposal 38, it shares the conservation of burden of coho salmon on the delta. This only limits opportunity of sport fishing on copper river delta in years of low coho abundance. Eliminating bait fishing and catch and release would reduce mortality on potential spawning salmon ensuring the long-term health of the resource.

Prop. 39 Support

Prop 41. Support, it is a redundant regulation that Fish and Game does not need.

Prop 40. Support. I believe all user groups should be in favor of preserving spawning habitat, it is extremely short sighted to act like this system can handle the pressure it has been receiving by sport fish users.

Proposal 43. CDFU gillnet supports this proposal and referencing Michael Bowens RC 12 we would like to have a Board Directed working group address the past and current allocation plans and come back with a report at the next cycle with possible improvements.

Proposal 45. Oppose this proposal it would disenfranchise the drift gillnet fleet in the Terminal Harvest Area of the Eshamy district. The reasoning behind leaving the minimum distance between setnet and drift gillnet at 25 fathoms was in years of low Coghill Sockeye abundance much of the drift fleet and setnet fleet is forced to fish inside the Main Bay subdistrict, THA and SHA. Furthering the minimum distance to 30 fathoms would eliminate a large area of opportunity for drift gillnet fleet. The argument that it would not increase the allocation of the setnet fleet is just blatantly not true. A large number of sockeye salmon are caught in the terminal harvest area every year in the Main Bay Fishery, favoring the set gillnet gear group in this area would give them unfair advantage of harvesting these fish. The set net gear group has been over their allocation for 12/15 years. Passing this regulation would just further the discrepancy.