

Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group
ADF&G Bethel toll free: 1 (855) 933-2433

Meeting Agenda

Date: **March 11, 2014** Time: **1:30pm** Place: **ADF&G, Bethel**

The meeting will break for lunch on both days and then continue until recessed or adjourned.

This is a meeting for Working Group members only. An ADF&G facilitator will be present to help conduct the meeting. State and Federal Managers and the public will not be present.

Teleconference: 1-800-832-0736 *6950062#

Teleconference services graciously provided by Bering Sea Fisherman's association.

Time Called to Order Chair Time Adjourned

ROLL CALL TO ESTABLISH QUORUM: **QUORUM MET? Yes / No**

Upriver Elder:

Processor:

Downriver Elder:

Member at Large:

Commercial Fisher:

Sport Fisher:

Lower River Subsistence:

Western Interior RAC:

Middle River Subsistence:

Y-K Delta RAC:

Upper River Subsistence:

ADF&G:

Headwaters Subsistence:

INTRODUCTIONS:

INVOCATION:

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: *the agenda may be amended at this time.*

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- I. EMERGENCY PETITIONS: Status Update**
- II. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC – relayed by members**
- III. 2014 MANAGEMENT: Communicating the Working Group message.**
- IV. LOOKING AHEAD: Possible Regulatory Proposals from the KRSMWG.**
- V. Working Group Business meeting:**
 - A. Membership**
 - 1. Election of officers**
 - 2. Seat and alternate elections**
 - 3. Meeting participation**
 - 4. Adding additional representative seats to the Working Group-*suggested discussion.***

COMMENTS FROM WORKING GROUP MEMBERS:

NEXT MEETING DATE: _____ **Time:** _____ **Place:** _____

Chairman Karl Johnstone
Alaska Board of Fisheries
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Boards Support Section
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK
99811-5526

Dear Chairman Johnstone:

The purpose of this letter is to request that the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) consider an emergency petition to add dip nets as legal gear for the taking of salmon other than king salmon in the Kuskokwim Area during times of king salmon conservation. Currently, the regulations only allow for the use of gillnets, fish wheels, beach seines, and hook and line attached to a rod or pole.

Section 5AAC 07.365(2)(a) of the Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Plan states in: In addition to the gear specifications and operations provisions of 5 AAC [01.270\(n\)](#), when the commissioner determines that it is necessary for the conservation of king salmon, the commissioner may, by emergency order, close the subsistence fishery and immediately reopen the fishery during which gillnet mesh size may not exceed four inches until sockeye and chum abundance exceeds the king salmon abundance;

The Kuskokwim Salmon Management Working Group (Working Group) is requesting that the use of dip nets be allowed during this critical period when king salmon numbers are at an all-time low. As part of this request, we would like to see the following provision included in a regulation allowing the use of dip nets – “all king salmon caught with a dip net must be released alive to the water.”

We believe that an emergency action by the Board of Fisheries is warranted in accordance with AS AAC 96.625, which states:

In this section, an emergency is an unforeseen, unexpected event that either threatens a fish or game resource, or an unforeseen, unexpected resource situation where a **biologically allowable resource harvest would be precluded by delayed regulatory action and such delay would be significantly burdensome to the petitioners because the resource would be unavailable in the future.**

The Working Group justifies this request for emergency action based on our conviction that an emergency exists pertaining to both resource conservation and to food security for local residents:

1. First and foremost, 5AAC 07.365 – The Kuskokwim Salmon Management Plan states: *(a) The purpose of this management plan is to provide guidelines for management of the Kuskokwim salmon fisheries that result in the sustained yield of salmon stocks large enough to meet escapement goals, amounts reasonably necessary for subsistence uses,*

and for nonsubsistence fisheries. Unfortunately, these objectives have not been attained in recent years.

2. In 2013 all seven of the Kuskokwim's salmon enumeration projects observed the lowest king salmon escapements on record, resulting in a failure to meet the drainagewide escapement goal (Figure 1). A new drainagewide escapement goal of 65,000 to 120,000 king salmon was adopted in 2013. For the second time in the past four years, escapements on the Kuskokwim fell below this mark.
3. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game's (department) preseason forecast for 2013 was for between 160,000-240,000 king salmon, however, the department's preliminary run reconstruction estimate for the entire river was only 94,000 king salmon. Of these, roughly 46,000 were harvested by subsistence fishermen, allowing only about 47,000 to escape to the spawning grounds. Subsequently, the 2013 escapement was the lowest on record, dipping below the 2010 estimate of 49,000.
4. The 2012 preseason forecast was also imprecise and in November and December of 2013, the department reassessed the accuracy of the many preseason modeling tools. The department concluded that management for the upcoming year (i.e., 2014) could be better informed based on the outcome from the prior year. Consequently, the 2014 preseason forecast range is projected to be in the ballpark of 70,000-117,000 (i.e., \pm 25% of 94,000).
5. The annual king salmon subsistence harvest for the entire Kuskokwim drainage often exceeds 80,000. Considering that the upper bound of the 2014 forecast is 117,000 - that would leave a harvestable surplus of 52,000 above escapement needs. This is well below the average harvest of king salmon among Kuskokwim River communities and would be burdensome to many residents in regards to food security.
6. If the return comes in closer to the lower bound of the forecast (i.e., 70,000), there would be no more than 5,000 fish available for harvest (based on the lower bound of 65,000). This represents a potential 94% reduction in the subsistence king salmon fishery. Given that in some years roughly 2,500 subsistence households participate in the fishery - if resources could be equitably distributed - that would leave only two king salmon per household! And that 5,000 fish "surplus" could potentially be harvested in the 4-inch whitefish nets at the beginning of the season, depending on how many nets are deployed. As in past years, the vast majority of that harvest would occur in the lower river; therefore, it's very unlikely that such a scant surplus could be distributed equitably.
7. Significant restrictions during 2012 resulted in a subsistence harvest of only 22,000 kings; the restrictions included 288 hours of total closure during the mid-part of the season and 216 hours where only 6" mesh or less nets were allowed toward the end of the season. This reduction did result in an escapement consistent with the newly established 2013 drainagewide goal. In 2013 a mesh size restriction of 6" or less was implemented during the later part of the season that contributed to a harvest estimated at 46,000 - twice as many as in 2012; but unlike 2012, the escapement goal was not achieved. Unfortunately, there was a substantial disparity among fishers' success in 2013. The lower river residents, although still below their average harvest levels, did manage to put away a considerable amount of kings; the middle and upriver residents, however, were unable to meet their needs.
8. In 2013 the in-season assessment tools proved inadequate to accurately assess the run strength much of the season, so it is unrealistic to expect in 2014 that they could detect

or track the removal of the potential 5,000 fish surplus during the early part of the run. This alone could endanger the possibility of attaining escapement if the run is at the low end of the forecast.

All indications point to a need for restrictions in 2014, even more restrictive than what were imposed in 2012; that year residents experienced the most severe limits ever enacted on the Kuskokwim River. Figure 2 shows one possible schedule proposed by the department allowing very limited opportunity in June and July. Regardless of what restriction are in place, and given the likely limited surplus expected, it's very unlikely that subsistence fishers will be allowed one opening per week as spelled out in the Management Plan (5 AAC 07.365).

If the king salmon run in the Kuskokwim River continues to decline, it is possible and downright frightening, that no harvestable surplus would be available from the get go. As noted, restrictions are almost a certainty. No one wants to repeat last year's scenario of the disparity among fishers' ability to harvest king salmon and the non-attainment of escapement. Limiting the customary methods of fishing that most Kuskokwim residents employ for extended time periods would certainly hinder fishers' ability and opportunity to fulfill their subsistence fisheries needs. Depending on the king salmon conservation measures executed, it is possible that they would interfere with the ability of fishers to harvest other abundant salmon species like chum or sockeye salmon.

The addition of dip nets as a gear option could broaden fishers' opportunity to provide for their families by allowing subsistence activities to proceed without severely impacting the king run. If the Board were to accept this emergency petition, it would provide one more method that could allow fishers an opportunity to attempt to supplement their normal subsistence harvest by catching chum and sockeye salmon.

The Kuskokwim Salmon Management Working Group fully understands that the allowance of dip nets is not the solution to the impending food security dilemma for several reasons: 1) this is a new method and very few residents own a dip net at this time and 2) It will take time for people to learn how and where to use a dip net effectively. However, dip nets, if applied successfully, can help mitigate the impact of king conservation measures on food security for at least some Kuskokwim subsistence users.

Figure 1. Kuskokwim Weir Project King Counts 2003 - 2013

Year	Chinook Salmon Escapement						
	Kwethluk	Tuhsak	George	Kogrukuk	Tatlawiksuk	Takotna	Salmon
2003	14,474	1,064	4,693	11,771	1,683	378	^a
2004	28,605	1,475	5,207	19,651	2,833	461	^a
2005	^a	2,653	3,845	22,000	2,918	499	^a
2006	17,619	1,043	4,357	19,414	1,700	539	^a
2007	13,267	374	4,883	13,029	2,061	418	6,220
2008	5,312	701	2,698	9,730	1,071	413	2,376
2009	5,710	362	3,663	9,702	1,071	311	^a
2010	1,693	201	1,500	5,690	567	178	^a
2011	4,079	288	1,571	6,891	1,012	134	^a
2012	^a	560	2,302	^a	1,116	228	^a
2013 ^b	^a	193	1,158	1,713	495	94	598
SEG	4,100-7,500		1,800-3,300	4,800-8,800			
Average							
2003–2012	11,345	872	3,472	13,098	1,603	356	4,298

^a Weir did not operate or counts were incomplete.

^b Preliminary numbers subject to change.




Figure 2. One of the Potential Subsistence Fishing Schedule's Proposed by ADF&G for the 2014 Season.

Preliminary 2014 Subsistence Fishing Schedule

		June																				
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Rolling Closure/Open Section		Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Section 1: Lower Section of 1-B																						
Section 2: Lower Section 1-B to Tuluksak																						
Section 3: Tuluksak to Chuathbaluk																						
Section 4: Chuathbaluk to Holitna River mouth																						
Section 5: Holitna River mouth to Headwaters																						

		June										July											
		22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
Rolling Closure/Open Section		Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
Section 1: Lower Section of 1-B																							
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		July														August						
		13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2
Rolling Closure/Open Section		Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Section 1: Lower Section of 1-B																						
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Key	
	No restrictions
	Closed to salmon fishing
	Gillnets restricted 6-inch or less mesh size and livebox is required on fishwheels

Chairman Karl Johnstone
Alaska Board of Fisheries
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Boards Support Section
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK
99811-5526

Dear Chairman Johnstone:

The purpose of this letter is to request the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) to consider an emergency petition to add the additional gear limitation of 25-fathom net length during times when the commissioner determines it to be necessary for the conservation of king salmon. This request would be added as a legal gear option for Emergency Order gear restrictions 5AAC 01.270 (n) the following option:

(4) a gillnet may not exceed 25 fathom in length.

We believe that an emergency action by the Board of Fish is warranted in accordance with AS AAC 96.625 which states:

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2. In 2013 all seven of the Kuskokwim's salmon enumeration projects observed the lowest king salmon escapements on record, resulting in a failure to meet the drainagewide escapement goal (Figure 1). A new drainagewide escapement goal of 65,000 to 120,000 king salmon was adopted in 2013. For the second time in the past four years, escapements on the Kuskokwim fell below this mark.
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escape to the spawning grounds. Subsequently, the 2013 escapement was the lowest on record, dipping below the 2010 estimate of 49,000.

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All indications point to a need for restrictions in 2014, even more restrictive than what were imposed in 2012; that year residents experienced the most severe limits ever enacted on the Kuskokwim River. Figure 2 shows one possible schedule proposed by the department allowing very limited opportunity in June and July. Regardless of what restriction are in place, and given the likely limited surplus expected, it's unlikely that subsistence fishers will be allowed one opening per week as spelled out in the Management Plan (5 AAC 07.365).

If the king salmon run in the Kuskokwim River continues to decline, it is possible and downright frightening, that no harvestable surplus would be available from the get go. As noted, restrictions are almost a certainty. No one wants to repeat last year's scenario of the disparity among fishers' ability to harvest king salmon and the non-attainment of escapement.

By enacting this regulation, a significant reduction in per-drift fishing efficiency would occur for a large number of fishers who currently use 50-fathom nets. The use of the larger nets along with the sizeable number of households reliant on subsistence fishing is a contributing factor to why the subsistence fishery has "enormous fishing power" as described by Travis Elison, the department's Area manager; hence, the consideration of the tentative two 4-hour periods shown in Figure 2.

Reducing the subsistence fleet’s fishing power would derive two benefits. It would not only improve the chances of king salmon escaping the fishery and reaching the spawning grounds, it could allow for additional openings which would give fishers more time to harvest other salmon species to fill the void of the weak king abundance.

Limiting the customary methods of fishing that most Kuskokwim residents employ for extended time periods would certainly hinder fishers’ ability and opportunity to fulfill their subsistence fisheries needs. Depending on the king salmon conservation measures executed, it is likely that they would interfere with the ability of fishers to harvest other abundant salmon species like chum or sockeye salmon. Based on a conversation with Sergeant Ken Actin with the Wildlife Troopers in Bethel, there are ways to reduce net length without cutting nets that would make it acceptable for enforcement yet not excessively burden fishermen.

Figure 1. Kuskokwim Weir Project King Counts 2003 - 2013

Year	Chinook Salmon Escapement						Takotna Salmon
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2009	5,710	362	3,663	9,702	1,071	311	^a
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Average							
2003–2012	11,345	872	3,472	13,098	1,603	356	4,298

^a Weir did not operate or counts were incomplete.

^b Preliminary numbers subject to change.

Figure 2. ADF&G Preliminary Subsistence Fishing Schedule

January 8, 2014

Preliminary 2014 Subsistence Fishing Schedule

	June																				
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
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Rolling Closure/Open Section	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
Section 1: Lower Section of 1-B	4 hrs		4 hrs				4 hrs															
Section 2: Lower Section 1-B to Tuluksak	4 hrs				4 hrs				4 hrs													
Section 3: Tuluksak to Chuathbaluk	6 hrs						6 hrs															
Section 4: Chuathbaluk to Holitna River mouth	12 hrs										12 hrs											
Section 5: Holitna River mouth to Headwaters	24 hrs												24 hrs									

	July																					August				
	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2					
Rolling Closure/Open Section	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat					
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Key

	No restrictions
	Closed to salmon fishing
	Gillnets restricted 6-inch or less mesh size and livebox is required on fishwheels

Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group
1 (800) 315-6338 (MEET) Code: 58756# (KUSKO)

ADF&G Bethel toll free: 1 (855) 933-2433

KUSKOKWIM RIVER COMMERCIAL CATCH STATISTICS 1985-2011,
RESTRICTED TO 6-INCH OR LESS MESH SIZE

June 16 - 23 Historical Commercial Catches

Date	Subdistrict	Permits	Hours	Chinook		Sockeye		Chum	
				Catch	CPUE	Catch	CPUE	Catch	CPUE
6/16/1988	1-B	602	6	12,640	3.50	7,408	2.05	72,219	19.99
6/17/1996	1-B	245	2	2,045	4.17	1,850	3.78	11,560	23.59
6/18/1987	1-B	527	9	19,126	4.03	9,118	1.92	13,478	2.84
6/18/1992	1-B	567	8	9,756	2.15	8,508	1.88	32,695	7.21
6/19/1989	1-B	374	8	9,204	3.08	5,504	1.84	41,789	13.97
6/20/1985	W1 & W2	431	6	6,611	2.56	5,361	7.89	20,409	7.89
6/20/1988	1-B	612	6	11,708	3.19	14,502	3.95	113,628	30.94
6/20/1990	1-B	630	6	16,690	4.42	10,318	2.73	30,306	8.02
6/20/1991	1-B	601	6	13,813	3.83	19,732	5.47	13,266	3.68
6/20/1996	W1 & W2	283	2	2,046	3.61	6,423	11.35	27,442	48.48
6/20/2008	1-B	171	6	6,415	6.25	8,653	8.43	12,910	12.58
6/22/1992	W1	619	8	14,554	2.94	6,423	1.30	74,296	15.00
6/22/1995	1-B	569	4	6,895	3.03	4,420	1.94	49,157	21.60
6/23/1989	1-B	277	8	6,011	2.71	7,002	3.16	65,650	29.63
6/23/2009	1-B	167	4	3,003	4.50	8,112	12.14	9,149	13.70
Avg		445	6	9,368	3.6	8,222	4.7	39,197	17.3
Min		167	2	2,045	2.2	1,850	1.3	9,149	2.8
Max		630	9	19,126	6.3	19,732	12.1	113,628	48.5

June 24 - 27 Historical Commercial Catches

Date	Subdistrict	Permits	Hours	Chinook		Sockeye		Chum	
				Catch	CPUE	Catch	CPUE	Catch	CPUE
6/24/1985	W1 & W2	499	6	10,676	3.57	25,876	8.64	45,189	15.09
6/24/1987	W1	607	9	12,867	2.36	24,355	4.46	54,454	9.97
6/24/1988	W1 & W2	657	6	10,379	2.63	20,930	5.31	124,040	31.47
6/24/1991	W1	616	6	12,612	3.41	19,262	5.21	30,632	8.29
6/24/1994	1-B	576	8	14,221	3.09	38,958	8.45	87,214	18.93
6/24/1998	1-B	338	6	6,413	3.16	9,043	4.46	32,467	16.01
6/24/2005	1-B	188	4	2,276	3.03	7,938	10.56	13,553	18.02
6/24/2008	1-B	126	3	1,372	3.63	2,906	7.69	6,576	17.40
6/25/1990	W1	611	6	16,031	4.37	27,024	7.37	58,944	16.08
6/25/1992	W1 & W2	643	8	10,005	1.94	22,852	4.44	59,030	11.48
6/25/1993	1-B	622	8	8,184	1.64	26,363	5.30	34,123	6.86
6/25/2010	1-A	115	4	543	1.18	734	1.60	9,808	21.32
6/26/1986	W1 & W2	517	6	7,972	2.57	41,084	13.24	69,386	22.37
6/26/1989	W1	126	8	1,862	1.85	3,746	3.72	32,373	32.12
6/26/1995	W1 & W2	583	4	11,108	4.76	18,402	7.89	91,719	39.33
6/26/2006	1-A	74	6	1,647	3.71	5,218	11.75	19,694	44.36
6/26/2009	1-B	189	4	2,552	3.38	6,870	9.09	14,466	19.13
6/27/1985	W1 & W2	504	6	9,339	3.09	26,894	8.89	49,706	16.44
6/27/2008	1-B	135	3	990	2.44	3,842	9.49	7,867	19.42
Avg		407	6	7,424	2.9	17,489	7.2	44,276	20.2
Min		74	3	543	1.2	734	1.6	6,576	6.9
Max		657	9	16,031	4.8	41,084	13.2	124,040	44.4

Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group

1 (800) 315-6338 (MEET) Code: 58756# (KUSKO)

ADF&G Bethel toll free: 1 (855) 933-2433

June 28 - July 4 Historical Commercial Catches

Date	Subdistrict	Permits	Hours	Chinook		Sockeye		Chum	
				Catch	CPUE	Catch	CPUE	Catch	CPUE
6/28/1998	W1 & W2	626	6	6,096	1.62	18,267	4.86	160,114	42.63
6/28/2005	1-A	51	3	405	2.65	2,879	18.82	3,178	20.77
6/28/2006	1-B	99	6	846	1.42	6,456	10.87	16,312	27.46
6/28/2010	1-B	216	4	1,181	1.37	3,536	4.09	22,038	25.51
6/29/1990	W1 & W2	659	6	10,069	2.55	19,509	4.93	78,749	19.92
6/29/1992	W1 & W2	617	6	8,138	2.20	26,607	7.19	82,652	22.33
6/29/1995	W1 & W2	579	4	5,679	2.45	20,390	8.80	92,218	39.82
6/29/1998	W1	426	6	6,358	2.49	22,506	8.81	66,789	26.13
6/30/1986	W1 & W2	589	6	4,586	1.30	23,804	6.74	62,399	17.66
6/30/1987	W1	564	9	6,193	1.22	39,112	7.71	112,963	22.25
6/30/1989	W1 & W2	657	8	9,842	1.87	10,801	2.05	138,982	26.44
6/30/1999	1-B	409	6	4,668	1.90	16,772	6.83	22,700	9.25
6/30/2004	1-A	52	2	522	5.02	1,781	17.13	2,798	26.90
6/30/2005	1-A	71	4	850	2.99	6,290	22.15	7,317	25.76
7/1/1985	W1 & W2	528	6	6,947	2.19	32,182	10.16	50,325	15.89
7/1/1991	W1 & W2	646	6	6,449	1.66	25,628	6.61	53,164	13.72
7/1/2005	1-B	151	4	874	1.45	6,962	11.53	27,901	46.19
7/1/2009	1-B	173	3	762	1.47	7,798	15.03	18,833	36.29
7/2/1988	W1 & W2	599	6	3,999	1.11	15,681	4.36	196,071	54.56
7/2/1996	W1	224	2	545	1.22	3,962	8.84	20,915	46.69
7/2/2004	1-A	44	3	488	3.70	1,900	14.39	2,426	18.38
7/3/1986	W1 & W2	564	6	3,392	1.00	16,031	4.74	67,088	19.83
7/3/1987	W1 & W2	595	6	7,295	2.04	44,541	12.48	69,983	19.60
7/3/1989	W1 & W2	647	6	4,971	1.28	6,046	1.56	96,446	24.84
7/3/1995	W1 & W2	484	4	3,131	1.62	17,535	9.06	91,627	47.33
7/3/1998	W1	445	4	2,277	1.28	15,985	8.98	51,471	28.92
7/4/1985	W1	461	6	3,777	1.37	16,126	5.83	28,630	10.35
Avg		414	5	4,087	1.9	15,892	9.1	60,892	27.2
Min		44	2	405	1.0	1,781	1.6	2,426	9.3
Max		659	9	10,069	5.0	44,541	22.1	196,071	54.6

July 5 - 8 Historical Commercial Catches

Date	Subdistrict	Permits	Hours	Chinook		Sockeye		Chum	
				Catch	CPUE	Catch	CPUE	Catch	CPUE
7/5/1988	W1	579	6	2,340	0.67	7,284	2.10	163,971	47.20
7/5/1989	W1 & W2	567	6	3,575	1.05	3,093	0.91	89,269	26.24
7/5/1990	W1 & W2	606	6	4,538	1.25	11,320	3.11	91,232	25.09
7/5/1996	W1 & W2	194	2	316	0.81	3,481	8.97	16,853	43.44
7/5/2000	1-B	224	4	357	0.40	3,658	4.08	11,026	12.31
7/5/2011	1-B	112	4	237	0.53	2,520	5.63	13,884	30.99
7/6/1991	W1 & W2	605	6	2,443	0.67	24,832	6.84	42,441	11.69
7/6/1992	W1 & W2	596	8	3,560	0.75	8,448	1.77	87,036	18.25
7/6/1995	W1 & W2	489	4	1,595	0.82	15,096	7.72	83,618	42.75
7/6/2004	1-A	38	3	238	2.09	1,853	16.25	1,946	17.07
7/6/2010	1-A	87	6	290	0.56	3,554	6.81	17,467	33.46
7/7/1986	W1 & W2	588	6	1,922	0.54	8,373	2.37	56,370	15.98
7/7/1987	W1 & W2	599	6	4,571	1.27	10,655	2.96	107,211	29.83
7/7/2004	1-B	50	4	384	1.92	1,780	8.90	5,086	25.43
7/7/2011	1-A	62	3	106	0.57	2,348	12.62	8,132	43.72
7/8/1988	W1	605	6	1,895	0.52	3,628	1.00	138,858	38.25
7/8/1989	W1	621	6	3,136	0.84	3,177	0.85	119,066	31.96
7/8/1996	W1 & W2	211	2	178	0.42	6,795	16.10	18,801	44.55
Avg		380	5	1,760	0.9	6,772	6.1	59,570	29.9
Min		38	2	106	0.4	1,780	0.9	1,946	11.7
Max		621	8	4,571	2.1	24,832	16.3	163,971	47.2

Art Nelson
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November 8, 2013

The Honorable Sean Parnell, Governor
State of Alaska
PO Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

Dear Governor Parnell,

I submit this letter and resume, and respectfully request to be considered for appointment to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council. I believe I would be a useful and well-suited addition to the Council, bringing a wide range of experience and knowledge, and an ability to make balanced decisions to ensure the sustained health and harvest of our fishery resources.

I grew up spending summers as a crewmember on my parents' commercial salmon fishing vessels on the Copper River flats and in Prince William Sound, and also spent a summer commercial salmon trolling and halibut longlining near Elfin Cove. I've lived in, traveled, and worked closely with the people of Norton Sound, advocating for their subsistence rights and needs, while at the same time working closely with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to assess and help rebuild chum salmon stocks. I was involved in the same effort throughout western Alaska, from Bristol Bay to Kotzebue, with the Bering Sea Fishermen's Association, serving not only subsistence fishers, but balancing those needs with the interests of commercial fishermen. I worked to boost Alaskan hires on the offshore pollock fleet for the At-sea Processors Association, an organization representing the pollock catcher/processor fleet in the Bering Sea. I have also represented the interests of the Community Development Quota program in the development of Federal legislation.

The main theme of my career has been serving western Alaskans as an advocate for their involvement in and benefit from the fisheries of the Bering Sea, as well as the protection and rebuilding of AYK salmon runs for the benefit of subsistence and inshore/in-river commercial fishermen.

Throughout my life in Alaska, I have been an avid outdoorsman and sport fisher, and I take special joy in passing that along to my three sons. Whether it's casting a fly on a clear western Alaska river, trolling for silvers around Pony Cove, jigging for halibut near Esther Island, or simply enjoying the peace and solitude of a slower day of fishing, I've always enjoyed the beauties and bounties that Alaska's fisheries have to offer.

My experience on the Board of Fisheries and active participation in the North Pacific Fishery Management Council process may be equally important. During my time on the Board of Fisheries, I served on the Joint Protocol Committee that interfaced with the Council on issues of overlapping jurisdiction or of mutual interest, and also served as a representative of the Board on the Council's Steller Sea Lion Mitigation Committee. I have also, in my professional capacity, or as a member of the public, been participating in the Council process since 1994 on issues such as salmon bycatch controls and sport halibut management.

My candidacy for the Council would be more than an appointment that represents just subsistence, commercial or sport interests but I believe my unique range of knowledge and experience carries a balanced representation of all three and a strong advocacy for Alaska's best interests in the management of the EEZ fisheries in the north Pacific Ocean and in the Bering Sea. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Art Nelson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Art Nelson

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Work Experience

- Bering Sea Fishermen's Association** March 2008 to present
Anchorage, Alaska
Policy and Outreach Director
Outreach and education on important fishery issues for western Alaska stakeholders. Develop content for newsletters and website. Advocacy for sustainable fisheries and other fishery issues important to western Alaskan residents. Serve as BSFA's representative (and chairman of the steering committee for the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Sustainable Salmon Initiative).
- Art Nelson Consulting** November 2006 to March 2008
Anchorage, Alaska
Principal
Fisheries consulting, under contract, for Coastal Villages Region Fund (CVRF). Provided advice on Federal legislation and other work as it relates to furthering the goals of CVRF and the Western Alaska Community Development Quota program. Completed work under CVRF contract 12/07.
- Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation** September 2004 to November 2006
Anchorage, Alaska
Executive Director
AFDF is a statewide organization that works with the fishing industry to provide needed research and outreach on items such as bycatch reduction, quality enhancement, niche marketing, value-added processing and byproduct utilization. As Executive Director, I was responsible for program oversight, budget development, submitting grant proposals, and oversight of staff and contractors.
- At-sea Processors Association** October 1999 to September 2004
Anchorage, Alaska
Director of Alaska Operations (January-September 2004)
Employment/Development Coordinator (October 1999-January 2004)
Representing the Association in Alaska. Managing an ongoing program to recruit and place Alaskans on Bering Sea pollock catcher/processor vessels operated by member companies. Analyzed catch/bycatch and employment statistics. Represent the interests of member companies and their CDQ investors before fisheries management entities. Helped review and develop comments on changes to fisheries management and the associated analysis documents (NEPA/EIS and ESA Section 7 consultations).

Bering Sea Fishermen's Association

March 1996 to October 1999

Anchorage, Alaska

Fisheries Specialist. Coordinated and assisted with field projects monitoring and restoring chum salmon runs in Kotzebue and Norton Sounds and the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers. Extensive travel and field time across western Alaska. There was considerable collaboration with regional Native non-profit associations (such as Maniilaq, Kawerak, Tanana Chiefs Conference, Kuskokwim Native Association, and the Association of Village Council Presidents) on fishery-related research projects and on fishery management proposals. Principal Investigator for a project that examined alternative commercial fishery resources in the Kotzebue Sound region. Represented western Alaska small-boat fisheries interests at policy meetings such as the Alaska Board of Fisheries and the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council.

Kawerak, Incorporated

March 1994 to March 1996

Nome, Alaska

Fisheries Specialist. Planned and directly implemented field projects monitoring and restoring chum salmon runs to the Norton Sound/Bering Strait region. Extensive travel and field time within the region. Represented Native subsistence and commercial fishing interests of at policy meetings such as the Alaska Board of Fisheries and the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council.

F/V Penny Joy

May-August 1993

Elfin Cove (Hobbit Hole), Alaska

Crewmember. Salmon trolling and halibut longlining in Southeast Alaska.

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

May-July 1990

Cordova, Alaska

Technician I. Worked at remote weir sites, tagging Dolly Varden and Cutthroat Trout.

Veco, Incorporated

June-August 1989

Prince William Sound, Alaska

Oil Recovery Technician. Worked on Exxon Valdez oil spill cleanup efforts, including beach washing, skimmer barge operator and water pump operator.

F/V Orca and F/V Lady Dianne

May-August (many years)

Cordova, Alaska

Crewmember. Worked summer months on family-owned commercial fishing boats in Prince William Sound and on the Copper River flats.

Education

Dimond High School. Anchorage, AK. Graduated 1987

University of Alaska, Fairbanks

Fairbanks, Alaska

Senior status, approximately 4 credits remaining towards B.S. Biology degree

Other relevant experience

Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Sustainable Salmon Initiative

Chair, Steering Committee

January 2011 to present

In response to salmon declines, Bering Sea Fishermen's Association and regional Native organizations (Association of Village Council Presidents, Kawerak, Inc., and Tanana Chiefs Conference) joined with state and federal agencies to create the AYK SSI, a proactive science-based program working cooperatively to identify and address the critical salmon research needs facing this region. The AYK SSI is the largest example of co-management of research-funding addressing salmon within the Pacific Rim and one of the largest, most successful programs of its kind in North America.

Alaska Board of Fisheries

January 2003 to July 2007

Vice-Chair, 2003 and 2004

Chair, 2005 and 2006

Vice-Chair, 2007

The Board of Fisheries is responsible for conserving and developing the fishery resources of the State of Alaska by establishing regulations and making allocation decisions based on legal and regulatory guidelines and with biological and socioeconomic information provided by the Department of Fish and Game and input from the public and Advisory Committees. The Board also interfaced regularly with the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council on issues of overlapping jurisdiction and interest. Four to five meetings per year, approximately 40-60 meeting days annually. Position appointed by the Governor of Alaska and confirmed by the Legislature.

Steller Sea Lion Mitigation Committee

February 2006-2008

The stakeholder committee, established by the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council, is charged with evaluating proposed changes to the fishery protection measures for Steller Sea Lions and making recommendations to the Council.

Anchorage Advisory Committee

2007-2008

Serving as an alternate member on the State of Alaska advisory committee that provides local input on matters to the Alaska Board of Fisheries and Board of Game.