

**ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES**  
**FINDING ON THE AYAKULIK RIVER KING SALMON SPORT FISHERY**  
**2005 - 236 - FB**

The Board of Fisheries finds that the public process implemented by the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to solicit ideas and opinions from stakeholders, in order to identify the type of experience Ayakulik visitors desired, was thorough and inclusive. Stakeholders had previously expressed concerns that the most productive fishing sites along the river were being monopolized by large groups of visitors who camped for extended periods of time, that littering had increased, and that there was a general perception of overcrowding during the fishery.

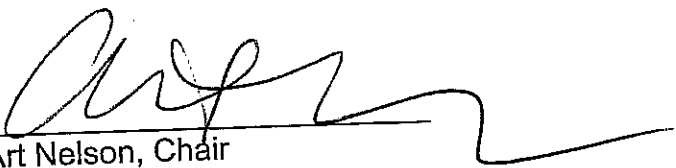
The board finds that the interim measures adopted by regulatory agencies in response to the problems and concerns cited by stakeholders are a reasonable, measured approach that properly address the social issues affecting the Ayakulik River king salmon sport fishery. The board finds that the implementation of voluntary camping closures adjacent to prime fishing locations benefits all king salmon anglers equitably and encourages the continuation of this practice by all visitors to the Ayakulik during the king salmon fishery.

The board supports the continuation of an Ayakulik Chinook Salmon Workgroup, through the auspices of the Kodiak Fish and Game Advisory Committee, to address future social issues that may arise; to seek out consensus among stakeholders; and to forward regulatory recommendations in the form of proposals to the board for deliberation.

The board finds that since most king salmon anglers visiting the Ayakulik River do not harvest either their daily or annual limit of king salmon, it is unnecessary to attempt to maximize harvest potential by increasing the daily bag limit during strong returns. The board does not find it is necessary to specifically restrict the department's emergency order authority under 5AAC 75.003 with respect to this fishery in order to address the preferences expressed by the stakeholders. Restricting the department's emergency order authority by regulation would limit the department's ability to respond, without board intervention, to potentially extenuating circumstances in the future.

Adopted: January 10, 2005  
Anchorage, Alaska

Vote: 7 - 0

  
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Art Nelson, Chair