



**Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Board of Fisheries**

P.O. Box 115526  
Juneau, AK 99811-5526  
(907) 465-4110  
Fax: (907) 465-6094  
www.adfg.alaska.gov

Public comment website: <http://www.boards.adfg.state.ak.us/>

**REVIEWER LETTER  
PLEASE READ CAREFULLY**

Dear Reviewer:

August 2015

The Alaska Board of Fisheries (board) will consider this book of regulatory proposals at its October 2015 through March 2016 meetings. The proposals concern changes to the state's fishing regulations submitted timely by members of the public, organizations, advisory committees, and ADF&G staff. With the exception of minor edits, Internet links, and graphics, the proposals are published essentially as received. If you submitted a proposal and find the published version does not reflect your intent, please contact Boards Support as soon as possible. Boards Support will notify the Board and public of concerns through on-time public comment or record copies.

**Proposal Information.** Proposals are often presented as brief statements summarizing intended regulatory changes. In cases where confusion might arise or where the regulation is complex, proposed changes are also written in legal format. Legal format shows bolded and underlined words are **additions** to the regulation text, and bracketed capitalized words are [DELETIONS] from the regulation text.

Reading all proposals in this book is encouraged. Proposals may have statewide application, affect one region or fishery of the state, or recommend change to multiple fisheries within an area or region. The proposals are grouped by relevant meeting as seen in the following Proposal Index. Within each meeting the proposals are organized by region, fishery, or species. Prior to each meeting, the board will create a "roadmap" which will set the tentative order proposals are reviewed and deliberated on at a meeting. With a roadmap in hand, the board will develop an agenda for each meeting to coordinate with the roadmap. The proposal book will note when a proposal will be heard at more than one meeting.

**Public Comment Requested.** The board relies heavily on written comments and oral testimony on the effect of proposed changes. Public comments, in combination with advisory committee comments and ADF&G staff presentations, provide the board with useful biological and socioeconomic information. Written comments become public documents.

**On-time public comment.** The board accepts on-time public comment which must be received no later than the listed deadline (typically two weeks prior to a meeting - see the Tentative Meeting Schedule in this book). On-time comments are added to board member workbooks prior to the meeting, included in the each meeting's Index of Comments, and posted on the Boards Support website in advance of the meeting. Requirements of on-time public comments include -

- Limited to the equivalent of 100 single-sided pages from any one individual or group per proposal.
- Must be received by mail, email, fax, in office, or through the Boards Support website. Submission information is at the top of this letter.
- Must be submitted to fit on 8½” x 11” paper with adequate margins for three-hole punching.
- If submitted through the email address, the proposal must be in Adobe PDF. Web links to YouTube or other video formats, spreadsheets, and PowerPoint presentations are not accepted.

Record copies. After the on-time public comment period closes, the board continues to welcome written comments as “record copies”. Record copies are accepted prior to and during the board meetings. Requirements include –

- Limited to an equivalent of 10 single-sided pages in length from any one individual or group per proposal until the board begins deliberations on the proposal. Once deliberations start record copies are limited to an equivalent of five single-sided pages in length.
- Prior to the start of a meeting, comments must be submitted by mail, fax, or hand delivered in office. After the start of a meeting comments must be submitted by fax or hand delivered at the meeting. Submission information is at the top of this letter.
- If submitted at a meeting, the submitter must provide the required amount of copies which may exceed 25 copies. The number of required copies may vary and will be posted at a meeting.
- Must be on 8½” x 11” paper with adequate margins for three-hole punching.

Public testimony. The board welcomes public testimony at each regularly scheduled regulatory meetings. Public testimony generally begins the first day of the meeting, extending as long as necessary to accommodate those in attendance. There is a sign-up cut-off time set for each meeting as stated on the meeting agenda. The public is generally allotted 3 minutes for testimony. Advisory committee and federal regional advisory council representatives are allotted 10 minutes.

Tips for Providing Comments. Please consider the following advice when providing input to the board.

1. Clearly state proposal number(s) and your position(s). Written comments should indicate the proposal number(s) to which the comments apply and should clearly indicate “support for” or “opposition to” the proposal. If the comments support a modification in the proposal, indicate “support as amended” with the preferred amendment in writing.
2. Explain why. Help the board understand the rationale for your recommendation by identifying factors to take into account when acting on a proposal. A brief description consisting of a couple of sentences on why you support or oppose the proposal is sufficient.
3. Keep comments brief. Board members are extremely busy. Clearly stating proposals and one’s position with supporting rationale will assist the board members.
4. Follow the requirements. Pages in excess of the page limit and comments not in the proper format will be discarded. Testimony greater than the allotted time will be cut short.
5. The sooner the better. As a practical matter comments submitted after the board begins deliberations are likely to receive less consideration than comments submitted earlier.
6. Write clearly. Whether typed or handwritten, use dark ink and write legibly. If making comments on more than one proposal please do not use separate pages for each proposal - simply begin the next set of written comments by listing the next proposal number.
7. Use the committee process. The board utilizes “committees” throughout its meetings as a way to receive much greater detail from the participating public. If you are able to participate throughout the meeting, public testimony should be tailored to encompass major items of importance. Fine details may be reserved for committee work.

**ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES  
2015/2016 PROPOSAL BOOK**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<u>INTRODUCTION SECTION</u>	<u>Page Number</u>
Reviewer Letter.....	i
Table of Contents.....	iii
Tentative Meeting Schedule.....	vi
Long-Term Meeting Cycle.....	vii
Board of Fisheries Membership Roster.....	viii
Boards Support Section Staff List.....	ix
Draft Public/Legal Notice.....	x
Index of Proposals.....	xiv
Proposals by Author.....	xxxii

<u>PROPOSAL SECTION</u>	<u>Page Number</u>
-------------------------	--------------------

**ALASKA PENINSULA / CHIGNIK / ALEUTIAN ISLANDS- BERING SEA PACIFIC COD**

Chignik Pacific Cod.....	3
South Alaska Peninsula Pacific Cod.....	8
Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands Pacific Cod.....	11

**BRISTOL BAY FINFISH**

Commercial Salmon District Boundaries, Registration, Permit Stacking.....	26
Alaska Peninsula Area/Bristol Bay Area Boundary.....	26
District Boundaries/Gear.....	29
Registration.....	32
Permit Stacking.....	40
Commercial Salmon Management Plans and District.....	47
Egegik/Ugashik.....	47
Naknek/Kvichak.....	48
Nushagak.....	51
Togiak.....	61
Subsistence, Sport, Commercial Herring, Area Boundary.....	63
Bristol Bay Subsistence.....	63
Bristol Bay Sport Fisheries.....	67
Bristol Bay Herring.....	70
Additional Proposals 219-221.....	184

**ARCTIC / YUKON / KUSKOKWIM FINFISH**

Kuskokwim Area Salmon and Herring.....	77
Kuskokwim Salmon Management Plan.....	77
Subsistence Salmon.....	80
Commercial Salmon.....	85
Sport Salmon.....	87
Commercial Herring.....	88
Yukon Area Salmon.....	88
Management Plans.....	88

Subsistence.....	96
Commercial.....	102
Norton Sound-Port Clarence Area Salmon .....	108
Subsistence.....	108
Commercial.....	111
Norton Sound/Yukon Area Boundary .....	112
AYK Resident Species .....	113
Sport.....	113
Subsistence.....	118
Personal Use .....	121
Commercial.....	121

**ALASKA PENINSULA / ALEUTIAN ISLANDS / CHIGNIK FINFISH**

Area Boundary and North Alaska Peninsula District.....	127
Alaska Peninsula Area/Bristol Bay Area Boundary .....	127
North Alaska Peninsula Salmon Northern District .....	130
Commercial Salmon Chignik, South Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Island, Gear and Seaward Boundary .....	144
Chignik Salmon .....	144
South Alaska Peninsula Southeastern District Mainland Salmon.....	150
South Alaska Peninsula Salmon June Management Plan .....	154
South Alaska Peninsula Salmon Post-June Management Plan.....	160
Aleutian Island Salmon.....	160
Alaska Peninsula Salmon Gear and Seaward Boundary.....	161
Alaska Peninsula/Aleutian Islands Commercial Herring and Groundfish, and Subsistence and Sport Fish.....	164
Aleutian Islands Groundfish .....	164
Dutch Harbor Food and Bait Herring Fishery .....	166
Alaska Peninsula/Aleutian Islands Subsistence.....	167
Alaska Peninsula/Aleutian Islands Sport Fish .....	167

**STATEWIDE FINFISH AND SUPPLEMENTAL ISSUES**

Method and Means/Gear .....	172
Sport .....	172
Special Harvest Area Management.....	172
Methods and Means, Bag Limits .....	173
Commercial .....	176
Forage Fish .....	176
Identification of Gear .....	177
Salmon .....	178
Groundfish .....	180
Herring.....	184

**ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES  
2015/2016 Cycle  
Tentative Meeting Schedule**

**Bristol Bay Finfish; Arctic, Yukon, and Kuskokwim Finfish; Alaska Peninsula / Chignik / Bering Sea – Aleutian Islands Pacific Cod; Statewide Finfish and Supplemental Issues**

PROPOSAL DEADLINE: 5:00 p.m. Friday, April 10, 2015

<b>Meeting Dates</b>	<b>Topics</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Comment Deadline</b>
<b>October 21-22, 2015</b> [2 days]	<b>Work Session</b> ACRs, cycle organization, Stocks of Concern	<b>Anchorage</b> Egan Convention Center	Oct. 1, 2015
<b>Nov. 30-Dec. 1, 2015</b> [2 days]	<b>Alaska Peninsula / Chignik / Aleutian Islands- Bering Sea Pacific Cod</b>	<b>Anchorage</b> Egan Convention Center	Nov. 19, 2015
<b>Nov. 30-Dec. 9, 2015</b> [8 days]	<b>Bristol Bay Finfish</b>	<b>Anchorage</b> Egan Convention Center	Nov. 19, 2015
<b>January 12-17, 2016</b> [6 days]	<b>Arctic / Yukon / Kuskokwim Finfish</b>	<b>Fairbanks</b> Alpine Lodge	Dec. 28, 2015
<b>Feb. 23-Mar. 1, 2016</b> [8 days]	<b>Alaska Peninsula / Aleutian Island / Chignik Finfish</b>	<b>Anchorage</b> Sheraton Hotel	Feb. 8, 2016
<b>March 8-12, 2016</b> [5 days]	<b>Statewide Finfish and Supplemental Issues</b>	<b>Anchorage</b> Hilton Hotel	February 18, 2016

Total Meeting Days: 31

Agenda Change Request Deadline: August 21, 2015 [60 days prior to fall worksession]

*Amended July 15, 2015*

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES  
**LONG-TERM MEETING CYCLE**  
 (Three-year cycle)

The board meeting cycle generally occurs from October through March. The board considers changes to regulations on a region-based schedule. The fisheries include subsistence, sport, guided sport, personal use, and commercial. Special petition and agenda change request procedures are available for the board to consider out-of-cycle requests.

NOTES:

- 1) In the year preceding a board cycle, the board will announce a call for proposal that prescribes which regions, species, and fisheries are set for regulatory review.
- 2) The proposal deadline is April 10 every year. *If April 10 falls on a weekend, the proposal deadline is the Friday preceding that weekend.*

<b>Meeting Areas and Species</b>
Alaska Peninsula/Bering Sea-Aleutian Island/Chignik Areas all Finfish Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Areas all Finfish Bristol Bay Area all Finfish Statewide Provisions for Finfish <i>Meeting Cycle Years: 2015/2016 2018/2019 2021/2022 2024/2025</i>
Cook Inlet Area all Finfish Kodiak Area all Finfish Statewide (except Southeast/Yakutat) King and Tanner Crab <i>Meeting Cycle Years: 2016/2017 2019/2020 2022/2023 2025/2026</i>
Prince William Sound Area all Finfish Southeast/Yakutat Areas all Finfish and Shellfish Statewide Dungeness Crab, Shrimp, and Miscellaneous Shellfish <i>Meeting Cycle Years: 2017/2018 2020/2021 2023/2024 2026/2027</i>

**THE MEETING CYCLE REPEATS ITSELF EVERY THREE YEARS.** This schedule was adopted November 9, 1990 and revised based on workload and public participation.

**ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES**  
MEMBER LIST  
(as of May 20, 2015)

---

<b>NAME AND ADDRESS</b>	<b>TERM EXPIRES</b>
<b>Tom Kluberton</b> (Chair)	6/30/2016
<b>John Jensen</b> (Vice Chair)	6/30/2017
<b>Reed Morisky</b>	6/30/2017
<b>Sue Jeffrey</b>	6/30/2017
<b>Fritz Johnson</b>	6/30/2016
<b>Orville Huntington</b>	6/30/2018
<b>Robert (Bob) Mumford</b>	6/30/2018

\*\*\*\*\*

Alaska Board of Fisheries members may be reached at:

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME  
Boards Support Section  
P.O. Box 115526  
Juneau, AK 99811-5526  
(907) 465-4110 PHONE  
(907) 465-6094 FAX

Boards Support Section website: [www.boardoffisheries.adfg.alaska.gov](http://www.boardoffisheries.adfg.alaska.gov)  
Glenn Haight, Executive Director, Alaska Board of Game  
e-mail: [glenn.haight@alaska.gov](mailto:glenn.haight@alaska.gov)

## BOARDS SUPPORT SECTION STAFF LIST

Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Mailing address: P.O. Box 115526, Juneau, AK 99811-5526  
Physical location: 1255 West 8th Street  
Phone: (907) 465-4110; Fax: (907) 465-6094

---

### HEADQUARTERS

#### Board of Fisheries

**Glenn Haight**, Exec. Director II, 465-6095  
**Frances Leach**, Pub. Specialist II, 465-4046

#### Board of Game

**Kristy Tibbles**, Exec. Director I, 465-6098  
**Jessalynn Rintala**, Pub. Specialist II, 465-6097

**Shannon Moeser**, Administrative Officer I, 465-6096  
**Krista Messing**, Administrative Assistant I, 465-4110

### REGIONAL OFFICES

#### Southeast Region (North of Frederick Sound)

**Frances Leach**  
P.O. Box 115526  
Juneau, AK 99811-5526  
Phone: 465-4046  
Fax: 465-6094

#### Western Region

**Vacant**  
P.O. Box 1467  
Bethel, AK 99559  
Phone: 543-2433  
Fax: 543-2021

#### Southeast Region (South of Frederick Sound)

**Jessalynn Rintala**  
P.O. Box 115526  
Juneau, AK 99811-5526  
Phone: 465-6097  
Fax: 465-6094

#### Arctic Region

**Carmen Daggett**  
P.O. Box 689  
Kotzebue, AK 99752  
Phone: 442-1717  
Fax: 442-2420

#### Southcentral Region

**Sherry Wright**  
333 Raspberry Road  
Anchorage, AK 99518-1599  
Phone: 267-2354  
Fax: 267-2489

#### Interior Region

**Nissa Pilcher**  
1300 College Road  
Fairbanks, AK 99701-1599  
Phone: 459-7263  
Fax: 459-7258

#### Southwest Region

**Taryn O'Connor-Brito**  
P.O. Box 1030  
Dillingham, AK 99576  
Phone: 842-5142  
Fax: 842-5514



(DRAFT) NOTICE OF PROPOSED CHANGES IN THE  
REGULATIONS OF THE ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES

The Alaska Board of Fisheries proposes to adopt, amend, or repeal regulation changes in Title 5 of the Alaska Administrative Code, dealing with fishery and aquatic plant resources in the areas designated below, including the following regulations:

1. IN THE BRISTOL BAY AREA, INCLUDING THE BRISTOL BAY COMMERCIAL HERRING AREA; IN THE ARCTIC-KOTZEBUE, NORTON SOUND-PORT CLARENCE, YUKON, AND KUSKOKWIM AREAS (collectively referred to as Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim or A-Y-K Areas), INCLUDING THE KUSKOKWIM COMMERCIAL HERRING AREA, AND IN THE YUKON RIVER, TANANA RIVER, AND KUSKOKWIM-GOODNEWS SPORT FISH AREAS; IN THE ALASKA PENINSULA, ALEUTIAN ISLANDS, CHIGNIK, AND ATKA-AMLIA AREAS, INCLUDING THE ALASKA PENINSULA-ALEUTIAN ISLANDS COMMERCIAL HERRING AREA AND THE ALASKA PENINSULA-ALEUTIAN ISLANDS SPORT FISH AREA; IN THE EASTERN GULF OF ALASKA, PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND, COOK INLET, KODIAK, SOUTH ALASKA PENINSULA, CHIGNIK, BERING SEA-ALEUTIAN ISLANDS, AND CHUKCHI-BEAUFORT COMMERCIAL GROUND FISH AREAS,; AND STATEWIDE (GENERAL PROVISIONS) FINFISH REGULATION.

A. In the **commercial, sport, guided sport, personal use, and aquatic plant fisheries:** fishing seasons, periods, and opening and closing times; bag, possession, size, age, sex, and harvest limits; harvest levels, thresholds, goals, or quotas; bycatch provisions; districts, subdistricts, sections, subsections, areas, and other management boundaries; locations open and closed to fishing; methods and means; gear specifications; gear, vessel, and general restrictions, including marking requirements definitions, and operational requirements and limitations, and registration and permit requirements; registration areas (including exclusive and superexclusive registration areas), permits, harvest record and reporting, and harvest marking requirements; forage fishery classification and management plans; landing requirements; management plans. special harvest areas, and other regulations for the conservation, development and allocation of fishery and aquatic plant resources among beneficial uses; permit stacking; guiding principles; emergency order authority; restrictions and requirements for the retention, tendering, dispatch, possession, sale, release, or purchase of fish; methods of release; registration and reporting requirements for fish guides, guided anglers, catchers, processors, buyers and transporters; onboard observer requirements; fish storage and inspection requirements.

B. In the **subsistence fisheries:** identify subsistence uses and users; fishing seasons, periods, and opening and closing times; harvest levels; methods and means; size, age, sex, and harvest limits; districts, subdistricts, sections, subsections, areas, and other management boundaries; locations open and closed to fishing; gear, vessel, and general restrictions, including marking requirements, definitions, and

operational requirements and limitations; gear specifications; registration and permit requirements, requirements for marking and possession of fish; management plans and other regulations for the conservation, development and allocation of fishery and aquatic plant resources among beneficial uses and users; identify customary and traditional uses of fish stocks; determine amounts reasonably necessary for subsistence uses; distinguish among subsistence users, including creating and regulating tier II fisheries; and establish, change or adjust subsistence fisheries.

For a copy of the proposed regulation changes contact the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, (ADF&G) Boards Support Section, P.O. Box 115526, Juneau, AK 99811-5526, (907) 465-4110, or <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fisheriesboard.main>.

You may comment on the proposed regulation changes, including the potential costs to the private persons of complying with the proposed changes, by submitting written comments limited to no more than 100 single-sided or 50 double-sided pages to the ADF&G, Boards Support Section, at P.O. Box 115526, Juneau, AK 99811-5526. Additionally, the Boards Support Section will accept comments by facsimile at (907) 465-6094, by email to [dfg.bof.comments@alaska.gov](mailto:dfg.bof.comments@alaska.gov) (PDF format only), or online at <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fisheriesboard.main>. Individuals and advisory committees directing public comment at an ADF&G office or personnel other than as prescribed above do not have assurance their comments will be received and entered as public comment.

Comments are due generally no later than two weeks prior to the meeting during which the topics are considered. Unless otherwise specified for a particular meeting in a published notice, written comments exceeding the page limit from any one individual or group relating to proposals at any one meeting will not be accepted. Written comments limited to 10 single-sided or 5 double-sided pages in length from any one individual or group are accepted after the two-week deadline and inserted in board member workbooks at the beginning of the meeting, and are also accepted during the meeting and until the board begins proposal deliberations.

#### **ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT STANDARD:**

Once a meeting begins and during a meeting written comments from any one individual or group may be submitted by hand delivery at any time if the required number of copies are provided (typically in excess of 25 copies). Individuals not in attendance at a meeting may fax comments to 907-465-6094. As a practical matter, comments submitted after the board begins deliberations on relevant proposals are likely to receive less consideration than comments submitted earlier.

Once proposal deliberations begins at meetings, the board will **ONLY** accept written comments on the topics being considered at the meeting from any one individual or group that are not more than five single-sided pages, or the equivalent number of double-sided pages, unless specific information is requested by the board that requires more pages than allowed under this standard.

Each meeting will generally start at 8:30 a.m. on the first day of the meeting dates below unless the board directs a different start time. The public oral testimony period of each regulatory meeting

begins after staff reports and continues until everyone who has signed up timely and is present has an opportunity to be heard. The board will take oral testimony only from those who register before the cut-off time announced by the board chair at each meeting. The length of oral statements may be limited to three minutes or less. Anyone interested in, or affected by, the subject matter contained in this legal notice should make written or oral comments to have their views considered by the board. Additional public hearings with board committees may be held during the meeting before proposal deliberation.

### ***TENTATIVE MEETING SCHEDULE***

#### **Alaska Peninsula / Bering Sea – Aleutian Islands / Chignik Pacific Cod**

November 30-December 1, 2015

Egan Convention Center, 555 W. 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska

Comment Deadline: November 19, 2015

#### **Bristol Bay Finfish**

December 2-9, 2015

Egan Convention Center, 555 W. 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska

Comment Deadline: November 19, 2015

#### **Arctic / Yukon / Kuskokwim Finfish**

January 12-17, 2016

Alpine Lodge, 4920 Dale Road, Fairbanks, Alaska

Comment Deadline: December 28, 2015

#### **Alaska Peninsula / Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands / Chignik Finfish**

February 23-March 1, 2016

Sheraton Hotel, 401 E. 6th Avenue Anchorage, Alaska

Comment Deadline: February 8, 2016

#### **Statewide Finfish General Provisions, State-waters Pollock, and Supplemental Issues**

March 8-12, 2016

Hilton Hotel, 500 W 3rd Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska

Comment Deadline: February 18, 2016

Any changes to meeting locations, dates or times, or rescheduling of topics or subject matter will be announced by news release. Please watch for these announcements in the news media or call (907) 465-4110. Please carefully review the ***PROPOSAL INDEX*** available for the meeting for specific proposals to be addressed by the board. Copies of the proposal indices are in the proposal book, available online at <http://www.boards.adfg.state.ak.us>, and at the relevant meeting. State-waters pollock proposals scheduled for the Statewide Finfish meeting, March 8-12, 2016, will be received by Boards Support by September 4, 2015. The board may also include accepted agenda change requests as new proposals following its October 21-22, 2015 work session. Any additional proposals will be noticed and made available online and upon request.

Anyone interested in or affected by subsistence, personal use, commercial fishing, sport, guided sport, or aquatic plant regulations are hereby informed that the Board of Fisheries may consider

any or all of the subject areas covered by this notice. Under AS 44.62.200(b), the board may review the full range of activities appropriate to any of the subjects listed in this notice. The board may make changes to the personal use, sport, guided sport or commercial fishing regulations as may be required to ensure the subsistence priority in AS 16.05.258. On its own motion, after public hearing, the board may adopt, amend, reject, supplement, or take no action on these subjects without further notice. In addition, the board may adopt other regulations necessary to implement, administer, or enforce the regulations adopted. **THE BOARD IS NOT LIMITED BY THE SPECIFIC LANGUAGE OR CONFINES OF THE ACTUAL PROPOSALS THAT HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED BY THE PUBLIC OR STAFF.** The language of the final regulations may be different from that of the proposed regulations. YOU SHOULD COMMENT DURING THE TIME ALLOWED IF YOUR INTERESTS COULD BE AFFECTED.

If you are a person with a disability who needs special accommodation in order to participate in the proposed regulation process, please contact Glenn Haight at (907) 465-4110 no later than two weeks prior to the beginning of each meeting to ensure necessary accommodations can be provided.

**Statutory Authority:** AS 16.05 - AS 16.20, AS 16.40

**Statutes Being Implemented, Interpreted, or Made Specific:** AS 16.05 - AS 16.20, AS 16.40

**Fiscal Information:** The proposed regulatory actions are not expected to require an increased appropriation.



\_\_\_\_\_  
Glenn Haight, Executive Director  
Alaska Board of Fisheries

07/31/2015

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES**  
**ALASKA PENINSULA / CHIGNIK / ALEUTIAN ISLANDS- BERING SEA PACIFIC**  
**COD**  
**NOVEMBER 30–DECEMBER 1, 2015**

**PROPOSAL INDEX**

*Following is a list of proposals that will be considered at the above meeting sorted by general topic. A board committee roadmap will be developed and distributed prior to the meeting.*

**PROPOSAL NUMBER (21 proposals)      SUBJECT**

**Chignik Pacific Cod (9 proposals)**

- 1                    Add purse seine gear as an additional gear type to share the 10 percent mechanical jigging machine and hand troll (jig) gear allocation in the Chignik Area state-waters Pacific cod fishery.
- 2                    Allow bycatch retention of Pacific cod in the Chignik Area salmon seine fishery. *(This proposal will be heard at the Pacific cod meeting and heard and deliberated on at the Alaska Peninsula / Chignik / Aleutian Islands Finfish meeting.)*
- 3                    Apportion the Chignik Area state-waters Pacific cod allocation for pot vessels by vessel length.
- 4                    Establish daily pot gear fishing periods for the Chignik Area state-waters Pacific cod fishery.
- 5                    Change date that gear limits may be removed in the Chignik Area state-waters Pacific cod fishery.
- 6                    Include a change in designation of Chignik Area from a superexclusive registration area to a nonexclusive registration area after October 30 in the Chignik Area state-waters Pacific cod fishery.
- 7                    Change pot storage regulations for the Chignik Area state-waters Pacific cod pot gear fishery.
- 8                    Limit the number of pots in the parallel Pacific cod fishery in the Chignik Area to 60 per vessel.
- 9                    Reduce waters closed for the protection of Steller sea lions during the parallel Pacific cod fishery in the Chignik Area.

**South Alaska Peninsula Pacific Cod (4 proposals)**

- 10                    Increase the South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters Pacific cod fishery guideline harvest level from 30 percent to 35 percent of the Western Gulf of Alaska acceptable biological catch.
- 11                    Increase the South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters Pacific cod fishery guideline harvest level from 30 percent to 40 percent of the Western Gulf of Alaska acceptable biological catch.
- 12                    Apportion the South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters Pacific cod allocation for pot vessels by vessel length.
- 13                    Resolve conflict in pot storage regulations for the South Alaska Peninsula state-waters Pacific cod pot gear fishery.

### **Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands Pacific Cod (8 proposals)**

- 14 Calculate guideline harvest levels for Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands state-waters Pacific cod fisheries based on federal acceptable biological catch for subareas of the federal Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands area.
- 15 Expand the Dutch Harbor Subdistrict state-waters Pacific cod fishery boundaries and increase the state-waters fishery guideline harvest level from three percent to nine percent of the federal Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands acceptable biological catch.
- 16 Increase guideline harvest level for the Dutch Harbor Subdistrict state-waters Pacific cod fishery from three percent to seven percent of the federal Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands acceptable biological catch.
- 17 Increase the vessel size limit from 58 to 125 feet overall length for the Dutch Harbor Subdistrict state-waters Pacific cod fishery.
- 18 Align Aleutian Islands District state-waters Pacific cod season opening and closing dates with recent changes to federal Pacific cod management.
- 19 Modify vessel size limit for longline vessels in the Aleutian Islands District state-waters Pacific cod B season based on remaining guideline harvest level.
- 20 Define waters between 175° W long to 178° W long as the Adak District in the Aleutian Islands District state-waters Pacific cod fishery.
- 21 Update state-waters Pacific cod management plans of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands with current federal references for Steller sea lion protection.

**ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES  
BRISTOL BAY FINFISH  
DECEMBER 2–9, 2015**

**PROPOSAL INDEX**

*Following is a list of proposals that will be considered at the above meeting sorted by general topic. A board committee roadmap will be developed and distributed prior to the meeting.*

**PROPOSAL NUMBER (73 proposals)      SUBJECT**

**Commercial Salmon District Boundaries, Registration, Permit Stacking (34 proposals)**

*Alaska Peninsula Area/Bristol Bay Area Boundary (3 proposals) This set of proposals will be heard at the Bristol Bay Finfish meeting, and heard and deliberated on at the Alaska Peninsula/Chignik/Aleutian Islands Finfish meeting.*

- |    |   |
|----|---|
| 22 | Move the Cinder River, Inner Port Heiden, and Outer Port Heiden sections of the Northern District from the Alaska Peninsula Area to the Bristol Bay Area. |
| 23 | Move the Cinder River, Inner Port Heiden, and Outer Port Heiden sections of the Northern District from the Alaska Peninsula Area to the Bristol Bay Area. |
| 24 | Move all waters of the Northern District east of the latitude of Cape Seniavin from the Alaska Peninsula Area to the Bristol Bay Area.                    |

***District Boundaries/Gear (8 proposals)***

- |     |  |
|-----|--|
| 25  | Expand district boundary lines.  |
| 26  | Create new general fishing sections that are in effect following achievement of escapement goals, or July 17, until July 27.   |
| 27  | Require that a CFEC permit holder's name displayed on a set gillnet site marking sign complies with the same character size marking requirements for permit numbers. <i>(This proposal will be heard at the Bristol Bay Finfish meeting, and heard and deliberated on at the Statewide Finfish meeting.)</i> |
| 28  | Change the character size requirements for set gillnet marking signs. <i>(This proposal will be heard at the Bristol Bay Finfish meeting, and heard and deliberated on at the Statewide Finfish meeting.)</i>  |
| 29  | Allow a set gillnet permit holder to operate and deploy gillnet gear seaward of the permit holder's own set gillnet, and within the permit holder's setnet site.   |
| 30  | Change the description of set gillnet exemptions that allow operations where beaches at mean low tide are not connected to either exposed land or land not covered at high tide, by deleting references to regulatory markers.   |
| 220 | Prohibit net barges, floating processors, tenders, and hard fixed buoys in waters of the Egegik District during open drift gillnet fishing periods.  |
| 221 | Prohibit tenders, fish buyers, and fish transport vessels from anchoring within 1,500 feet of set gillnet sites.   |

***Registration (14 proposals)***

- 31 Change the area registration requirements to require district registration prior to fishing in a district in Bristol Bay.
- 32 Change the area registration date requirement for the Bristol Bay commercial salmon fishery.
- 33 Change the area registration date requirement for the Bristol Bay commercial salmon fishery.
- 34 Reduce the required waiting period when registering for a new district from 48 hours to 12 hours.
- 35 Require drift gillnet operations to register the day of fishing during emergency order periods.
- 36 Change the registration requirement for commercial salmon fishing in the Egegik District.
- 37 Change the area registration date requirement from June 25 to June 1 for the Naknek-Kvichak, Egegik, and Ugashik districts for the drift gillnet fleet.
- 38 Change registration requirements for fisheries under emergency order conditions and change the registration date for the Naknek-Kvichak, Egegik, and Ugashik districts from June 25 to June 18.
- 39 For the Naknek-Kvichak District, eliminate the registration date of June 25, and require registration only before fishing in the district.
- 40 Change the drift gillnet registration date in the Naknek-Kvichak District from June 25 to June 17.
- 41 Change the area registration requirement for the Naknek-Kvichak, Egegik, and Ugashik districts by removing the June 25 start date.
- 42 Allow set gillnet operators to transfer within the Nushagak statistical areas without the 48-hour time requirement.
- 43 Repeal set gillnet reregistration requirement for statistical areas within the Nushagak District.
- 44 Modify Togiak District registration restriction requirements that apply until July 27 to include a fishing vessel.

***Permit Stacking (9 proposals)***

- 45 Reauthorize Bristol Bay set gillnet permit stacking.
- 46 Allow permit stacking for set gillnet operations.
- 47 Allow permit stacking for set gillnet operations and up to one and one-half the current legal limit of gear for one permit to be operated when permit stacking.
- 48 Allow permit stacking for set gillnet operations in the Bristol Bay Area.
- 49 Allow two set gillnet permit holders to jointly operate with up to 75 fathoms of set gillnet gear and require both permit numbers on identification sign.
- 50 Allow permit stacking for set gillnet operations in the Egegik District.
- 51 Allow drift gillnet permit stacking for an individual who owns two drift gillnet permits in Bristol Bay.
- 52 Allow drift gillnet permit stacking for an individual who owns two drift gillnet permits in Bristol Bay and the operation of 200 fathoms of drift



- gillnet gear from a vessel with an individual holding two drift gillnet permits.
- 53 Increase the amount of drift gillnet gear allowed when two permit holders are jointly operating.

### **Commercial Salmon Management Plans and District Provisions (25 proposals)**

#### ***Egegik/Ugashik (2 proposals)***

- 54 Close by the Egegik District Special Harvest Area to commercial salmon fishing for five days during times of high intercept fishing.
- 55 Modify set gillnet operations in the Ugashik District.

#### ***Naknek/Kvichak (5 proposals)***

- 56 Create an inriver Alagnak River Salmon Fishery Management Plan.
- 57 Create an inriver Kvichak River Salmon Fishery Management Plan.
- 58 Expand the boundaries of the Naknek Section of the Naknek-Kvichak District.
- 59 Revise boundaries of closed waters at Graveyard Point in the Naknek-Kvichak District.
- 60 Create a special harvest area in the Graveyard Creek area.

#### ***Nushagak (15 proposals)***

- 61 Increase the minimum distance drift gillnet operations must maintain from a set gillnet operation in the Nushagak District.
- 62 Increase the minimum distance drift gillnet operations must maintain from a set gillnet operation in the Nushagak District.
- 63 Change the seaward minimum distance between set gillnet gear in the Clark's Point area in the Nushagak District.
- 64 Increase fishing time for drift gillnet gear during incoming tides in the Nushagak District.
- 65 In the Nushagak District repeal emergency order authority to limit gillnet mesh to not exceed four and three-quarters inches.
- 66 Amend the Nushagak River Coho Salmon Management Plan to establish a fixed escapement goal, change the fishery start date, and repeal language pertaining to pink salmon escapement.
- 67 Change the Nushagak River Coho Salmon Management Plan to reflect changes in escapement goals that have previously been implemented.
- 219 Address allocation impacts that may come from potential changes in escapement goals and trigger points in the Nushagak River Coho Salmon Management Plan.
- 68 Repeal Wood River Sockeye Salmon Special Harvest Area Management Plan.
- 69 Amend the Wood River Sockeye Salmon Special Harvest Area Management Plan to eliminate management based on Nushagak District drift and set gillnet gear allocations.
- 70 Modify the Wood River Sockeye Salmon Special Harvest Area Management Plan to open separate drift and set gillnet fishing periods

based on achievement of gear allocation instead of a fixed seasonal fishing period ratio.

- 71 Update the description of the Wood River Special Harvest Area by deleting references to regulatory markers.
- 72 Change the description of statistical areas in the Nushagak District by deleting references to department regulatory markers, and renaming the Nushagak Statistical Area.
- 73 Redefine the description of the Nushagak District and the Igushik Section in the Nushagak District by deleting references to department regulatory markers.
- 74 Redefine the description of closed waters for salmon in the Snake River in the Nushagak District by deleting a reference to department regulatory markers.

***Togiak (3 proposals)***

- 75 Reduce the amount of time that certain waters in the Togiak District are closed to commercial fishing for salmon with a drift gillnet.
- 76 Change the current description of the Osviak Section in the Togiak District by correcting a GPS coordinate in the description.
- 77 Change the Togiak District Salmon Management Plan to reflect recent department escapement goal changes, and remove coho and king salmon goals.

**Subsistence, Sport, Commercial Herring (14 proposals)**

***Bristol Bay Subsistence (5 proposals)***

- 78 Change the boundaries, methods of harvest, and seasons for subsistence harvests of sockeye salmon in the Naknek River drainage.
- 79 Eliminate subsistence fishing period for the Naknek, Egegik, and Ugashik Rivers to allow subsistence salmon fishery to occur any time.
- 80 Re-describe the subsistence fishing area in the Nushagak District that is restricted to three days per week by removing references to regulatory markers.
- 81 Define subsistence fishing boundaries so that the 10 fathom net restriction applies to Dillingham beaches and the 25 fathom net length restriction applies elsewhere, and remove reference to department regulatory markers.
- 82 Establish and adopt amounts reasonably necessary for subsistence uses for herring spawn on kelp in waters of the Togiak District.

***Bristol Bay Sport Fisheries (5 proposals)***

- 83 Allow the traditional harvest of whitefish and non-salmon subsistence fish in specific waters of the Newhalen River.
- 84 Establish non-retention king salmon sport fishing in the Big Creek drainage of the Naknek River drainage.
- 85 Redefine the sport fishing boundary description for non-retention of king salmon in the Big Creek drainage.

- 86 Implement a mail-in requirement for all king salmon harvest tickets in Bristol Bay sport fisheries.
- 87 Eliminate the use of egg-simulating lures in rainbow trout fishing.

***Bristol Bay Herring (4 proposals)***

- 88 Change the regulatory description for herring purse seine and hand purse seine.
- 89 Delete references to sac roe in the Bristol Bay Herring Management Plan.
- 90 Change the management plan to allow the department to waive the catch allocation requirement for gillnet and purse seine fleets.
- 91 Redefine the description of closed waters for the Togiak herring fishery by deleting references to department regulatory markers.

**ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES  
ARCTIC / YUKON / KUSKOKWIM FINFISH  
JANUARY 12–17, 2016**

**PROPOSAL INDEX**

*Following is a list of proposals that will be considered at the above meeting sorted by general topic. A board committee roadmap will be developed and distributed prior to the meeting.*

**PROPOSAL NUMBER (55 proposals)    SUBJECT**

**Kuskokwim Area Salmon and Herring (15 proposals)**

***Kuskokwim Salmon Management Plan (3 proposals)***

- |    |   |
|----|---|
| 92 | Modify the Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Plan to manage the king salmon subsistence fishery based on the Bethel Test Fishery. |
| 93 | Modify the Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Plan to establish an inriver run goal of king salmon above the Bethel Test Fishery.  |
| 94 | Establish an inriver run goal for the Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Plan.   |

***Subsistence Salmon (6 proposals)***

- |     |  |
|-----|--|
| 95  | Create a Tier II subsistence king salmon fishery in the Kuskokwim River.   |
| 96  | Separate the amounts necessary for subsistence use of king salmon into three parts on the Kuskokwim River.               |
| 97  | Create a permitting system for king salmon subsistence fishing in the Kuskokwim River.                                   |
| 98  | Establish descriptions of subsistence fishing sections for the Kuskokwim River during times of king salmon conservation. |
| 99  | Modify gear operation in the Kuskokwim River by limiting four-inch mesh subsistence gear to one gillnet per household.   |
| 100 | Establish subsistence beach seine specifications in the Kuskokwim Area.  |

***Commercial Salmon (4 proposals)***

- |     |   |
|-----|---|
| 101 | Repeal Kuskokwim Area depth specifications for commercial gillnets greater than six-inch mesh.  |
| 102 | Change gillnet mesh size from six inches or smaller to five and three-quarters inches or smaller in District 4 of the Kuskokwim Area. |
| 103 | Amend the Kuskokwim Area District 4 Salmon Management Plan to include District 5.   |
| 104 | Increase the commercial fishing area in District 5 of the Kuskokwim Area.   |

***Sport Salmon (1 proposals)***

- |     |   |
|-----|---|
| 105 | Modify gear specifications to reduce king salmon harvest in the Kanektok and Arolik rivers. |
|-----|---|

***Commercial Herring (1 proposal)***

106 Extend the Nelson Island herring fishing district from Atrnak Point toward Cape Vancouver.

### **Yukon Area Salmon (22 proposals)**

#### ***Management Plans (5 proposals)***

- 107 Close the Yukon River summer chum salmon commercial fishery to protect king salmon.
- 108 Reduce management triggers in the Yukon River Summer Chum Salmon Management Plan based on the run size of summer chum salmon.
- 109 Modify the Yukon River Summer Chum Salmon Management Plan triggers.
- 110 Increase the commercial fishery threshold trigger in the Yukon River Drainage Fall Chum Salmon Management Plan.
- 111 Eliminate the use of GHGs in the Yukon River King Salmon Management Plan.

#### ***Subsistence (10 proposals)***

- 112 Allow all gear used in Yukon Area commercial fisheries to be allowed in Yukon Area subsistence fisheries.
- 113 Prohibit the use of drift gillnets in the Yukon Area subsistence fishery and in the Yukon Area commercial fishery.
- 114 Require subsistence salmon fishing permits in Yukon Area District 5 and set permit limits for king salmon during times of king salmon conservation.
- 115 Allow for the retention of king salmon less than 25 inches in length in Yukon Area fish wheel subsistence fisheries.
- 116 During times of salmon conservation in the Yukon Area, require fish wheels with live boxes to be manned and require immediate release of the specified salmon.
- 117 Prohibit the use of beach seines in the Yukon Area subsistence salmon fishery and in the Yukon River and Anvik River summer chum salmon commercial fisheries.
- 118 Establish specifications for a beach seine used for subsistence fishing in the Yukon Area.
- 119 Require live release of king salmon from subsistence beach seines during times of king salmon conservation in the Yukon Area.
- 120 Allow subsistence fall chum salmon fishing seven days per week in District 5 of the Yukon Area once a fall chum salmon commercial fishery is opened.
- 121 Expand the area of allowable subsistence drift gillnet fishing for chum salmon in Subdistrict 4-A of the Yukon Area.

***Commercial (7 proposals)***

- 122 Modify Yukon Area commercial set gillnet length specification to an aggregate length standard.
- 123 Further define commercial beach seine specifications for summer chum salmon in the Yukon Area.
- 124 Allow for six-inch or smaller mesh gillnets in the commercial salmon fishery in Yukon River District 6 by emergency order.
- 125 Establish gillnet gear provisions to allow a directed pink salmon commercial fishery in districts 1–3 of the Yukon Area.
- 126 Add purse seine gear as an allowable commercial salmon fishing gear to target summer chum salmon in districts 1–3 of the Yukon River during times of king salmon conservation.
- 127 Expand the commercial fishing area of Yukon Area District 1.
- 128 Extend commercial fishing three miles offshore and north to Point Romanof in District 1 of the Yukon Area.

**Norton Sound-Port Clarence Area Salmon (6 proposals)**

***Subsistence (4 proposals)***

- 129 In the Norton Sound-Port Clarence Area during times of conservation, require the return of a specified salmon species immediately to the water unharmed when beach seining.
- 130 Allow the restriction of gillnet mesh size during times of conservation for chum and king salmon in any portion of the Norton Sound-Port Clarence Area.
- 131 Increase subsistence fishing time with gillnets and beach seines in Subdistrict 1 of Norton Sound District.
- 132 Add cast net as a legal subsistence fishing gear and allow both dip net and cast net gear to be used in all subsistence fisheries in the Norton Sound-Port Clarence Area.

***Commercial (1 proposal)***

- 133 Allow the use of beach seines for commercial harvest of chum and pink salmon in Subdistricts 5 and 6 of the Norton Sound District during times of king salmon conservation.

***Norton Sound/Yukon Area Boundary (1 proposal)***

- 134 Change the boundary line separating the Norton Sound-Port Clarence Area and Yukon Area at Point Romanof in area and district descriptions.

**AYK Resident Species (12 proposals)**

***Sport (6 proposals)***

- 135 Prohibit the use of set lines in Grizzly and Jack lakes.
- 136 Allow only one fishing line per angler during the Fielding Lake winter fishery.

- 137 Allow the use of bait during the winter fishery on Fielding Lake.
- 138 Allow retention of Arctic grayling on the Chena River.
- 139 Update the Tanana River Area stocked waters regulation.
- 140 Repeal Yukon River Area rainbow trout regulations.

***Subsistence (4 proposals)***

- 141 Recognize rod and reel fishing as a legal means for subsistence fishing in all of the Kotzebue District.
- 142 Change the dates gillnet gear may be used in the South Fork and Middle Fork of the Koyukuk River from November 1 to June 30 to August 20 to June 30.
- 143 Reduce the bag and possession limit of northern pike in the Minto Flats Northern Pike Management Plan.
- 144 Allow the use of five and one-half inch mesh gillnets across an entire channel in portions of the Koyukuk River for the purpose of targeting northern pike.

***Personal Use (1 proposal)***

- 145 Repeal the regulation that prohibits the taking of northern pike in the Tanana River drainage personal use fishery.

***Commercial (1 proposal)***

- 146 Create a directed commercial fishery for cisco in Norton Sound or Port Clarence Districts.

**ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES  
ALASKA PENINSULA / ALEUTIAN ISLANDS / CHIGNIK FINFISH  
FEBRUARY 23–MARCH 1, 2016**

**PROPOSAL INDEX**

Following is a list of proposals that will be considered at the above meeting sorted by general topic. A board committee roadmap will be developed and distributed prior to the meeting.

**PROPOSAL NUMBER (59 proposals)      SUBJECT**

**Area Boundary and North Alaska Peninsula District (28 proposals)**

*Alaska Peninsula Area/Bristol Bay Area Boundary (3 proposals) This set of proposals will be heard at the Bristol Bay Finfish meeting, and heard and deliberated on at the Alaska Peninsula/Chignik/Aleutian Islands Finfish meeting.*

- |    |   |
|----|---|
| 22 | Move the Cinder River, Inner Port Heiden, and Outer Port Heiden sections of the Northern District from the Alaska Peninsula Area to the Bristol Bay Area. |
| 23 | Move the Cinder River, Inner Port Heiden, and Outer Port Heiden sections of the Northern District from the Alaska Peninsula Area to the Bristol Bay Area. |
| 24 | Move all waters of the Northern District east of the latitude of Cape Seniavin from the Alaska Peninsula Area to the Bristol Bay Area.                    |

**North Alaska Peninsula Salmon Northern District (25 proposals)**

- |     |   |
|-----|---|
| 147 | Repeal sequential closures in the Bear River, Three Hills, and Ilnik sections.  |
| 148 | Allow commercial fishing for salmon with drift gillnet gear in the Ilnik Section.   |
| 149 | Create a directed sockeye salmon fishery in the Cinder River Section.   |
| 150 | Describe waters of Cinder Lagoon open to commercial salmon fishing.   |
| 151 | Consider the catch of non-local salmon as a factor in management of Northern District salmon fisheries.   |
| 152 | From June 20 through July 20 manage the Northern District salmon fisheries jointly with Alaska Department of Fish and Game Alaska Peninsula and Bristol Bay staff.    |
| 153 | Include information on the abundance of non-local stocks as a factor in managing Northern District commercial salmon fisheries.                                       |
| 154 | Link management actions in the Northern District of the Alaska Peninsula Area commercial salmon fisheries to salmon abundance in adjacent Bristol Bay Area districts. |
| 155 | Close the Outer Port Heiden Section of the Northern District to commercial salmon fishing.  |
| 156 | Close the Outer Port Heiden Section of the Northern District to commercial salmon fishing.  |



- 157 In the Inner and Outer Port Heiden sections of the Northern District  
restrict commercial fishing for salmon to no more than four days in any  
seven day period.
- 158 Restrict commercial salmon fishing in the Three Hills, Ilnik, and Outer  
Port Heiden sections of the Northern District to no more than one and one-  
half miles offshore.
- 159 Open waters of the Outer Port Heiden Section of the Northern District  
from one and one half miles to three miles offshore to commercial salmon  
fishing.
- 160 Close waters of the Bear River and Nelson Lagoon sections of the  
Northern District between zero to one and one-half miles offshore to  
commercial salmon fishing with drift gillnet gear until escapement  
objectives have been met.
- 161 Close waters of the Northern District between zero and one and one-half  
miles offshore to commercial fishing with drift gillnet gear when Bear  
River and/or Nelson River coho salmon escapements do not meet  
objectives.
- 162 Close waters of the Northern District between zero and one and one-half  
miles offshore to commercial fishing with drift gillnet gear when Bear  
River and/or Nelson River sockeye salmon escapements do not meet  
objectives.
- 163 Between the longitude of Three Hills and the northern boundary of the  
Outer Port Heiden Section restrict drift and set gillnets to 29 and one-half  
meshes depth.
- 164 Manage commercial salmon fishing in the Black Hills Section and in  
Moffet Lagoon in the Izembek-Moffet Bay Section based on Moffet  
Lagoon escapement.
- 165 In the Nelson Lagoon Section allow the compliment of drift gillnet gear to  
be split into two 100 fathom nets that may be fished simultaneously.
- 166 Eliminate closed waters in Caribou Flats and allow drift gillnet fishing in  
Caribou Flats by emergency order if Nelson Lagoon escapement goals are  
achieved.
- 167 Open the Uruia Bay Section of the Northwestern District to regular fishing  
periods.
- 168 Reduce closed waters in Christianson Lagoon.
- 169 Implement global positioning satellite coordinates for all district and  
section boundaries in the Northern District of the Alaska Peninsula Area.
- 170 Redefine the boundaries of the Outer Port Heiden Section using GPS  
coordinates.
- 171 Implement global positioning satellite coordinates for all district and  
section boundaries in the Northern District of the Alaska Peninsula Area.

**Commercial Salmon Chignik, South Alaska Peninsula, Gear and Seward Boundary (23 proposals)**

***Chignik Salmon (5 proposals)***

- 172 Increase the passage of sockeye salmon above the Chignik River weir to provide additional subsistence fishing opportunity.
- 173 Reduce waters closed to commercial fishing for salmon in Kujulik, Portage, and Ivanof bays in the Chignik Area.
- 174 In July and August close Chignik Area commercial salmon fisheries between Castle Cape and Kupreanof Peninsula when the Southeastern District Mainland is closed to commercial salmon fishing with set gillnet gear.
- 2 Allow bycatch retention of Pacific cod in the Chignik Area salmon seine fishery. *(This proposal will be heard at the Pacific cod meeting and heard and deliberated on at the Alaska Peninsula / Chignik / Aleutian Islands Finfish meeting.)*
- 175 Create a pink salmon management plan in the Chignik Area.

***South Alaska Peninsula Southeastern District Mainland Salmon (5 proposals)***

- 176 Amend Southeastern District Mainland commercial salmon set gillnet fishery season opening times and fishing periods.
- 177 Revise the Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan to allow commercial salmon fishing with set gillnet gear concurrent to the Chignik Area commercial sockeye salmon fishery.
- 178 In the Southeastern District Mainland establish weekly fishing through July 10 for set gillnet gear and from July 11 through July 25 establish 48 hour open fishing periods and closures for set gillnet and purse seine gear.
- 179 Amend the Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan to establish that 40 percent of the sockeye salmon taken in the East Stepovak, Stepovak Flats, Southwest Stepovak, Balboa Bay, and Beaver Bay sections are considered to be of Chignik River origin.
- 180 Require all salmon harvested in the Southeastern District Mainland fishery to be landed within the Southeastern District.

***South Alaska Peninsula Salmon June Management Plan (6 proposals)***

- 181 Repeal the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan.
- 182 Modify the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan to shift the opening date for the drift gillnet fishery to coincide with the set gillnet fishery opening date.
- 183 Modify the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan to stagger opening days for the drift and purse seine fisheries.
- 184 Repeal the current South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan and readopt the management plan in place during 2003-2004.
- 185 Establish a Dolgoi Island Section and Dolgoi Island Section Management Plan.

186 Establish a Dolgoi Island Section and Dolgoi Island Section June Management Plan.

***South Alaska Peninsula Salmon Post-June Management Plan (2 proposals)***

187 Modify the Post-June Salmon Management Plan for South Alaska Peninsula to provide the department authority to make openings for specific gear groups.

188 Establish open commercial salmon fishing periods in the Unalaska District that coincide with the last two open fishing periods in July in the Shumagin Islands Section.

***Alaska Peninsula Salmon Gear and Seaward Boundary (5 proposals)***

189 Allow for dual permit vessels and increased gear limits for dual permit vessels in the Alaska Peninsula Area commercial salmon purse seine fishery.

190 Change purse seine depth measurement standard from number of meshes deep to an equivalent depth measurement in feet and inches.

191 Repeal minimum mesh size standards for drift gillnet gear.

192 Allow commercial fishing for salmon with set gillnets in the area between Popof Head and Dark Cliffs any time the area is closed to commercial salmon fishing with purse seine gear.

193 Change the Southwestern and Unimak District seaward boundary.

***Alaska Peninsula/Aleutian Islands Commercial Herring and Groundfish, and Subsistence and Sport Fish (8 proposals)***

***Aleutian Islands Groundfish (2 proposals)***

194 Close all waters of Unalaska Bay to commercial fishing for groundfish with pelagic trawl gear. *(This proposal will be heard at the Alaska Peninsula / Chignik / Aleutian Islands Finfish meeting, and be heard and deliberated on at the Statewide Finfish meeting)*

195 Update logbook requirements for Aleutian Islands state-waters sablefish fishery.

***Dutch Harbor Food and Bait Herring Fishery (1 proposal)***

196 Change the date fishermen using purse seine gear may access the Dutch Harbor food and bait herring gillnet allocation from July 25 to July 20.

***Alaska Peninsula/Aleutian Islands Subsistence (1 proposal)***

197 Clarify when commercial salmon fishing license holders may subsistence fish for salmon in the Alaska Peninsula Area.

***Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Sport Fish (4 proposals)***

198 Require non-retention of king Salmon in the Sandy River.

199 Amend the freshwater bag limit provisions for salmon species other than king salmon.

- 200 Close Swanson Lagoon and its tributaries to sport fishing for sockeye salmon.
- 201 Reduce the possession limit for coho salmon in Illiuliuk Creek.

**Alaska Board of Fisheries**  
**STATEWIDE FINFISH AND SUPPLEMENTAL ISSUES**  
**March 8–12, 2016**

**PROPOSAL INDEX**

**Following is a list of proposals that will be considered at the above meeting sorted by general topic. A board committee roadmap will be developed and distributed prior to the meeting.**

**PROPOSAL NUMBER (21 Proposals)    SUBJECT**

**Method and Means/Gear (1 proposal)**

202                      Prohibit the use of felt bottom boots in all waters, while fishing.

**Sport (6 proposals)**

***Special Harvest Area Management (1 proposal)***

203                      Expand emergency order authority to close sport fishing in special harvest areas if hatchery cost recovery goals may not be met.

***Methods and Means, Bag Limits (5 proposals)***

204                      Modify the definition of an artificial fly to include the use of a bare single hook.

205                      Clarify that a bead not attached to a hook is an attractor, and not a lure or fly.

206                      Revise definition of “closely attended” as it applies to coho salmon fishing.

207                      Allow a bang stick to be used to dispatch sport-caught fish.

208                      Establish bag limits by port of call.

**Commercial (14 proposals)**

***Forage Fish (3 proposals)***

209                      Designate Pacific herring as a forage fish.

210                      Prohibit directed fisheries on forage fish species, for the purpose of fish meal production.

211                      Prohibit the production of fish meal from whole forage fish.

***Identification of Gear (2 proposal) (This set of proposals will be heard at the Bristol Bay Finfish meeting, and heard and deliberated on at the Statewide Finfish meeting.)***

27                      Require that a CFEC permit holder's name displayed on a set gillnet site marking sign complies with the same character size marking requirements for permit numbers.

28                      Change the character size requirements for set gillnet marking signs.

***Salmon (1 proposal)***

212 Repeal or modify the requirement to designate a single salmon net registration area.

***Groundfish (7 proposals)***

213 Clarify possession and landing requirements for Pacific cod and walleye pollock.

214 Specify that bycatch in excess of the allowable amount will be surrendered to the state and donated to charity and establish fines for bycatch in excess of the allowable amount.

215 Establish a 58' overall length limit for vessels participating in South Alaska Peninsula parallel walleye pollock fishery using trawl gear.

194 Close all waters of Unalaska Bay to commercial fishing for groundfish with pelagic trawl gear. *(This proposal will be heard at the Alaska Peninsula / Chignik / Aleutian Islands Finfish meeting, and be heard and deliberated on at the Statewide Finfish meeting)*

216 Establish a state waters walleye pollock purse seine fishery in Southeast Alaska.

217 Establish fishing season for walleye pollock that does not conflict with salmon season.

218 Establish state-waters walleye pollock jig fishery management plans with guideline harvest levels deducted from total allowable catch (TAC) for the Eastern Gulf of Alaska, Prince William Sound, Cook Inlet, Kodiak, Chignik, South Alaska Peninsula and Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands.

***Herring (1 proposal)***

126-2014-2015 Establish a commercial open pound herring spawn on kelp fishery in Sitka Sound.

**ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES**  
2015-2016 Proposal Book

**Proposals Listed by Author**

<b>AUTHOR</b>	<b>PROPOSAL(S) SUBMITTED</b>
Alaska Department of Fish & Game .....	7, 13-14, 18, 20-21, 30, 67, 71-74, 76-77, 80-82, 88, 91, 98, 100-101, 103, 109, 118-119, 121-124, 129-130, 134, 139-140, 145, 150, 195, 197, 199-201, 204-205, 213
Alaska Department of Public Safety, Alaska Wildlife Troopers .....	170
Alaska Jig Association .....	Additional Proposal
Aleutians East Borough .....	198
Alvarez, Randolph .....	39-40, 58
Anderson, Aaron .....	9
Anderson, Al .....	2
Armstrong Family .....	59
Arndt , Chris, F/V Isle Dominator .....	5
Ball, Travis.....	66
Barr, Dan.....	27-28, 169
Beach, Rose.....	45
Birkholz, Ethan .....	136-137
Blough, Cheyne.....	212
Briggs, Roland .....	55, 151-154
Bristol Bay Subsistence Regional Advisory Council .....	78
Bumpus, Donald .....	4
Chignik Bay Tribal Council.....	172
Chignik Fish and Game Advisory Committee.....	1, 173, 175, 180, 186
Chignik Lake Village.....	172
Christensen, Larry K.....	24-25
Concerned Area M Fishermen .....	147, 149, 159, 182, 193
Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association.....	203
Denkinger, Troy.....	Additional Proposal
Douglas Island Pink and Chum, Inc .....	203
Eastern Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council.....	110
Evich, Tom.....	196
Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee .....	115, 138, 184
Fairbanks, Grant.....	95
False Pass Fish and Game Advisory Committee .....	11, 167
Foster, Amy M.....	174, 176, 177
Foster, Jesse .....	181
Foster, John A.....	178-179, 187

Foster, Jr., Jack R.....	174, 176, 177
Fuentes, Spencer .....	37
Granger, Todd.....	53
Gregorio, Tony.....	3, 8
Grossi, Agostino .....	60
Hartman, Brian.....	148
Hassebroek, Marv .....	143
Heyano, Robert .....	64, 69, 89-90
Hinton, Joe .....	166
Hoback, John.....	206
Hoblet, Travis .....	168
Hoppe, Todd .....	5, 15-16
Huffer, Sr., Tom.....	32
Hurley, Alannah.....	63
Johnson, Kurt .....	26, 52, 156
Johnson, Ray.....	160-162, 165
Johnson, Stanley O.....	36
Jones, John .....	185
Julius, Peter .....	106
Julius, Peter, Native Village of Goodnews Bay .....	104
Kapp, Darrell.....	Additional Proposal
Kavanaugh, Ron.....	5-6
King Cove Fish and Game Advisory Committee .....	10, 190-191
Kluttsch, Joe.....	85, 87
Knight, Chris.....	212
Kodiak Regional Aquaculture Association.....	203
Kosbruk, Gerda.....	23
Koso, Ray.....	189
Kotzebue Sound Fish and Game Advisory .....	141
Kurtz, Mike.....	188
Kuskokwim Native Association .....	93
Kwik'pak Fisheries.....	108, 111, 125-128
Laukitis, Buck.....	15-16
Levelock Village Council .....	56-57
Lockbeam, Corey.....	48
Lower Bristol Bay Fish and Game Advisory Committee.....	31, 157-158, 163, 171
Luck, Matthew .....	34
Lyon, Nanci Morris.....	84
Mack, Kenneth.....	12
Marxmiller, Gregg James.....	42
Mason, Jody .....	207-208
McCallum, Don.....	189
McCambly, Kevin.....	43, 61-62, 65, 70
Merrigan, Gerry .....	19
Meyer, Eric .....	54
Miller, Kayla.....	43
Mitchell, John .....	188



National Park Service .....	135
Native Council of Port Heiden.....	172
Native Village of Chignik Lagoon.....	172
Native Village of Kwinhagak .....	102, 105
Native Village of Perryville .....	172
Native Village of Port Heiden.....	22
Neal, Tony.....	41, 46
Nelson Lagoon Fish and Game Advisory Committee .....	198
Nelson, Luke.....	202
Nondalton Tribal Council .....	83
Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association .....	203
Nushagak Fish and Game Advisory Committee.....	68, 86, & Additional Proposal
O'Connor, Lloyd T .....	66
Orutsararmiut Native Council.....	92, 99
Peninsula Fishermen's Coalition.....	215
Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation .....	203
Reakoff, Jack.....	142
Reed, Dan.....	132
Regan, Jr., William .....	79
Reynolds, Jim.....	49
Rice, Kim .....	35, 50
Samuelson, Herman .....	164
Sand Point Fish and Game Advisory Committee .....	183
Sandone, Gene .....	114
Schandelmeier, John .....	47
Seybert, Mitch.....	155
Sitka Tribe of Alaska .....	210-211
Smith, Jim .....	192
Smith, Steve .....	214
Sorenseon, Chad .....	33
Southern Norton Sound Fish and Game Advisory Committee.....	133, 146
Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association .....	203
Sparks, Thomas.....	131
Steele, Jeff T .....	17
Stony-Holitna Fish and Game Advisory Committee .....	94, 96-97
Tanana Rampart Manley Fish and Game Advisory Committee.....	107, 112-113, 116-117, 120
Togiak Fish and Game Advisory Committee .....	44, 75, & Additional Proposal
Tomkins, Floyd.....	209
Unalaska Native Fishermans Association.....	194
Vance, Marc .....	38 & Additional Proposal
Villnave, Karen .....	61
Wholecheese, Jack .....	144
Wilder, Andrew.....	15-16
Williams, Abe .....	51
Wisner, Hugh .....	Additional Proposal



**ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES**  
**ALASKA PENINSULA / CHIGNIK / ALEUTIAN ISLANDS- BERING SEA PACIFIC**  
**COD**  
**NOVEMBER 30–DECEMBER 1, 2015**

**PROPOSAL INDEX**

*Following is a list of proposals that will be considered at the above meeting sorted by general topic. A board committee roadmap will be developed and distributed prior to the meeting.*

**PROPOSAL NUMBER (21 proposals)      SUBJECT**

**Chignik Pacific Cod (9 proposals)**

- 1                    Add purse seine gear as an additional gear type to share the 10 percent mechanical jigging machine and hand troll (jig) gear allocation in the Chignik Area state-waters Pacific cod fishery.
- 2                    Allow bycatch retention of Pacific cod in the Chignik Area salmon seine fishery. *(This proposal will be heard at the Pacific cod meeting and heard and deliberated on at the Alaska Peninsula / Chignik / Aleutian Islands Finfish meeting.)*
- 3                    Apportion the Chignik Area state-waters Pacific cod allocation for pot vessels by vessel length.
- 4                    Establish daily pot gear fishing periods for the Chignik Area state-waters Pacific cod fishery.
- 5                    Change date that gear limits may be removed in the Chignik Area state-waters Pacific cod fishery.
- 6                    Include a change in designation of Chignik Area from a superexclusive registration area to a nonexclusive registration area after October 30 in the Chignik Area state-waters Pacific cod fishery.
- 7                    Change pot storage regulations for the Chignik Area state-waters Pacific cod pot gear fishery.
- 8                    Limit the number of pots in the parallel Pacific cod fishery in the Chignik Area to 60 per vessel.
- 9                    Reduce waters closed for the protection of Steller sea lions during the parallel Pacific cod fishery in the Chignik Area.

**South Alaska Peninsula Pacific Cod (4 proposals)**

- 10                    Increase the South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters Pacific cod fishery guideline harvest level from 30 percent to 35 percent of the Western Gulf of Alaska acceptable biological catch.
- 11                    Increase the South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters Pacific cod fishery guideline harvest level from 30 percent to 40 percent of the Western Gulf of Alaska acceptable biological catch.
- 12                    Apportion the South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters Pacific cod allocation for pot vessels by vessel length.
- 13                    Resolve conflict in pot storage regulations for the South Alaska Peninsula state-waters Pacific cod pot gear fishery.

**Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands Pacific Cod (8 proposals)**

- 14 Calculate guideline harvest levels for Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands state-waters Pacific cod fisheries based on federal acceptable biological catch for subareas of the federal Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands area.
- 15 Expand the Dutch Harbor Subdistrict state-waters Pacific cod fishery boundaries and increase the state-waters fishery guideline harvest level from three percent to nine percent of the federal Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands acceptable biological catch.
- 16 Increase guideline harvest level for the Dutch Harbor Subdistrict state-waters Pacific cod fishery from three percent to seven percent of the federal Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands acceptable biological catch.
- 17 Increase the vessel size limit from 58 to 125 feet overall length for the Dutch Harbor Subdistrict state-waters Pacific cod fishery.
- 18 Align Aleutian Islands District state-waters Pacific cod season opening and closing dates with recent changes to federal Pacific cod management.
- 19 Modify vessel size limit for longline vessels in the Aleutian Islands District state-waters Pacific cod B season based on remaining guideline harvest level.
- 20 Define waters between 175° W long to 178° W long as the Adak District in the Aleutian Islands District state-waters Pacific cod fishery.
- 21 Update state-waters Pacific cod management plans of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands with current federal references for Steller sea lion protection.

**BOARD OF FISHERIES**  
**ALASKA PENINSULA / CHIGNIK / ALEUTIAN ISLANDS- BERING SEA PACIFIC**  
**COD**  
**NOVEMBER 30 – DECEMBER 1, 2015**

**PROPOSAL 1 – 5 AAC 28.537. Chignik Area Pacific Cod Management Plan.** Add purse seine gear as an additional gear type to share the 10 percent mechanical jigging machine and hand troll (jig) gear allocation in the Chignik Area state-waters Pacific cod fishery, as follows:

5 AAC 28.537 is amended to read:

Seine gear is approved under the Pacific Cod Management Plan (5AAC 28.537) subject to the following:

1. A valid CFEC interim-use permit card for statewide miscellaneous saltwater finfish using purse seine gear is required;
2. For the three years, 2016–2018, purse seine gear as defined under 5 AAC 15.332 may be used to harvest Pacific cod annually in Area L beginning on 1 May and ending on June 1 and limited to the harvest of not more than 75% of the Pacific cod Area L jig quota or whatever remains of the Area L 10% jig quota, whichever is lowest;
3. Fishing shall occur only in state-waters listed in 5 AAC 28.500 excluding Chignik Lagoon;
4. An approved ADF&G logbook is required and shall be submitted with each fish ticket at time of delivery.
5. A salmon dip net shall be onboard and used for the live release of all incidental caught salmon. No salmon shall be retained for any purpose.
6. The Department may deploy ADF&G personnel as an onboard observer while fishing. The vessel shall have a current USCC safety decal and an inspected life raft that can accommodate all persons onboard the vessel. Costs associated with accommodating an observer will be the responsibility of the vessel owner while the observer is onboard.
7. The vessel operator must have five years of commercial fishing experience in the Chignik Management Area (L) and an established market for any harvested Pacific cod.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The jig quota (10% of the annual GHL) assigned to the state-water Pacific cod (*Gadus macrocephalus*) fishery for the Chignik Management Area (L) is underutilized. Requested is for the BOF to include a new gear type, purse seine gear (5 AAC 15.332) in the Pacific Cod Management Plan (5 AAC 28.537) and that the new gear be permitted to harvest a portion of the 10% jig quota limited to the May 1–June 1 period exclusively provided the jig quota has not already been reached.

There is evidence that Pacific cod can be successfully harvested in early spring (May 1–June 1) Area L waters with standard purse seine gear (5 AAC 15.332) before the local salmon season begins and that it can be accomplished absent of any discernable impact on other finfish resources, namely salmon. For evaluation purposes the BOF may wish to limit the use of purse seine gear (from May 1 through June 1 annually) to a three year period beginning in 2016. Also suggested is that the BOF consider authorizing seine gear as experimental for Pacific cod, not via

a "commissioner's permit," but through direct action subject to specifically tailored conditions that would include making it optional for an onboard observer due to Chignik's remoteness, practicality, budget limitations, and scale.

**PROPOSED BY:** Chignik Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F15-032)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 2 – 5 AAC 28.540. Possession limits for Chignik Area.** Allow bycatch retention of Pacific cod in the Chignik Area salmon seine fishery, as follows (*This proposal will be heard at the Pacific cod meeting and heard and deliberated on at the Alaska Peninsula / Chignik / Aleutian Islands Finfish meeting.*):

5 AAC 28.540 is amended to:

Allow the taking of Pacific cod as a bycatch under a Chignik Area L salmon permit only during the salmon seining operations.

Cod must not be the targets species and no more than XX% would be allowed of each delivery.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Bycatch of Pacific cod during the salmon seining season by seiners. The resource is being wasted and has lost potential revenue.

**PROPOSED BY:** Al Anderson (HQ-F15-073)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 3 – 5 AAC 28.537. Chignik Area Pacific Cod Management Plan.** Apportion the Chignik Area state-waters Pacific cod allocation for pot vessels by vessel length, as follows:

Quota for large boats 85% 58'

Quota for smaller boats, 15% 46' and under

Chignik Area shallow draft boats are used to fish salmon, but when used for cod fishing are unsuitable for heavy weather and windy conditions.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Quota for boats under 58'. Smaller boats cannot fish in weather that Super 58's can and are forced to fish in weather, risking lives and/or injury. In order to catch fish before quota is caught. Larger boats fish without stopping in most weather conditions when small boats can't fish.

**PROPOSED BY:** Tony Gregorio (HQ-F15-098)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 4 - 5 AAC 28.537. Chignik Area Pacific Cod Management Plan.** Establish daily pot gear fishing periods for the Chignik Area state-waters Pacific cod fishery, as follows:

**The state Pacific cod season in Chignik, will be open for fishing from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. daily until the quota is reached.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** As more large non-local pot Pacific cod vessels participate in the Chignik state water Pacific cod fishery, the smaller local fleet becomes disadvantaged because the smaller vessels have a tough time fishing bad weather during the night. The problem will be exacerbated if the board increases the Chignik state water quota because even more large non-local boats will be attracted to the Chignik fishery. As local Chignik vessels are disadvantaged this also translates into negative impacts on the fragile and fishing dependent local communities.

Justification: Daylight hours would make a more even playing field for everyone and slow the fishery down. This past season, for example, poor weather made it difficult for the local boats to participate in the fishery at night and a daylight only fishery would have helped to spread the benefits of the fishery more equitably over the entire fleet.

The fishery would also be easier to manage if it were slowed down. When the 2015 state-waters season closed on March 23 nearly 400,000 pounds of cod remained unharvested because of the legitimate difficulty management faced timing the season closure because of having to deal with predicting how the weather would impact fishing. At the speed of the current fishery even the truly unpredictable breakdown of one high producing vessel can cause a mistake in the timing of the closure.

**PROPOSED BY:** Donald Bumpus (EF-C15-089)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 5 – 5 AAC 28.537. Chignik Area Pacific Cod Management Plan.** Change date that gear limits may be removed in the Chignik Area state-waters Pacific cod fishery, as follows:

5 AAC 28.537 is amended to:

Give the department the ability to remove gear limits on or after August 14 for all gear types.

(j) If at any time after **August 14** [OCTOBER 30] the commissioner determines that the guideline harvest level for Pacific cod will not be achieved by December 31, the commissioner may close, by emergency order, the fishing season and immediately reopen a state-waters season during which the following shall be implemented to increase the harvest rate in an attempt to achieve the guideline harvest level;

(1) removal of the limits on the number of groundfish pots and mechanical jigging machines that may be operated from a vessel.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The issue is unharvested rollover fish in the State Water Pacific cod fishery (opening August 14th) which results in lost revenue to the state, harvesters, processors and local boroughs. The fall rollover fish has gone unharvested with limited participation. We would like to see the department given more effective tools to fully harvest this remaining fish. Removing gear limits earlier would increase the chances of harvesting this fish in an economical manner. Cod are normally more dispersed and harder to catch in the fall, resulting in a much lower CPU. With more gear it would possibly be a viable fishery.

**PROPOSED BY:** Ron Kavanaugh, F/V Sylvia Star, Chris Arndt, F/V Isle Dominator, and Todd Hoppe F/V Deliverance (EF-C15-038)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 6 – 5 AAC 28.537. Chignik Area Pacific Cod Management Plan.** Include a change in designation of Chignik Area from a superexclusive registration area to a nonexclusive registration area after October 30 in the Chignik Area state-waters Pacific cod fishery, as follows:

5 AAC 28.537. Chignik Area Pacific Cod Management Plan is amended to read:

...

(j) If at any time after October 30 the commissioner determines that the guideline harvest level for Pacific cod will not be achieved by December 31, the commissioner may close, by emergency order, the fishing season and immediately reopen a state-waters season during which the following shall be implemented to increase the harvest rate in an attempt to achieve the guideline harvest level:

(1) removal of the limits on the number of ground fish pots and mechanical jigging machines that may be operated by a vessel;

(2) if needed, allow a vessel of any size to register and fish for Pacific cod in the Chignik Area.

**(3) if needed, designation of the Chignik Area as a non superexclusive registration area for Pacific cod.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The unharvested fall/rollover Pacific cod in the Chignik state-water fishery. Unharvested Pacific cod results in a loss of revenue to all stakeholders (harvesters, processors, local communities and State of Alaska). Removal of super exclusive registration in the Chignik Area for Pacific cod after October 30. This would be best placed under 5 AAC 28.537 sub paragraph (j) with a new sub paragraph (3).

**PROPOSED BY:** Ron Kavanaugh (EF-C15-059)

\*\*\*\*\*



**PROPOSAL 7 – 5 AAC 28.532. Groundfish pot storage requirements for Chignik Area; and 5 AAC 28.537. Chignik Area Pacific Cod Management Plan.** Change pot gear storage regulations for the Chignik Area state-waters Pacific cod fishery, as follows:

**5 AAC 28.532. Groundfish pot storage requirements for Chignik Area.**

(a) ...rectangular groundfish pots with all bait and bait containers removed and with all doors secured fully open, and cone or pyramid groundfish pots with all bait and bait containers removed and all doors not secured closed may be stored in water not more than 25 fathoms deep.

**5 AAC 28.537. Chignik Area Pacific Cod Management Plan.**

(h) During a state-waters season,

...

(2) Pacific cod may be taken only with groundfish pots, mechanical jigging machines, and hand troll gear, as follows:

...

(E) during the seven days following the opening of the state-waters season, an operator of a vessel registered to fish for Pacific cod may store or transport groundfish pots in excess of the pot limit established in (A) of this paragraph if the pots are

(i) stored in waters not more than 25 fathoms deep as described in 5 AAC 28.532(a); or

(ii) being transported on board the vessel and are not marked with identification tags.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The Chignik state-waters Pacific cod fishery has a 60-pot limit.

Two Chignik Area groundfish regulations guide shallow water pot storage. The Chignik Area pot storage regulation, 5 AAC 28.532, allows shallow-water storage of groundfish pots during the entire season. The state-waters Pacific cod fishery management plan does not allow shallow-water storage for pots in excess of the pot limit except for the first seven days of the season.

This proposal provides the board and fishery stakeholders opportunity to resolve storage provisions for pots in excess of the pot limit during the Chignik state-waters Pacific cod pot gear fishery. The current provisions are listed above.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F15-057)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 8 – 5 AAC 28.537. Chignik Area Pacific Cod Management Plan.** Limit the number of pots in the parallel Pacific cod fishery in the Chignik Area to 60 per vessel, as follows:

In the Chignik Area, limit number of pots inside state-waters to 60, during the parallel fishery.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Since 120 pots can be used during this fishery inside three miles, the cod are fished out before the state fishery starts. In the Chignik Area the larger boats start within three miles in the federal season then move out in state season. The federal regulations use 120 pots in the fishery in or outside of three miles. Since the three mile limit is state-waters, state regulations should apply.

**PROPOSED BY:** Tony Gregorio (HQ-F15-099)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 9 – 5 AAC 28.087. Management measures in parallel groundfish fisheries for protection of Steller sea lions.** Reduce waters closed for the protection of Steller sea lions during the parallel Pacific cod fishery in the Chignik Area, as follows:

5 AAC 28.087(b) is amended to read:

...

(b)

...

**(4) In the Chignik Area, all state-waters, with the exception of state-waters within 20 nautical miles of sea lion rookeries, shall be opened to pot and mechanical jigging gear**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Lack of fishing opportunity for local Chignik residents during the parallel season. I would like to see the sea lion restrictions reduced during the State parallel season in the Chignik area. There is very little area to fish inside state-waters during the parallel season due to the sea lion restrictions. Most residents of Chignik do not have an LLP to fish outside of State-waters.

**PROPOSED BY:** Aaron Anderson (EF-C15-077)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 10 – 5 AAC 28.577. South Alaska Peninsula Area Pacific Cod Management Plan.** Increase the South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters Pacific cod fishery guideline harvest level from 30 percent to 35 percent of the Western Gulf of Alaska acceptable biological catch, as follows:

5 AAC 28.577(h)(1) is amended to read:

(1) The guideline harvest level for Pacific cod in the South Alaska Peninsula Area M is **35** [30] percent of the federal Western Gulf of Alaska (WGOA) total allowable catch (TAC).

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Increase South Alaska Peninsula Pacific cod Guideline Harvest Level to 35% of WGOA ABC, 2012 sector splits in the Western Gulf of Alaska cod season have reduced the opportunity for pot only vessels to harvest cod. Pot only boats have previously participated in the federal parallel season until the entire TAC was caught. In the two years prior to sector splits, pots harvested over 50% of the WGOA TAC.

**PROPOSED BY:** King Cove Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F15-094)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 11 – 5 AAC 28.577. South Alaska Peninsula Area Pacific Cod Management Plan.** Increase the South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters Pacific cod fishery guideline harvest level from 30 percent to 40 percent of the Western Gulf of Alaska acceptable biological catch, as follows:

5 AAC 28.577(h)(1) is amend to read:

(1) the guideline harvest level for Pacific cod on the South Alaska Peninsula area is **40** [30] percent of the estimated total allowable harvest of the Pacific cod for the federal Western Gulf of Alaska Area.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The 30% allocation from the Western Gulf of Alaska A.B.C. to the state water fishery is not sufficient.

**PROPOSED BY:** False Pass Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F15-087)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 12 – 5 AAC 28.577. South Alaska Peninsula Area Pacific Cod Management Plan.** Apportion the South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters Pacific cod allocation for pot vessels by vessel length, as follows:

5 AAC 28.577 is amended to read:

Fishing in Area M 51' to 58' will catch 75% of the allocated quota, and 50' and under will be allowed 25% of the allocated quota.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The pot cod quota in state water should be split so the smaller fleet would be able to compete.

**PROPOSED BY:** Kenneth Mack (HQ-F15-074)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 13 – 5 AAC 28.571. Groundfish pot storage requirements for South Alaska Peninsula Area; and 5 AAC 28.577. South Alaska Peninsula Area Pacific Cod Management Plan.** Resolve conflict in pot gear storage regulations for the South Alaska Peninsula state-waters Pacific cod fishery, as follows:

**5 AAC 28.571. Groundfish pot storage requirements for South Alaska Peninsula Area.**

(a) ...rectangular groundfish pots with all bait and bait containers removed and with all doors secured fully open, and cone or pyramid groundfish pots with all bait and bait containers removed and all doors not secured closed may be stored in waters not more than 25 fathoms deep.

**5 AAC 28.577. South Alaska Peninsula Area Pacific Cod Management Plan.**

(h) During a state-waters season,

...

(2) Pacific cod may be taken only with groundfish pots, mechanical jigging machines, and hand troll gear, as follows:

...

(E) during the seven days immediately following the opening of the state-waters season, an operator of a vessel registered to fish for Pacific cod may store or transport groundfish pots in excess of the pot limit established in (A) of this paragraph if the pots are

(i) stored in waters not more than 25 fathoms deep as specified in 5 AAC 28.571(a);

or

(ii) are being transported on board the vessel and are not marked with identification tags.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The South Alaska Peninsula state-waters Pacific cod fishery has a 60-pot limit.

Two South Alaska Peninsula Area groundfish regulations guide shallow water pot storage. The South Alaska Peninsula Area pot storage regulation, 5 AAC 28.571, allows shallow-water storage of groundfish pots during the entire season. The state-waters Pacific cod fishery management plan does not allow shallow-water storage for pots in excess of the pot limit except for the first 7 days of the season.

This proposal provides the board and fishery stakeholders opportunity to resolve storage provisions for pots in excess of the pot limit during the South Alaska Peninsula state-waters Pacific cod pot gear fishery.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F15-056)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 14 – 5 AAC 28.647. Aleutian Islands District Pacific Cod Management Plan; and 5 AAC 28.648. Dutch Harbor Subdistrict Pacific Cod Management Plan.** Calculate guideline harvest levels for Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands state-waters Pacific cod fisheries based on federal acceptable biological catch for subareas of the federal Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands area, as follows:

The introductory language of 5 AAC 28.647(d)(1) is amended to read:

**5 AAC 28.647. Aleutian Islands District Pacific Cod Management Plan.**

(d) During a state-waters season,

(1) the guideline harvest level for Pacific cod in the Aleutian Islands District west of 170° W. long. is XX [THREE] percent of the estimated total allowable harvest of Pacific cod for the federal [BERING SEA AND] Aleutian Islands subarea [AREA]; the guideline harvest level will be available for harvest as follows:

...

5 AAC 28.648(e)(1) is amended to read:

**5 AAC 28.648. Dutch Harbor Subdistrict Pacific Cod Management Plan.**

(e) During a state-waters season,

(1) the guideline harvest level for Pacific cod in the Dutch Harbor Subdistrict is XX [THREE] percent of the estimated total allowable harvest of Pacific cod for the federal Bering Sea subarea [AND ALEUTIAN ISLANDS AREA];

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Currently, the Aleutian Islands District and Dutch Harbor Subdistrict state-waters Pacific cod guideline harvest levels (GHL) are based on a percentage of the combined federal Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Pacific cod acceptable biological catch (ABC). In 2014, to address genetic differences in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Pacific cod stocks and concerns about the declining Aleutian Islands population, the Science and Statistical Committee recommended, and the North Pacific Fishery Management Council adopted, separate ABCs for Pacific cod in the Bering Sea subarea and the Aleutian Islands subarea. State-waters management plans for Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Pacific cod could be updated to calculate the GHLs based on the federal ABC of each subarea. The Aleutian Islands subarea ABC is much smaller than the Bering Sea subarea ABC and if the Aleutian Islands subarea ABC continues to decline, the current method for calculating the GHL could exceed the subarea ABC. The department has not specified an equivalent GHL percentage of federal subarea ABC because only two years (2014 and 2015) of subarea ABCs are available. The Aleutian Islands District GHL was 53.7% of the 2014 Aleutian Islands subarea ABC and 46.5% of the 2015 subarea ABC. The Dutch Harbor Subdistrict was 3.18% of the 2014 Bering Sea subarea ABC and 3.2% of the 2015 subarea ABC. The 2016 federal subarea ABCs should be available for the 2016 board meeting and that information along with historic GHLs and fishery harvest information could be utilized to inform this issue.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F15-052)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 15 – 5 AAC 28.648. Dutch Harbor Subdistrict Pacific Cod Management Plan.**

Expand the Dutch Harbor Subdistrict state-waters Pacific cod fishery boundaries and increase the state-waters fishery guideline harvest level from three percent to nine percent of the federal Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands acceptable biological catch, as follows:

Increase the size of Dutch Harbor Subdistrict to include the state-waters of the Bering Sea from the present line at 164 degrees west to the state-waters of the Aleutian Islands at the 170 degrees west line. The new area would prohibit fishing in the state-waters around Bogoslof Island and two other three mile Steller sea lion no transit zones in the new portion of the area.

The guideline harvest level for the new Dutch Harbor Subdistrict would increase from three percent (of the old subdistrict) to nine percent (for the new subdistrict) of the Federal estimated total allowable harvest of Pacific cod for the federal Bering Sea Aleutian Islands area.

Vessels participating in the state water Pacific cod fishery would continue to be 58 feet and under vessels (not including anchor rollers) using 60 pots.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Expand the area and increase the allocation for the state water Pacific cod pot fishery in the Dutch Harbor Subdistrict to provide opportunity for small boats. State water fisheries have become very important fisheries for state residents. There is very low bycatch of halibut in the pot fishery.

**PROPOSED BY:** Buck Laukitis, Todd Hoppe, and Andrew Wilder (HQ-F15-081)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 16 – 5 AAC 28.648. Dutch Harbor Subdistrict Pacific Cod Management Plan.**

Increase guideline harvest level for the Dutch Harbor Subdistrict state-waters Pacific cod fishery from three percent to seven percent of the federal Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands acceptable biological catch, as follows:

5 AAC 28.648(e)(1) Increase the Guideline Harvest Level (GHL) in the Dutch Harbor Subdistrict from three percent of the total harvest of Pacific cod for the Federal Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area to five percent. If five percent is taken in a season by under 58 foot vessels using 60 pots the GHL would increase to seven percent the following season. (This stair-step approach is how the Gulf of Alaska state water fisheries were developed in the late-90s.)

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Increase the allocation for the state water Pacific cod pot fishery in the Dutch Harbor Subdistrict to provide opportunity for small boats. State water fisheries have become very important fisheries for state residents. There is a very low bycatch of halibut in the pot fishery.

**PROPOSED BY:** Buck Laukitis, Todd Hoppe, and Andrew Wilder (HQ-F15-082)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 17 – 5 AAC 28.648. Dutch Harbor Subdistrict Pacific Cod Management Plan.** Increase the vessel size limit from 58 to 125 feet overall length for the Dutch Harbor Subdistrict state-waters Pacific cod fishery, as follows:

5 AAC 28.648 (e)(2)(C) a vessel registered to take Pacific cod may not be longer than **125** [58] feet in overall length;

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Change the vessel size limit for the state water Dutch Harbor Subdistrict to 125'. 1) Arguments for limiting size of vessels in this fishery are no longer valid. 2) Vessels larger than 58' that have historically participated in the Bering Sea Pacific cod fishery have been economically disenfranchised from the fishery they helped build. 3) Vessels up to 125' would be excellent stewards of the resource. Coupled with the observer program, this vessel length modification would enable the state to expand the Dutch Harbor Subdistrict area for Pacific cod using pot gear and create a significant positive economic benefit to the state, fishermen, and Bering Sea communities.

**PROPOSED BY:** Jeff T. Steele (HQ-F15-077)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 18 – 5 AAC 28.647. Aleutian Islands District Pacific Cod Management Plan.** Align Aleutian Islands District state-waters Pacific cod season opening and closing dates with recent changes to federal Pacific cod management, as follows:

5 AAC 28.647(c) is amended to read:

(c) The commissioner shall open, by emergency order, a state-waters season in the Aleutian Islands District as follows:

(1) the season in the waters between 175° W. long. and 178° W. long. shall open January 1;

(2) in the waters not specified in (1) of this subsection

(A) that are west of 170° W. long., the season shall open four days after the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands parallel "A" season for the catcher-vessel trawl fishery is closed **or four days after the federal Aleutian Islands subarea non-Community Development Quota season is closed, whichever is earlier;** or

(B) if the federal catcher-vessel trawl fishery **or federal Aleutian Islands subarea non-Community Development Quota season** has not closed by March 14, the commissioner will close, by emergency order, the parallel season for the catcher-vessel trawl fishery at 12:00 noon, March 14, and open by emergency order, the state-waters season at 12:00 noon, on March 15;

(3) the commissioner shall close, by emergency order, the state-waters season opened under (1) and (2) of this subsection when the guideline harvest level is taken or on December 31, whichever occurs first; except as otherwise specified in this chapter, all parallel Pacific cod seasons are closed during the state-waters season.

5 AAC 28.647(d) is amended to read:

(d) During a state-waters season,

(1) the guideline harvest level for Pacific cod in the Aleutian Islands District west of 170° W. long. is three percent of the estimated total allowable harvest of Pacific cod for the federal Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area; the guideline harvest level will be available for harvest as follows:

(A) a maximum of 70 percent of the guideline harvest level will be available for harvest in the state-waters 'A' season [BEFORE JUNE 10 AS FOLLOWS:

[(i) IF THE STATE-WATERS 'A' SEASON GUIDELINE HARVEST LEVEL HAS NOT BEEN TAKEN BY APRIL 1, WHEN THE FEDERAL CATCHER-VESSEL TRAWL FISHERY "B" SEASON OPENS, THE COMMISSIONER WILL CLOSE, BY EMERGENCY ORDER, THE STATE-WATERS 'A' SEASON IN THE WATERS SPECIFIED IN (c)(2) OF THIS SECTION AND IMMEDIATELY REOPEN A PARALLEL SEASON;

(ii) IF THE COMMISSIONER DETERMINES THAT AN ADEQUATE STATE-WATERS 'A' SEASON GUIDELINE HARVEST LEVEL IS AVAILABLE AFTER THE FEDERAL CATCHER-VESSEL TRAWL FISHERY "B" SEASON CLOSES, AND BEFORE JUNE 10, THE COMMISSIONER MAY REOPEN, BY EMERGENCY ORDER, THE STATE-WATERS 'A' SEASON IN THE WATERS SPECIFIED IN (c)(2) OF THIS SECTION];

(B) a total of 30 percent of the guideline harvest level plus any unharvested amount from the state-waters 'A' season under (1)(A) of this subsection may be rolled over on June 10 and available for harvest in the state-waters 'B' season, except that the state-waters 'B' season guideline harvest level may not exceed 70 percent of the combined state-waters 'A' and 'B' seasons' guideline harvest level; [THE GUIDELINE HARVEST LEVEL WILL BE AVAILABLE AS FOLLOWS:

(i) IF THE STATE-WATERS 'B' SEASON GUIDELINE HARVEST LEVEL HAS NOT BEEN TAKEN BY SEPTEMBER 1, WHEN THE FEDERAL CATCHER-VESSEL POT FISHERY "B" SEASON FOR VESSELS OVER 60 FEET IN OVERALL LENGTH OPENS, THE COMMISSIONER WILL CLOSE, BY EMERGENCY ORDER, THE STATE-WATERS 'B' SEASON AND IMMEDIATELY REOPEN A PARALLEL SEASON;

(ii) IF THE COMMISSIONER DETERMINES THAT AN ADEQUATE STATE-WATERS 'B' SEASON GUIDELINE HARVEST LEVEL IS AVAILABLE AFTER THE FEDERAL CATCHER-VESSEL POT FISHERY "B" SEASON FOR VESSELS OVER 60 FEET IN OVERALL LENGTH CLOSES, THE COMMISSIONER MAY REOPEN, BY EMERGENCY ORDER, THE STATE-WATERS 'B' SEASON;]

5 AAC 28.647 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

**(X) The commissioner may open and close, by emergency order, fishing seasons at times other than those specified in this section if the commissioner determines it is necessary to**

**(1) adapt to unanticipated openings and closures of federal seasons;**

**(2) provide for maximum opportunity;**

**(3) maintain sustained yield management; or**



**(4) provide for orderly fisheries.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The Aleutian Islands District state-waters Pacific cod management plan regulations do not reflect recent changes in federal fishery management. In 2014, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council established separate acceptable biological catch (ABC) limits for Pacific cod in the Aleutian Islands and Bering Sea subareas.

When the federal non-Community Development Quota (CDQ) directed Pacific cod allocation has been reached in the Aleutian Islands subarea, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) closes the Aleutian Islands subarea to all non-CDQ directed Pacific cod fishing for the remainder of the year. The state-waters Pacific cod management plan opening is not clear with respect to coordination with closure of the federal Aleutian Islands subarea to Pacific cod.

In 2014 and 2015, the federal Aleutian Islands subarea non-CDQ Pacific cod season closed when the non-CDQ TAC was reached in early spring and did not reopen. The federal Aleutian Islands subarea does not have a B season; therefore after the federal season is closed there are no longer federal Pacific cod opportunities in the Aleutian Islands for the year. Allowing the state-waters season to remain open until the A season GHL is reached or until the end of the A season would allow for continued Pacific cod opportunity after the federal non-CDQ season is closed. This proposal would also allow department staff to respond to unanticipated federal openings and closings.

In 2014, based on management plan direction, the Aleutian Islands District state-waters Pacific cod season opened in all waters west of 170° W longitude on March 15, one day prior to the federal Aleutian Islands subarea non-CDQ season closure. In 2015, the department opened the state-waters Pacific cod season on March 3, four days after closure of the federal Aleutian Islands subarea non-CDQ season. The 2014 and 2015 state-waters Pacific cod seasons were not closed based on federal sector openings after the Aleutian Islands subarea was closed as stated in the management plan.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F15-053)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 19 – 5 AAC 28.647. Aleutian Islands District Pacific Cod Management Plan.** Modify vessel size limit for longline vessels in the Aleutian Islands District state-waters Pacific cod B season based on remaining guideline harvest level, as follows:

**B season vessel length limits:**

5 AAC 28.647 (d)(3)(B) is amended to read:

- (ii) August 1 through December 31, may not be more than 125 feet in overall length if operating pot gear and not more than 60 feet in overall length for all other allowable gear types **except longline gear subject to 5 AAC 28.647(d)(3)(B)(iii) and/or (iv) which apply only when the federal directed fishery for Aleutian Islands Pacific cod is closed (i.e. no AI parallel fishery);**

5 AAC 28.647(d)(3)(B) adds new section (iii) for longline gear to read:

**(iii) For September 1 to Dec 31, if the federal directed fishery for Aleutian Islands Pacific cod is closed, and the state-waters ‘B’ season GHL has not been taken by September 1, then there is no restriction on the overall length for vessels operating longline gear in the state-waters GHL ‘B’ season.;**

5 AAC 28.647(d)(3)(B)(iv) adds new section (iv) for longline gear to read:

**(iv) For August 1 to August 31, if the federal directed fishery for Aleutian Islands Pacific cod is closed, and more than 50% of the state-waters ‘B’ season GHL remains uncaught by August 1, then there is no restriction on the overall length of longline vessels in the state-waters GHL ‘B’ season after July 31; i.e. the length restriction in 5 AAC 28.647 (d)(3)(B)(ii) would no longer apply to longline vessels from August 1 to August 31.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Proposal to modify vessel length restrictions for longline vessels in the state-waters guideline harvest level B season.

The Aleutian Islands (AI) state-waters Pacific cod GHL is a percentage deduction from the federal ABC available to the federal fisheries. In recent years (2009–2014), approximately 50% of the AI state-waters allocation has not been caught. The uncaught AI state-waters Pacific cod allocation is then stranded and is unable to be rolled back into the federal fishery.

Most of the effort in the state-waters AI Pacific cod GHL fishery is in the ‘A’ season (and from trawl and pot gear). There has been very little effort in the ‘B’ season by any gear type—particularly since the ‘B’ season vessel length restrictions went into place. According to ADF&G, in 2014, there was no effort in any portion of the ‘B’ season by any gear type. In the early portion of the ‘B’ season (June 10 to August 1), there was no effort or harvest in both 2013 and 2014. In the portion of the ‘B’ season after August 1, there was no effort in 2014 and minimal effort and harvest in both 2013 and 2012.

In order to ensure full utilization of the AI state-waters Pacific cod GHL and to minimize stranded allocation, we propose the following additions to the Aleutian Islands District Pacific Cod Management Plan to lift the vessel length restrictions on longline vessels in the GHL ‘B’ season (after September 1 and when there is available harvest opportunity in August). The proposal is to modify the length for longline vessels in the state-waters GHL fishery only (and not for the parallel fishery). Accordingly, the proposed modified length only applies when the federal directed fishery for Pacific cod in the AI is closed (i.e. no AI parallel fishery).

Rationale

1. Current management plan has resulted in uncaught allocation and stranded catch. “No action” will continue to result in uncaught allocation and stranded catch.
2. There has been little to no effort in the ‘B’ season in recent years (2012–2014) due to vessel length restrictions (and consistent availability of a processor).

3. Proposal does not seek to modify the current ‘A’ season management measures; i.e. maintains vessel length restrictions in the ‘A’ season designed to promote shore-side delivery.
4. Proposal does not seek modify the current ‘B’ season June 10–August 1 management measures; i.e. maintains opportunity for <60’ fleet in for June and July in the ‘B’ season (which has not been utilized in recent years).
5. Proposal does not seek to change the vessel length restrictions for longline vessels in the BSAI parallel Pacific cod fishery. Proposal only applies in the ‘B’ season in the state-waters GHL fishery after August 1 and only when the federal directed fishing for Pacific cod in the Aleutian Islands is closed.
6. The 50% threshold at August 1 continues to allow harvest opportunity by the <60’ sector in the early portion of the B season, but if that effort does not materialize, then the length restriction for longline vessels is lifted August 1 (the same day the vessel length restriction is modified for pot gear in the current regulations).
7. The second trigger point of September 1 is also proposed where restrictions on longline vessels would no longer apply from September 1 to December 31. Longline gear has a proven historic record of being the gear type with the best capability to catch Pacific cod in the ‘B’ season in the Aleutian Islands. Not all gear types are as effective as longline gear when cod are less aggregated (a characteristic of the ‘B’ season). Weather conditions in the fall in the Aleutian Islands are severe and more suitable for larger vessels. The availability of a viable shoreside processor in the fall ‘B’ season continues to have considerable uncertainty.

Other solutions considered: 1.) Remove vessel length restriction for longline vessels in both A and B seasons, and: 2.) Remove vessel length restriction for longline vessels for the entire B season (June 10 to December 31).

**PROPOSED BY:** Gerry Merrigan (on behalf of the FLC - Freezer Longline Coalition)  
(EF-C15-085)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 20 – 5 AAC 28.647. Aleutian Islands District Pacific Cod Management Plan.** Define waters between 175° W long to 178° W long as the Adak District in the Aleutian Islands District state-waters Pacific cod fishery, as follows:

5 AAC 28.647(b) – (d) are amended to read:

(b) Each year, the commissioner shall open and close, by emergency order, a parallel season in the Aleutian Islands District [WEST OF 170° W. LONG.], except in the waters **in the Adak Section** [BETWEEN 175° W. LONG. AND 178° W. LONG.], to coincide with the initial federal season in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area. The commissioner shall open and close, by emergency order, the parallel season during which the use of the same gear allowed in the federal Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area Pacific cod season is permitted, unless that gear is prohibited under 5 AAC 28.050.

(c) The commissioner shall open, by emergency order, a state-waters season in the Aleutian Islands District as follows:

(1) the **Adak Section** [SEASON IN THE WATERS BETWEEN 175° W. LONG. AND 178° W. LONG.] shall open January 1;

(2) **all waters of the Aleutian Islands District** [IN THE WATERS NOT SPECIFIED IN (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION]

(A) [THAT ARE WEST OF 170° W. LONG., THE SEASON] shall open four days after the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands parallel "A" season for the catcher-vessel trawl fishery is closed; or

...

(3) the commissioner shall close, by emergency order, the state-waters season **in all waters of the Aleutian Islands District** opened under (1) and (2) of this subsection when the guideline harvest level is taken or on December 31, whichever occurs first; except as otherwise specified in this chapter, all parallel Pacific cod seasons are closed during the state-waters season.

(d) During a state-waters season,

(1) the guideline harvest level for Pacific cod in the Aleutian Islands District [WEST OF 170° W. LONG.] is three percent of the estimated total allowable harvest of Pacific cod for the federal Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area; the guideline harvest level will be available for harvest as follows:

(A) a maximum of 70 percent of the guideline harvest level will be available for harvest in the state-waters 'A' season before June 10 as follows:

(i) if the state-waters 'A' season guideline harvest level has not been taken by April 1, when the federal catcher-vessel trawl fishery "B" season opens, the commissioner will close, by emergency order, the state-waters 'A' season, **except in waters of the Adak Section**, [IN THE WATERS SPECIFIED IN (c)(2) OF THIS SECTION] and immediately reopen a parallel season;

(ii) if the commissioner determines that an adequate state-waters 'A' season guideline harvest level is available after the federal catcher-vessel trawl fishery "B" season closes, and before June 10, the commissioner may reopen, by emergency order, the state-waters 'A' season in **all waters of the Aleutian Islands District** [THE WATERS SPECIFIED IN (C)(2) OF THIS SECTION];

...

(3) a vessel used to harvest Pacific cod during the

(A) state-waters 'A' season when [THE]

(i) **only waters of the Adak Section** [WATERS SPECIFIED IN (c)(1) OF THIS SECTION] are open, with nonpelagic trawl, mechanical jigging machine, or pot gear, may not be more than 60 feet in overall length, except as specified in (ii) of this paragraph; a vessel using longline gear may not be more than 58 feet in overall length;

(ii) **all waters of the Aleutian Islands District** [COMBINED AREAS OF (c)(1) AND (2)] are open, with nonpelagic trawl gear may not be more than 100 feet in overall length; a vessel using mechanical jigging machines and longline gear may not be more than 58 feet in overall length; a vessel using pot gear may not be more than 125 feet in overall length;

5 AAC 28.647(j) is amended by adding new paragraphs to read:

(j) For the purposes of this section,

...

**(3) "Adak Section" means state-waters of the Aleutian Islands District of the Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands Area between 175° W long. and 178° W long.**

**(4) "Aleutian Islands District" means all state-waters of the Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands Area west of 170° W long., including waters of the Adak Section.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Describing the Adak Section rather than referring to longitudes within the district will simplify the management plan. Defining state-waters of the Aleutian Islands District between 175° W longitude and 178° W longitude as the "Adak District" will reduce confusion and simplify the regulations.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F15-054)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 21 – 5 AAC 28.647. Aleutian Islands District Pacific Cod Management Plan; and 5 AAC 28.648. Dutch Harbor Subdistrict Pacific Cod Management Plan.** Update state-waters Pacific cod management plans of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands with current federal references for Steller sea lion protection, as follows:

5 AAC 28.647(g)(3) is amended to read:

**5 AAC 28.647. Aleutian Islands District Pacific Cod Management Plan.**

(g) The following closures apply during a state-waters season:

...

(3) all Steller sea lion protection measures for Pacific cod found in Table 5 of 50 C.F.R. 679, as defined in **79 Federal Register 70286, November 25, 2014** [69 FEDERAL REGISTER 75865, DECEMBER 20, 2004];

5 AAC 28.648(l) is amended to read:

**5 AAC 28.648. Dutch Harbor Subdistrict Pacific Cod Management Plan.**

(l) The federal fishery management measures for the protection of Steller sea lions are imposed as specified in Table 5 **to 50 C.F.R. 679, as defined in 79 Federal Register 70286, November 25, 2014** and Table 12 to 50 C.F.R., Part 679, revised as of January 1, 2011, as defined in 75 Federal Register 81921, December 29, 2010.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Regulations for Steller sea lion restrictions during the Aleutian Islands District and Dutch Harbor Subdistrict state-waters Pacific cod seasons are adopted by reference to federal registers. In 2014, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) implemented revised Steller sea lion restrictions during federal seasons that match

those in place during state-waters seasons. Adopting references to current federal Steller sea lion closures would reduce confusion without modifying closed areas applicable to state-waters seasons.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F15-051)

\*\*\*\*\*

**ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES  
BRISTOL BAY FINFISH  
DECEMBER 2–9, 2015**

**PROPOSAL INDEX**

*Following is a list of proposals that will be considered at the above meeting sorted by general topic. A board committee roadmap will be developed and distributed prior to the meeting.*

**PROPOSAL NUMBER (73 proposals)      SUBJECT**

**Commercial Salmon District Boundaries, Registration, Permit Stacking (34 proposals)**

*Alaska Peninsula Area/Bristol Bay Area Boundary (3 proposals) This set of proposals will be heard at the Bristol Bay Finfish meeting, and heard and deliberated on at the Alaska Peninsula/Chignik/Aleutian Islands Finfish meeting.*

- |    |   |
|----|---|
| 22 | Move the Cinder River, Inner Port Heiden, and Outer Port Heiden sections of the Northern District from the Alaska Peninsula Area to the Bristol Bay Area. |
| 23 | Move the Cinder River, Inner Port Heiden, and Outer Port Heiden sections of the Northern District from the Alaska Peninsula Area to the Bristol Bay Area. |
| 24 | Move all waters of the Northern District east of the latitude of Cape Seniavin from the Alaska Peninsula Area to the Bristol Bay Area.                    |

***District Boundaries/Gear (8 proposals)***

- |     |  |
|-----|--|
| 25  | Expand district boundary lines.  |
| 26  | Create new general fishing sections that are in effect following achievement of escapement goals, or July 17, until July 27.   |
| 27  | Require that a CFEC permit holder's name displayed on a set gillnet site marking sign complies with the same character size marking requirements for permit numbers. <i>(This proposal will be heard at the Bristol Bay Finfish meeting, and heard and deliberated on at the Statewide Finfish meeting.)</i> |
| 28  | Change the character size requirements for set gillnet marking signs. <i>(This proposal will be heard at the Bristol Bay Finfish meeting, and heard and deliberated on at the Statewide Finfish meeting.)</i>  |
| 29  | Allow a set gillnet permit holder to operate and deploy gillnet gear seaward of the permit holder's own set gillnet, and within the permit holder's setnet site.   |
| 30  | Change the description of set gillnet exemptions that allow operations where beaches at mean low tide are not connected to either exposed land or land not covered at high tide, by deleting references to regulatory markers.   |
| 220 | Prohibit net barges, floating processors, tenders, and hard fixed buoys in waters of the Egegik District during open drift gillnet fishing periods.  |
| 221 | Prohibit tenders, fish buyers, and fish transport vessels from anchoring within 1,500 feet of set gillnet sites.   |

***Registration (14 proposals)***

- 31 Change the area registration requirements to require district registration prior to fishing in a district in Bristol Bay.
- 32 Change the area registration date requirement for the Bristol Bay commercial salmon fishery.
- 33 Change the area registration date requirement for the Bristol Bay commercial salmon fishery.
- 34 Reduce the required waiting period when registering for a new district from 48 hours to 12 hours.
- 35 Require drift gillnet operations to register the day of fishing during emergency order periods.
- 36 Change the registration requirement for commercial salmon fishing in the Egegik District.
- 37 Change the area registration date requirement from June 25 to June 1 for the Naknek-Kvichak, Egegik, and Ugashik districts for the drift gillnet fleet.
- 38 Change registration requirements for fisheries under emergency order conditions and change the registration date for the Naknek-Kvichak, Egegik, and Ugashik districts from June 25 to June 18.
- 39 For the Naknek-Kvichak District, eliminate the registration date of June 25, and require registration only before fishing in the district.
- 40 Change the drift gillnet registration date in the Naknek-Kvichak District from June 25 to June 17.
- 41 Change the area registration requirement for the Naknek-Kvichak, Egegik, and Ugashik districts by removing the June 25 start date.
- 42 Allow set gillnet operators to transfer within the Nushagak statistical areas without the 48-hour time requirement.
- 43 Repeal set gillnet reregistration requirement for statistical areas within the Nushagak District.
- 44 Modify Togiak District registration restriction requirements that apply until July 27 to include a fishing vessel.

***Permit Stacking (9 proposals)***

- 45 Reauthorize Bristol Bay set gillnet permit stacking.
- 46 Allow permit stacking for set gillnet operations.
- 47 Allow permit stacking for set gillnet operations and up to one and one-half the current legal limit of gear for one permit to be operated when permit stacking.
- 48 Allow permit stacking for set gillnet operations in the Bristol Bay Area.
- 49 Allow two set gillnet permit holders to jointly operate with up to 75 fathoms of set gillnet gear and require both permit numbers on identification sign.
- 50 Allow permit stacking for set gillnet operations in the Egegik District.
- 51 Allow drift gillnet permit stacking for an individual who owns two drift gillnet permits in Bristol Bay.
- 52 Allow drift gillnet permit stacking for an individual who owns two drift gillnet permits in Bristol Bay and the operation of 200 fathoms of drift



- gillnet gear from a vessel with an individual holding two drift gillnet permits.
- 53 Increase the amount of drift gillnet gear allowed when two permit holders are jointly operating.

### **Commercial Salmon Management Plans and District Provisions (25 proposals)**

#### ***Egegik/Ugashik (2 proposals)***

- 54 Close by the Egegik District Special Harvest Area to commercial salmon fishing for five days during times of high intercept fishing.
- 55 Modify set gillnet operations in the Ugashik District.

#### ***Naknek/Kvichak (5 proposals)***

- 56 Create an inriver Alagnak River Salmon Fishery Management Plan.
- 57 Create an inriver Kvichak River Salmon Fishery Management Plan.
- 58 Expand the boundaries of the Naknek Section of the Naknek-Kvichak District.
- 59 Revise boundaries of closed waters at Graveyard Point in the Naknek-Kvichak District.
- 60 Create a special harvest area in the Graveyard Creek area.

#### ***Nushagak (15 proposals)***

- 61 Increase the minimum distance drift gillnet operations must maintain from a set gillnet operation in the Nushagak District.
- 62 Increase the minimum distance drift gillnet operations must maintain from a set gillnet operation in the Nushagak District.
- 63 Change the seaward minimum distance between set gillnet gear in the Clark's Point area in the Nushagak District.
- 64 Increase fishing time for drift gillnet gear during incoming tides in the Nushagak District.
- 65 In the Nushagak District repeal emergency order authority to limit gillnet mesh to not exceed four and three-quarters inches.
- 66 Amend the Nushagak River Coho Salmon Management Plan to establish a fixed escapement goal, change the fishery start date, and repeal language pertaining to pink salmon escapement.
- 67 Change the Nushagak River Coho Salmon Management Plan to reflect changes in escapement goals that have previously been implemented.
- 219 Address allocation impacts that may come from potential changes in escapement goals and trigger points in the Nushagak River Coho Salmon Management Plan.
- 68 Repeal Wood River Sockeye Salmon Special Harvest Area Management Plan.
- 69 Amend the Wood River Sockeye Salmon Special Harvest Area Management Plan to eliminate management based on Nushagak District drift and set gillnet gear allocations.
- 70 Modify the Wood River Sockeye Salmon Special Harvest Area Management Plan to open separate drift and set gillnet fishing periods

based on achievement of gear allocation instead of a fixed seasonal fishing period ratio.

- 71 Update the description of the Wood River Special Harvest Area by deleting references to regulatory markers.
- 72 Change the description of statistical areas in the Nushagak District by deleting references to department regulatory markers, and renaming the Nushagak Statistical Area.
- 73 Redefine the description of the Nushagak District and the Igushik Section in the Nushagak District by deleting references to department regulatory markers.
- 74 Redefine the description of closed waters for salmon in the Snake River in the Nushagak District by deleting a reference to department regulatory markers.

***Togiak (3 proposals)***

- 75 Reduce the amount of time that certain waters in the Togiak District are closed to commercial fishing for salmon with a drift gillnet.
- 76 Change the current description of the Osviak Section in the Togiak District by correcting a GPS coordinate in the description.
- 77 Change the Togiak District Salmon Management Plan to reflect recent department escapement goal changes, and remove coho and king salmon goals.

**Subsistence, Sport, Commercial Herring (14 proposals)**

***Bristol Bay Subsistence (5 proposals)***

- 78 Change the boundaries, methods of harvest, and seasons for subsistence harvests of sockeye salmon in the Naknek River drainage.
- 79 Eliminate subsistence fishing period for the Naknek, Egegik, and Ugashik Rivers to allow subsistence salmon fishery to occur any time.
- 80 Re-describe the subsistence fishing area in the Nushagak District that is restricted to three days per week by removing references to regulatory markers.
- 81 Define subsistence fishing boundaries so that the 10 fathom net restriction applies to Dillingham beaches and the 25 fathom net length restriction applies elsewhere, and remove reference to department regulatory markers.
- 82 Establish and adopt amounts reasonably necessary for subsistence uses for herring spawn on kelp in waters of the Togiak District.

***Bristol Bay Sport Fisheries (5 proposals)***

- 83 Allow the traditional harvest of whitefish and non-salmon subsistence fish in specific waters of the Newhalen River.
- 84 Establish non-retention king salmon sport fishing in the Big Creek drainage of the Naknek River drainage.
- 85 Redefine the sport fishing boundary description for non-retention of king salmon in the Big Creek drainage.

- 86 Implement a mail-in requirement for all king salmon harvest tickets in Bristol Bay sport fisheries.
- 87 Eliminate the use of egg-simulating lures in rainbow trout fishing.

***Bristol Bay Herring (4 proposals)***

- 88 Change the regulatory description for herring purse seine and hand purse seine.
- 89 Delete references to sac roe in the Bristol Bay Herring Management Plan.
- 90 Change the management plan to allow the department to waive the catch allocation requirement for gillnet and purse seine fleets.
- 91 Redefine the description of closed waters for the Togiak herring fishery by deleting references to department regulatory markers.

**BOARD OF FISHERIES  
BRISTOL BAY FINFISH  
DECEMBER 2–9, 2015**

**PROPOSAL 22 – 5 AAC 06.100. Description of area; 5 AAC 06.200. Fishing districts and sections; 5 AAC 09.100. Description of area; and 5 AAC 09.200. Description of districts and sections.** Move the Cinder River, Inner Port Heiden, and Outer Port Heiden sections of the Northern District from the Alaska Peninsula Area to the Bristol Bay Area, as follows (*This proposal will be heard at the Bristol Bay Finfish meeting, and heard and deliberated on at the Alaska Peninsula/Chignik/Aleutian Islands Finfish meeting.*):

We recommend that the BOF change the descriptions of the Bristol Bay area to include the Cinder River and Inner and Outer Port Heiden sections and remove the same sections from the Alaska Peninsula area. Suggested draft regulatory language follows:

**5 AAC 06.100. Description of area.** The Bristol Bay Area includes all waters of Alaska in Bristol Bay east of a line from Cape Newenham at 58° 38.88' N. lat., 162° 10.51' W. long. to Strogonof Point at 56° 53.50' N. lat., 158° 50.45' W. long. [CAPE MENSNIKOF AT 57° 28.34' N. LAT., 157° 55.84' W. LONG.]

**5 AAC 09.100. Description of area.** The Alaska Peninsula Area includes the waters of Alaska on the north side of the Alaska Peninsula, southwest of a line from Strogonof Point (56° 53.50' N. lat., 158° 50.45' W. long. [CAPE MENSNIKOF AT 57° 28.34' N. LAT., 157° 55.84' W. LONG.] to...

Additionally, we recommend deleting 5 AAC 09.200 (1) and (2) (A) and (B) from Chapter 09. Alaska Peninsula Area and adding new fishing districts (e) and (f) to the Bristol Bay area. We recommend adding to 5 AAC 06.200 Fishing Districts and sections

(e) Cinder River District, waters of Bristol Bay between Cape Menshikof at 57° 28.34' N. lat., 157° 55.84' W. long. and 158° 20.00' W. long

(f) Port Heiden District:

(1) Outer Port Heiden Section: waters located between 158° 20.00' W. long. and the longitude of Strogonof Point at 56° 53.50' N. lat., 158°50.45' W. long., excluding the waters of the Inner Port Heiden Section;

(2) Inner Port Heiden Section: waters of Port Heiden Bay south and east of a line from Strogonof Point at 56° 53.50' N. lat., 158° 50.45' W. long. to the mainland shore of the northeast entrance to the bay at 56° 56.50' N. lat., 158° 51.50' W. long.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The residents of Port Heiden ask the Board of Fisheries to change the Alaska Administrative Code so that the boundaries of the Bristol Bay area include the village Port Heiden and the Cinder River and Port Heiden Districts for the following reason:

1. Port Heiden is a member community in the Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation;

2. The community of Port Heiden is within the Bristol Bay Coastal Resource Service Area;
3. The residents of Port Heiden have strong family ties to other communities in the Bristol Bay Area;
4. Most of the commercial fishing permits that are owned by Port Heiden residents are Area T permits, or commercial Bristol Bay fishing permits;
5. Including Port Heiden in the Bristol Bay area would facilitate enforcement efforts in the Outer and Inner Port Heiden sections.

**PROPOSED BY:** Native Village of Port Heiden (EF-C15-039)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 23 – 5 AAC 06.100. Description of area; and 5 AAC 09.100. Description of area.** Move the Cinder River, Inner Port Heiden, and Outer Port Heiden sections of the Northern District from the Alaska Peninsula Area to the Bristol Bay Area, as follows (*This proposal will be heard at the Bristol Bay Finfish meeting, and heard and deliberated on at the Alaska Peninsula/Chignik/Aleutian Islands Finfish meeting.*):

We recommend that the BOF change the descriptions of the Bristol Bay area to include the Cinder River and Inner and Outer Port Heiden sections and remove the same sections from the Alaska Peninsula area. Suggested draft regulatory language follows:

**5 AAC 06.100. Description of area.** The Bristol Bay Area includes all waters of Alaska in Bristol Bay east of a line from Cape Newenham at 58° 38.88' N. lat., 162° 10.51' W. long. to **Strogonof Point at 56° 53.50' N. lat., 158° 50.45' W. long.** [CAPE MENSHIKOF at 57° 28.34' N. lat., 157° 55.84' W. long.]

**5 AAC 09.100. Description of area.** The Alaska Peninsula Area includes the waters of Alaska on the north side of the Alaska Peninsula, southwest of a line from **Strogonof Point (56° 53.50' N. lat., 158° 50.45' W. long.** [CAPE MENSHIKOF (57° 28.34' N. lat., 157° 55.84' W. long.) to...

Additionally, we recommend deleting 5 AAC 09.200 (1) and (2) (A) and (B) from Chapter 09. Alaska Peninsula Area and adding new fishing districts (e) and (f) to the Bristol Bay area.

We recommend adding to 5 AAC 06.200 Fishing Districts and sections

**(e) Cinder River District, waters of Bristol Bay between Cape Menshikof at 57° 28.34' N. lat., 157° 55.84' W. long. and 158° 20.00' W. long**

**(f) Port Heiden District:**

**(1) Outer Port Heiden Section: waters located between 158° 20.00' W. long. and the longitude of Strogonof Point at 56° 53.50' N. lat., 158° 50.45' W. long., excluding the waters of the Inner Port Heiden Section;**

**(2) Inner Port Heiden Section: waters of Port Heiden Bay south and east of a line from Strogonof Point at 56° 53.50' N. lat., 158° 50.45' W. long. to the mainland shore of the northeast entrance to the bay at 56° 56.50' N. lat., 158° 51.50' W. long.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The residents of Port Heiden ask the Board of Fisheries (BOF) to change the Alaska Administrative Code so that the

boundaries of the Bristol Bay area include the village Port Heiden and the Cinder River and Port Heiden Districts for the following reason:

1. Port Heiden is a member community in the Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation;
2. The community of Port Heiden is within the Bristol Bay Coastal Resource Service Area;
3. The residents of Port Heiden have strong family ties to other communities in the Bristol Bay Area;
4. Most of the commercial fishing permits that are owned by Port Heiden residents are Area T permits, or commercial Bristol Bay fishing permits;
5. Including Port Heiden in the Bristol Bay area would facilitate enforcement efforts in the Outer and Inner Port Heiden sections.

**PROPOSED BY:** Gerda Kosbruk (EF-C15-112)  
 \*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 24 – 5 AAC 06.100. Description of Area and 5 AAC 09.100. Description of Area.** Move all waters of the Northern District east of the latitude of Cape Seniavin from the Alaska Peninsula Area to the Bristol Bay Area, as follows (*This proposal will be heard at the Bristol Bay Finfish meeting, and heard and deliberated on at the Alaska Peninsula/Chignik/Aleutian Islands Finfish meeting.*):

I propose that Area T, Bristol Bay, be recognized as starting at Cape Seniavin, and managed as such. The genetics of WASSIP clearly show that the vast majority of salmon caught above Cape Seniavin are bound for Bristol Bay. Port Heiden is recognized as part of Area T. I suggest that the Entry Commission inadvertently misdrew the divide between Area T and Area M. If you want to catch Bristol Bay fish, buy a Bristol Bay permit.

Alternatively, Area M fishing opportunity and area could be gradually curtailed within this zone.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** I am addressing the indiscriminate interception of Bristol Bay bound salmon. Area M fishing openers are specifically targeting Bristol Bay salmon stocks without adequate regard to escapement requirements. Bristol Bay stocks are managed through small terminus fisheries with strict adherence to the state’s constitutional directive of sustainable fisheries. This sustainability is only guaranteed through the use of intense scientific and management procedures and tools. Decades ago the ADF&G recognized interceptive fisheries as dangerous to the health of salmon stocks and set in motion actions to curtail such fisheries. Area M intercepting Bristol Bay salmon is in violation of such mandatory efforts. Bristol Bay salmon must be managed for OEG’s, not by "windows".

**PROPOSED BY:** Larry K. Christensen (EF-C15-134)  
 \*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 25 – 5 AAC 06.100. Description of area.** Expand district boundary lines, as follows:

I propose that when area managers recognize the need and opportunity to create a more valuable and orderly fishery, they have a set of additional boundary lines to utilize at their discretion. I envision these new lines to be in addition to the existing north/south lines primarily on the east side districts.

The offshore distance of the new sets of corners would remain relatively the same as the existing corner of each specific district. The subsequent lines perpendicular to the shore would have tentatively three optional distances further up or down the shoreline at potentially 3 mile intervals. The obvious candidates for these shoreward line extension options would be the Naknek Johnston hill line, North and South Egegik lines, and the North Ugashik line.

These new set of lines could be managed per EO.

Details and GPS coordinates to be determined.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The issue that I am addressing is the inherent degradation of salmon quality, and the disorderly line fisheries created through the application of compacted terminus fisheries. The ADF&G does not have adequate flexibility in designating district specific openings in order to maximize the value of the fishery and conduct orderly fisheries once harvestable numbers are recognized. With the genetic study results of WASSIP, we know the relatively marginal interception rates of adjacent river systems and we can now better manage for optimum escapement goals, quality, and a much more orderly fishery. The current situations of concentrated combat line fishing are unnecessarily producing poor quality salmon, decreasing ex-vessel and tax values, gear damage, and injuries.

**PROPOSED BY:** Larry K. Christensen (EF-C15-130)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 26 – 5 AAC 06.200. Fishing districts and sections.** Create new general fishing sections that are in effect following achievement of escapement goals, or July 17, until July 27, as follows:

At the end of the season when the escapement goals are met for the Naknek/Kvichak, Egegik and Ugashik Districts, or the 48-hour transfer is no longer required (July 17), fishing will be allowed in two new general district sections. The first would connect the Naknek Section-Johnston Hill Line and the North Line of Egegik running approximately three miles off shore. The second would connect the South Line of Egegik to the North Line of Ugashik running approximately three miles offshore. These new sections would remain open until July 27.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** At the end of the season, the fishery becomes very competitive at the northern and southern boundaries and only a few boats share the harvest.

**PROPOSED BY:** Kurt Johnson (EF-C15-118)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 27 – 5 AAC 39.280. Identification of stationary fishing gear.** Require that a CFEC permit holder’s name displayed on a set gillnet site marking sign complies with the same character size marking requirements for permit numbers, as follows (*This proposal will be heard at the Bristol Bay Finfish meeting, and heard and deliberated on at the Statewide Finfish meeting.*):

Setnet markings signs shall include the name of the permit holder in letters at least 6" high and 1" wide, the same as the vessel name for drift vessels. The permit holder may include a phone number for contact.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Currently drift boats and set net skiffs are required to have their Alaska Department of Fish and Game numbers displayed with 12" letters, drift vessels are required to have the vessel name in 6" letters. Normally a vessel or skiff can be contacted by physically approaching or by VHF using the vessel name. The regulations require the name of the fishermen operating a set gillnet to display the name of the fisherman operating it but there are no requirements for the size of the display of the fisherman’s name. They could legally be 1" or less high and marking pen size thin. Set net identification signs can be a great distance, especially at low tide. In an emergency or other concern, the fisherman’s name allows other to contact the fisherman by phone, VHF, or other means, and do so directly, especially when resources to track by Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission are closed. Require the set net fisherman’s name to be in letters at least 6" high and at least 1" wide.

**PROPOSED BY:** Dan Barr (EF-C15-084)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 28 – 5 AAC 39.280. Identification of stationary fishing gear.** Change the character size requirements for set gillnet marking signs, as follows (*This proposal will be heard at the Bristol Bay Finfish meeting, and heard and deliberated on at the Statewide Finfish meeting.*):

Insert "twelve inches" where now says "six inches" and add "with lines at least one inch wide."

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Currently drift boats and setnet skiffs are required to have their Alaska Department of Fish and Game numbers displayed with 12" letters, but shore side set net markings are only required to be six inches. With 20/20 vision, the maximum readable distance is only 200'. Regulations are now inconsistent, and



whereas driftnet vessels and set net skiffs can be easily approached for identification, a set net sign for contacting the permit holder for safety or resource issues can be at a distance of up to 1,200'.

**PROPOSED BY:** Dan Barr (EF-C15-086)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 29 – 5 AAC 06.335. Minimum distance between units of gear.** Allow a set gillnet permit holder to operate and deploy gillnet gear seaward of the permit holder's own set gillnet, and within the permit holder's setnet site, as follows:

5 AAC 06.335 Minimum distance between units of gear needs to include the wording "Except that a CFEC permit holder may operate seaward of their own set gillnet."

5 AAC 06.335. Minimum distance between units of gear. is amended to read:

(a) In the Naknek-Kvichak, Egegik, Ugashik, and Togiak Districts, no part of a set gillnet may be set or operated within 300 feet of any part of another set gillnet. **Except that a CFEC permit holder may operate seaward of their own set gillnet.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** In the Egegik District it has been common practice for individual permit holders to have a gap between their 50 fathom set gillnet that is operated on a single site. This allows for easier and safer maneuvering under the running line. It has recently been pointed out that this practice is in conflict with 5 AAC 06.335 Minimum distance between units of gear.

**PROPOSED BY:** Laura Zimin (EF-C15-064)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 30 – 5 AAC 06.331. Gillnet specifications and operations.** Change the description of set gillnet exemptions that allow operations where beaches at mean low tide are not connected to either exposed land or land not covered at high tide, by deleting references to regulatory markers, as follows:

5 AAC 06.331(i) is amended to read:

(i) A set gillnet must be set on an area of beach that, at mean low tide, is connected by exposed land to the shore or to land not covered at high tide, except that in the Togiak District between **a point on the southernmost mouth of the Kulukak River at 58° 54.94' N. lat., 159° 43.81' W. long. to a point at the eastern entrance to Metervik Bay at 58° 54.94' N. lat., 159° 43.81' W. long.** [THE SOUTHERNMOST ADF&G REGULATORY MARKER LOCATED AT THE MOUTH OF THE KULUKAK RIVER AND THE ADF&G REGULATORY MARKER LOCATED AT THE EASTERN ENTRANCE TO METERVIK BAY], between Rocky Point and 160° 20' W. long., and between Togiak Reef and **a point near Mt. Aeolus at 58° 54.82' N. lat., 160° 44.06' W. long.** [THE ADF&G REGULATORY MARKER AT MT.

AEOLUS], no part of a set gillnet may be more than 500 feet from the mean high tide mark and the set gillnet must be substantially perpendicular to the shoreline.

5 AAC 06.331(n) is amended to read:

(n) In the Nushagak District, .....

...

(2) from the cannery dock at Clark's Point to [AN ADF&G REGULATORY MARKER AT] First Creek at XX' N. lat. XX' W. long., 500 feet from the mean high tide mark, or to the minus three foot low tide mark, whichever location is closer to the mean high tide mark;

(3) from First Creek at XX' N. lat., XX' W. long. to [AN ADF&G REGULATORY MARKER AT FIRST CREEK TO AN ADF&G REGULATORY MARKER AT] Third Creek at XX' N. lat., XX' W. long., 700 feet from the mean high tide mark;

(4) from [AN ADF&G REGULATORY MARKER AT] Third Creek at XX' N. lat., XX' W. long. to [AN ADF&G REGULATORY MARKER AT] Etolin Point at 58° 39.37' N. lat., 158° 19.31' W. long., 1,000 feet from the mean high tide mark.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Remove reference to department regulatory markers from the regulations describing gillnet specifications and operations. The department has switched to latitude and longitude coordinates to define open and closed areas and no longer maintains regulatory markers. Removing references to regulatory markers that are no longer maintained will help clarify the regulations.

(Editor note: Complete coordinates were not available at the deadline for proposals and will be available prior to the meeting.)

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F15-007)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 31 – 5 AAC 06.370. Registration and reregistration.** Change the area registration requirements to require district registration prior to fishing in a district in Bristol Bay, as follows:

In all Bristol Bay commercial salmon fishing districts no fishing is allowed until registered blue card are filled out with area to be fished and submitted to Alaska Department of Fish and Game staff.

The transfer time of 48 hours will be in effect in Ugashik, Egegik, Naknek, Kvichak and Nushagak.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** In the Bristol Bay commercial salmon fishery no transfer restrictions have affected management and created a large mobile fleet that brings fish from one district to another which affects the genetic studies being

done in Bristol Bay. It also affects all early openings with a cautious management approach, Quality of fish are being sacrificed.

**PROPOSED BY:** Lower Bristol Bay Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-C15-101)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 32 – 5 AAC 06.370. Registration and reregistration.** Change the area registration date requirement for the Bristol Bay commercial salmon fishery, as follows:

Return to regulation prior to 2010— "5 AAC 06.370. Registration and reregistration. (a) Before taking salmon in Bristol Bay, each commercial salmon set gillnet or drift gillnet CFEC permit holder shall register for a district described in 5 AAC 06.200. Each drift gillnet permit holder also shall register for the same district the drift gillnet vessel that the permit holder will be operating. Initial district registration is accomplished by completing a registration form provided by the department and returning the completed form to the department office in Dillingham or King Salmon. For the purposes of this section, a CFEC permit holder and a drift gillnet vessel may be registered in only one district at a time." And this means no waiting until June 25 to register for a specific fishing district.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The issue is the unrestricted mobility of the drift fleet until June 25. We propose to go back to the district registration of drift permits as it was prior to 2010. The Egegik District has earlier run timing than the rest of the Bay so the entire Bristol Bay fleet can potentially fish in Egegik District when we are under regulations starting June 16 and they are on free week. With all of those extra boats it makes it extremely difficult for our biologist to distribute fish inside the district and achieve early escapement which should be our top priority.

**PROPOSED BY:** Tom Huffer Sr., Egegik Setnetters Association (EF-C15-009)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 33 – 5 AAC 06.370. Registration and reregistration.** Change the area registration date requirement for the Bristol Bay commercial salmon fishery, as follows:

5 AAC 06.370 is amended to read:

(a) All Bristol Bay permit holders must declare what district they wish to fish in on or before the third Friday of June of every year, which will then require permit holders to adhere to the present 48 hour wait time for transferring to another district.

(b) For the permit holders who wish to not fish until a later date can do so, but when they do wish to fish, must declare which district they wish to fish in.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Current law allows Bristol Bay drift permit holder to fish in any district without what declaring what district they wish to fish until June 25 +/- a day. Currently, fish biologists are unable to accurately manage given districts run strengths based on the ever change fleet strength. Secondly, canneries are struggling with adapting to the ever changing fleet jumping from one district to another without any wait

time. Third, the catch quota between the setnet and drift fleet is skewed so greatly at the beginning of the season, which leads to unneeded challenges during heavy fishing periods. Fourth, it has become apparent vessels are catching fish in one district and then running to another district, fishing then selling their catch from more than one district at one time. This provides issues with run strength from one district to another. Finally, the river drainages for the various districts are seeing their front end of the escapement numbers are being reduced due to the current law.

**PROPOSED BY:** Chad Sorenson (EF-C15-012)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 34 – 5 AAC 06.370. Registration and reregistration.** Reduce the required waiting period when registering for a new district from 48 hours to 12 hours, as follows:

Modify the language in the regulation to reflect a waiting period of 12 hours instead of 48 hours.

Draft language. Substitute 12 hours in the place of 48 hours in all language referencing transfer waiting period for drift gillnet vessels and permit holders in 5 AAC 06.370.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** When transferring from one district to another during the Bristol Bay salmon fishery a vessel and its' permit holder(s) must wait 48 hours from the time of notification of transfer to begin fishing again. This regulation is a relic of management regimes long ago. The current regulation penalizes fishermen that simply want the opportunity to harvest available surpluses in a district other than where they are fishing at the present time. In the past processors have been adamant that they need district registration to be able to know where their fleet is and will be fishing in order that they can plan for tender placement and proper service. Leaving the notification requirement in place and reducing the waiting period to 12 hours provides the tracking that processors need while allowing the fishing fleet to operate under a management regime similar to that of every other salmon fishery in the state. The present regulation is difficult and costly to enforce and often results in significant abuse resulting in significant illegal fishing activities.

**PROPOSED BY:** Matthew Luck (EF-C15-020)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 35 – 5 AAC 06.370. Registration and reregistration.** Require drift gillnet operations to register the day of fishing during emergency order periods, as follows:

All drift fishers shall drop district registration cards on day they start to fish during emergency order period

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Repeal district registration date of June 25. New language to read; all drift vessels shall drop district registration cards on the day they start fishing during emergency order period. It is unfair on local fleets in Egegik and

Ugasik to have large groups of boat racing between districts. Most boats are from Naknek and Nushagak. All districts should have same set of rules.

**PROPOSED BY:** Kim Rice (EF-C15-076)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 36 – 5 AAC 06.370. Registration and reregistration.** Change the registration requirement for commercial salmon fishing in the Egegik District, as follows:

5 AAC 06.370 is amended to read:

- (2) In the Nushagak District **and Egegik District**, a
  - (A) commercial salmon drift gillnet CFEC permit holder shall register for that district...

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Early registration in Egegik District. With Egegik starting emergency order regulations having open transfer puts undue hardship on Egegik fishermen. This creates a regulatory nightmare due to potential illegal fishing in closed waters and illegal deliveries with boats leaving one district for another without delivering their fish causing inaccuracies in district fishing results.

**PROPOSED BY:** Stanley O. Johnson (EF-C15-015)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 37 – 5 AAC 06.370. Registration and reregistration.** Change the area registration date requirement from June 25 to June 1 for the Naknek-Kvichak, Egegik, and Ugashik districts for the drift gillnet fleet, as follows:

Require boats to register June 1 by district, before fishing in these areas to restore a more ordered and methodical process to the start of the fishery. This process was used successfully in the past and will make it much easier to manage and lower cost for fishermen, processors, and the Department.

5 AAC 06.370(a)(4) is amended to read:

- (4) beginning **June 1** [JUNE 25], before taking salmon in the Naknek, Kvichak, Egegik, and Ugashik Districts, a commercial salmon drift gillnet CFEC permit holder shall register for one of these districts;

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Change area registration in Naknek, Kvichak, Egegik, and Ugashik to June 1 instead of June 25. Late June registration in these three districts makes it difficult to manage for fishermen, processors and the Department, and adds unneeded costs.

The fleet arrives early and runs from area to area in a “mob” regardless of any accumulations of harvestable fish, running up unneeded boat and fuel cost. Early registration eliminates the mob.

Fishermen enter the districts as fish develop, spreads out catching effort and improves cost for fishermen.

Department area managers have to guess as to how many boats will be in a district because of no early registration and free roaming of boats between districts. Not knowing how many boats will participate in an opening makes it difficult to guess how much time should be allowed for that particular opening and matching boat numbers with fishing time. Oftentimes too little, or worse, too much fish is taken based on a guess. Early registration better allows the manager to know before an opening how many boats to expect.

Fish is often sold illegally out of the district it is caught in as boats travel from district to district. The Department therefore has no real way of knowing what districts early fish are actually caught in. Early registration eliminates out of district selling.

Early unregistered fishing in these districts, by a large fleet, is for the most part not managed by enforcement as they are not typically deployed at that time. Early registration reduces a large fleet in one area and would cut down on line violations and instigating a line fishery right at the front end of the fishery.

Not knowing where the majority of the fleet will be from opening to opening makes it difficult for a processor to guess where to position tenders and hard to manage. Having boats register for a particular area early eliminates the need for guessing and provides better tender service for the fishermen.

Late area registration requires the processor to start tender contracts early to provide coverage for all areas in anticipation of a large early fleet, and not necessarily for any early fish. This runs up unneeded tender costs. Early area registration allows the processor to start tenders by area, as fish and fleet develop, lowering tender contract days and fuel cost.

Polling of fleet indicates that the vast majority of fishermen would like to eliminate late area registration and go back to the previous method of having to drop the blue card and register before fishing any district. Fishermen can still fish early, just register for a district and go fishing. However, with early registration they can start the season on their own schedule and not the mobs.

**PROPOSED BY:** Spencer Fuentes (EF-C15-010)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 38 – 5 AAC 06.370. Registration and reregistration.** Change registration requirements for fisheries under emergency order conditions and change the registration date for the Naknek-Kvichak, Egegik, and Ugashik districts from June 25 to June 18, as follows:

Blue card registration needs to be dropped in a district that is in emergency order (EO) fishing conditions.

1. To alleviate the going back and forth from district to district in the early season, a vessel needs to declare a district if the area goes to EO openings. Making the 48-hour

transfer to get out of that area mandatory to fish a free and open area that has not gone on Emergency Order.

2. To change the drop date of the blue card to June 18th (moved up 7 days). The salmon season is under full swing as of that date and ADF&G should be under full control of the districts earlier than the current date of June 25th. Making the EO to all rivers systems on June 18th.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** District Blue card registration for district fishing

**PROPOSED BY:** Marc Vance (EF-C15-018)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 39 – 5 AAC 06.370. Registration and reregistration.** For the Naknek-Kvichak District, eliminate the registration date of June 25, and require registration only before fishing in the district, as follows:

Register to fish as soon as you start fishing, as it used to be.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Change the drift registration, register or (drop blue cards) in the Naknek/Kvichak District when you start fishing instead of June 25th.

This is how it used to be. When it was changed to June 25th, the run timing was different. The last few years the fish have been returning earlier. Lately by the 25<sup>th</sup>, the run of fish is starting to come in more than had been anticipated. The fishing fleet is getting more and more mobile and because of these circumstances the Naknek/Kvichak has been getting quite overcrowded.

**PROPOSED BY:** Randolph Alvarez (EF-C15-025)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 40 – 5 AAC 06.370. Registration and reregistration.** Change the drift gillnet registration date in the Naknek-Kvichak District from June 25 to June 17, as follows:

Change drift registration in the Naknek/Kvichak District to June 17th from its present date of June 25th.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Registration or dropping of blue cards in the Naknek/Kvichak District. Last cycle the Board of Fish changed the drift registration. It was moved to June 25th from June 17th. I propose to move it back to June 17th. Since it was changed, the run timing has changed resulting in the run starting to be quite significant by June 25. Because of that and the mobile fleet, the Naknek/Kvichak has been overcrowded before June 25.

**PROPOSED BY:** Randolph Alvarez (EF-C15-026)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 41 – 5 AAC 06.370. Registration and reregistration.** Change the area registration requirement for the Naknek-Kvichak, Egegik, and Ugashik districts by removing the June 25 start date, as follows:

In 5 AAC 06.370 I would delete the words "Beginning June 25" and begin the paragraph "Before taking .....".

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Although fishing begins June 1 and although the allocation period begins June 1 (5 AAC 06.365), district registration does not begin until June 25. That means a drift fisher can fish, for example, a period in Egegik on June 20 and in Naknek on June 21 and back to Egegik for June 22. The law may require a fisher to land the catch in the district taken but we all know that during this non-regulated time, fishers catch in one district and deliver in another according to their convenience. ADF&G cannot manage the district allocation nor escapement properly. It is simple for a fisher to work one district and travel a few short hours to another district with fish on board, and fish the second district before delivering. It's my opinion that this practice corrupts the allocation in the Egegik and Naknek districts where it would seem fish are caught and leave Egegik unreported and deliver in Naknek, thus under reporting the catch and drift allocation in Egegik and over reporting in Naknek. The ADF&G cannot look at a boat and know which district it is registered for, and management is therefore made more difficult. District registration should begin when fishing begins, consistent with the allocation regulation period.

**PROPOSED BY:** Tony Neal (EF-C15-031)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 42 – 5 AAC 06.370. Registration and reregistration.** Allow set gillnet operators to transfer within the Nushagak statistical areas without the 48-hour time requirement, as follows:

5 AAC 06.370(a)(2)(B) is amended to read:

(B) commercial salmon set gillnet CFEC permit holder shall register for [A STATISTICAL AREA IN] that district;

Repeal the sections in 5 AAC 06.370 that require setnet permit holders to transfer between statistical subdistricts in the Nushagak. Specifically 5 AAC 06.370 (I)

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The statistical areas of the Nushagak District which commercial set gill CFEC permit holders must register in addition to district registration is a cumbersome and restrictive process. It creates confusion without benefiting set net permit holders. Not only does it create additional paperwork for Tenders, Fish and Game, Processors, and Fishers but it restricts where permit holders may fish in the Bay causing loss in catch and revenue by requiring a 48 hour time that nets must be out of the water when transferring between sub districts. It restricts commercial set gill CFEC permit holders from responding to changing conditions in the Bay leaving many people on the sidelines while the



fish pass them by. There is no other district in Bristol Bay that has these statistical sub districts or the 48-hour transfer time associated with them.

**PROPOSED BY:** Gregg James Marxmiller (EF-C15-116)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 43 – 5 AAC 06.370. Registration and reregistration.** Repeal set gillnet reregistration requirement for statistical areas within the Nushagak District as follows:

**5 AAC 06.370 (a) Registration and reregistration is amended to read:**

(2) in the Nushagak District, a

...

(B) commercial salmon set gillnet CFEC permit holder shall register for a statistical area in that district;

**(I)** In the Nushagak District a CFEC salmon set gillnet permit holder intending to fish in a statistical area for which the permit holder is not registered, shall register for the new statistical area; **if transferring into the Nushagak District from any other fishing district, the permit holder must register** at least 48 hours before fishing in the new statistical area **(in accordance with 5 AAC 06.370 (b)).** [A SET GILLNET PERMIT HOLDER SHALL ALSO REGISTER THE SET GILLNET FOR THE NEW STATISTICAL AREA. REREGISTRATION IS ACCOMPLISHED BY THE PERMIT HOLDER, OR THE PERMIT HOLDER’S AUTHORIZED AGENT, COMPLETING A FORM PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT AND SUBMITTING THE COMPLETED FORM, IN PERSON, TO AN AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DEPARTMENT. THE 48-HOUR NOTIFICATION PERIOD BEGINS WHEN THE REREGISTRATION FORM IS SIGNED BY THE AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DEPARTMENT. THE SET GILLNET PERMIT HOLDER MAY NOT FISH IN THE ORIGINAL STATISTICAL AREA DURING THE 48-HOUR NOTIFICATION PERIOD. THE NOTIFICATION PERIOD MAY BE REDUCED BY COMMISSIONER’S ANNOUNCEMENT.] Reregistration is not required to fish **different statistical areas within the Nushagak so long as you accurately record the fishing district and statistical area at the point of sale in accordance with 5 AAC 39.130(c)(7).** [AFTER 9:00 A.M. JULY 17.]

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The Nushagak District is currently the only fishing district within the Bristol Bay Area that requires set net permit holders to wait a 48-hour transfer period before fishing at a different location (known as a statistical area) within the same fishing district. Some less established, or new entrants into the fishery do not hold a shore fishery lease at a productive site; this would allow that person to find a more productive sight without being forced to miss out on the opportunity to fish their gear due to ADF&G office hours. Missing out on a single tide while waiting for the transfer period to be completed or rescinded could result in the substantial loss of opportunity.

Other solutions considered: Keep the 48-hour transfer period into and out of the Igushik River section. The Igushik River section is generally managed separately from the rest of the Nushagak

District, allow fisherman to move from all one statistical area to another without having to reregister unless moving into/out of the Igushik section.

**PROPOSED BY:** Kevin McCambly and Kayla Miller (EF-C15-127)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 44 – 5 AAC 06.370. Registration and reregistration.** Modify Togiak District registration restriction requirements that apply until July 27 to include a fishing vessel, as follows:

Addition of language in the existing regulation to tie the vessel transfer requirements to permit transfer requirements that are already in place.

5 AAC 06.370. Registration and reregistration is amended to read:

(k) Notwithstanding (b) of this section, a CFEC permit holder **and fishing vessel** registered before 9:00 a.m. July 17 in the

(1)Togiak District may not take salmon in the Nushagak, Naknek-Kvichak, Egegik or Ugashik District from 9:00 a.m. June 1 to 9:00 a.m. July 27

(2)Nushagak, Naknek-Kvichak, Egegik or Ugashik District may not take salmon in the Togiak District from 9:00 a.m. June 1 to 9:00 a.m. July 27

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Togiak is a late run fishery and has regulations restricting when you can transfer in and out of the district. Permits that fish in other districts cannot transfer to Togiak until a set date and likewise permits that fish in Togiak cannot transfer to other districts until the same set date. The regulations for the rest of Bristol Bay concerning transferring in and out of districts restrict both the permit and the vessel and Togiak’s transfer period should reflect the same restrictions on the vessel and permits. A permit holder who fishes another district can get another permit holder to drop their registration in Togiak and fish the same vessel that has already capitalized on the salmon run in another district.

**PROPOSED BY:** Togiak Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-C15-057)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 45 – 5 AAC 06.331. Gillnet specifications and operations.** Reauthorize Bristol Bay set gillnet permit stacking, as follows:

5 AAC 06.331 (f) Gillnet specifications and operations. Allow multiple permit use as follows:

...

(f) **Except as provided in (u) of this section,** a person may not operate more than two set gillnets, and the aggregate length of set gillnets operated by that person may not exceed 50 fathoms in length. Notwithstanding 5AAC 39.240 (a), a person may assist in operation or transportation of additional set gillnet gear when the CFEC interim-use or entry permit card holder of the additional gear is present in compliance with 5 AAC 39.107.

...

**(u) A CFEC permit holder who holds two Bristol Bay set gillnet CFEC permits may operate no more than four set gillnets, with no more than 100 fathoms of set gillnet gear in the aggregate. No single set gillnet may be more than 50 fathoms in length and no more than 50 fathoms of net may be fished on an individual set net site. Both of the permit holder's five-digit CFEC permit serial numbers followed by the letter "D" to identify the gillnet as a dual permit set gillnet must be located on the identification buoys required by 5 AAC 39.280 and 5 AAC 06.334. At least one cork every 10 fathoms along the cork line must be plainly and legibly marked with both CFEC permit numbers of the CFEC permit holder. All identifiers must be displayed in a manner that are plainly visible and unobscured and have permanent symbols in a color that contrasts with the background.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** To address the continued decrease in the ability for commercial set net fishermen to make a viable living off of fishing only one set net permit, SO4T, in Bristol Bay. It has become increasingly difficult for anyone to make a living off of one set net permit, even with multiply sites.

**PROPOSED BY:** Rose Beach (EF-C15-088)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 46 – 5 AAC 06.331. Gillnet specifications and operations.** Allow permit stacking for set gillnet operations, as follows:

I apologize that I cannot offer draft language, this is not an existing regulation that needs revising.

I would offer the language used in the time that S04T stacking was allowed. I would ask a restriction that prevented a dual permit holder from fishing both permits on one site.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** I ask the Board of Fisheries to approve permit stacking for S04T set net permit holders, so that one individual cannot only own two permits but can also fish two permits. I would prefer to see a tail on that regulation that prohibited a dual permit holder from fishing both permits on one site, say by alternately fishing one net while simultaneously picking another on the shore.

My primary reason for asking for permit stacking is defensive, we need to be able to fish our permits enough to make money and not be driven from the fishery by costs and restrictions.

We live in Homer and set net in Egegik. There are presently seven of us in one family, fishing three sites with three permits. With employment, school, disability, and other time constraints, it is impossible for us to have the same three permit holding persons there for the season from start to finish. Set netting is not a particularly profitable business and a family has to have other primary employment. Primary employment and school schedules drives who can be there and who can't. Although we are capable of fishing three sites for the full season, we cannot have the same three persons as permit holders for the full season. Given transfer restrictions and inefficiency during the season, we cannot transfer at will. Permit stacking allows our family to fish the full season and maximize our investment.

I was reading a report done by CFEC during the last board meeting for the permit stacking proposals. CFEC concluded that permit stacking was utilized by non-locals, like us, and non-residents, but not locals to Bristol Bay and that was presented as a detriment to the locals. I think the conclusion was wrong. A local Bristol Bay family does not need to stack permits because a non-fishing permit holder can more or less legally go down to the beach and hang out while others fish, thus no need to find an active permit holder. A permit holding grandmother can go to the beach near her home, sit in a camp chair, and watch her grandchildren fish her site. That's wonderful, I support that. That family can fish the whole season. But my wife, a permit holding grandmother who loves to watch her grandchildren fish, cannot do that. We have to travel out to Bristol Bay from Homer; she can't go home after the fishing period and take care of other family or employment needs. The grandchildren cannot always come to the Bay in time, they have school, college, sports. In another example, a local permit holder who was, say 17 and a senior in high school could play sports and attend school and fish, because the site was close to home. Our kids cannot do that. If we could stack our permits, we could fish more periods with all our permits and be able to make set netting economically viable.

I was told that permit stacking raised the price of the permits, making them less available locally. We wouldn't know because we don't buy or sell, we only stacked within our family when it was allowed. Among the 8 or so families in our area that did stack when it was allowed, none bought permits. The reason was always the same, family convenience allowing the family group to more efficiently fish what they already have. I suppose stacking could cause some rise in cost of a permit because it allows more efficiency in set netting and thus more income to a permit holder.

There was a lot of previous opposition to stacking among local Bristol Bay permit holders because it was said that the price of permits would go up. In my view, local people can take advantage of having permit-holding family members nearby, so they don't need stacking. In my view, that is an allocation to locals at the expense of non-local Alaska residents like our family.

In my view, locals will benefit the most of the three groups by permit stacking. It's my understanding BBEDC will finance permits for Watershed residents. That is a wonderful advantage not available to us in Homer. By stacking, locals could in theory double the number of permits owned locally, using financing from BBEDC. I believe the greatest beneficiaries to set net permit stacking are the local residents.

But we all will benefit and we need the help.

Thank you.

**PROPOSED BY:** Tony Neal (EF-C15-033)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 47 – 5 AAC 06.331. Gillnet specifications and operations.** Allow permit stacking for set gillnet operations and up to one and one-half the current legal limit of gear for one permit to be operated when permit stacking, as follows:

Bristol Bay set net permit holders would be able to hold and actively operate two setnet permits at the same time. However, the total aggregate of gear in the water (fishing) would be equal to 1–1/2 times the legal limit of gear for a single permit in the area fished. (i.e.; if the legal amount of gear is 50 fathoms, then the dual permit holder would be able to operate 75 fathoms.)

Reasoning is that this may enable and encourage a non-transferable permit holder to obtain another permit as a hedge against potential future loss of the income source for his/her family and also allow them to hold the family fishing site. By limiting gear, the extra permit may not be enough incentive to encourage others to buy in to the fishery.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The issue this proposal would address is the continuing migration of Bristol Bay set net permits away from Alaskan residents and local Bristol Bay residents in particular. Presently there are about 100 non-transferable Bristol Bay set gillnet permits on the books. At one time there were 155. All but 18 of these permits were issued to Alaska residents, the vast majority of whom resided in Bristol Bay. When the holder of a non-transferable permit dies, his permit is gone—no longer available to the family. Most of these permit holders have no other permit in the family.

The following proposal would help Alaska residents make their set gillnet operations more viable. Presently, entry permit holders may hold two entry permits for the same fishery, but they may only actively fish one of them. (In the Bristol Bay set gillnet fishery) This proposal, while potentially affecting all of Bristol Bay set gillnet permit holders, is designed to specifically protect the non-transferable permit holder and their families.

**PROPOSED BY:** John Schandelmeier (EF-C15-034)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 48 – 5 AAC 06.331. Gillnet specifications and operations.** Allow permit stacking for set gillnet operations in the Bristol Bay Area, as follows:

Allow Bristol Bay set net fishermen to have dual permits.

Fisherman in the Bristol Bay salmon fishery are allowed to hold and legally fish two set net permits per person.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** I would like the board to once again allow set net fishermen to have two set net permits in their names. This was allowed from 2009–2012 in Bristol Bay. During that time, my family purchased a set net operation from a family for whom I worked as a deckhand for eight years. Our long term goal is to raise our family fishing in the Bay every summer and pass it on to them the way it was passed on to me. Right now my kids are young, but are finally at the point where they can come out for part of the fishing season. However, it is a challenge to have them out there for the whole season. Additionally, I would like to be able to come out earlier and stay later to take full advantage of all the fishery has to offer. So, while I could simply not fish her permit during those times, that option is not financially viable for our family. The only other option is to have the permit in a

deckhand's name since they are there for the whole fishing season. This is not a great option either for obvious reasons.

While it's easy to dismiss my request, I feel the board has a responsibility to give it more consideration. I am not asking for something that has not been done. To the contrary, I entered the fishery as a permit holder when they did allow permit stacking. What I have been unable to understand is why the board would have allowed the stacking of set net permits for a short three year period. That decision should have been a long term decision as I reasoned it had to be. Why would you allow people to legally purchase a \$40,000 asset and then require them to sell it 3 years later? This is a logistical nightmare that is unwarranted. All the arguments for letting the regulation sunset were weak; less new people entering the fishery, less local and native fishermen did not mandate reversing the decision. They were obvious outcomes of the experimental regulation period. Nothing happened in that time that was a surprise and certainly nothing that should lead everyone in the fishery to revert back to the way it was before.

Everyone knows fishing is a feast and famine industry to be in. But allowing stacking of two permits was a great way to help fishermen make fishing a more reliable source of their livelihood. Some year's the return are low or we go through valleys where the price drops. Having two permits helps weather those storms. It helped us. It didn't hurt anyone (that's my argument of course), and it certainly didn't impact the health of the fishery. If you were to reinstate set net permit stacking it would make our family grateful. We would have less to juggle in paperwork, I would be able to maximize the use of the permits we fish and would probably be able to stay out longer to make Bristol Bay a larger part of how my family supports and sustains itself.

**PROPOSED BY:** Corey Lockbeam (EF-C15-080)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 49 – 5 AAC 06.331. Gillnet specifications and operations.** Allow two set gillnet permit holders to jointly operate with up to 75 fathoms of set gillnet gear and require both permit numbers on identification sign, as follows:

I recommend the board allow: Two setnet permit holders can register as a Dual and fish 75 fathoms of gear on one site. If the two permit holders opt to fish as a dual they would not be able to fish the extra 25 fathoms on another site at the same time. This would remove 25 fathoms of gear from the water and help consolidate operations and limit costs and delivery and picking time. Setnet signs would list both permit numbers and dual to signify this.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** I would like the board to address the lack of setnet permit holders not having a dual permit option to fish additional gear on one site as the drift permit owners do on one boat. Setnet permit holders should have the option as drifters do to consolidate operations, limit costs and better manage their business. It will help save fuel costs due to long travel time between sites and faster delivery time for higher quality fish. For example a fishing family with two permits and two sites far from each other could consolidate and fish both on one site. Two permits registered as dual would be allowed to

fish 75 fathoms of gear on one site. The other 25 fathoms would not be allowed to fish at the same time. This removes 25 fathoms from the water.

**PROPOSED BY:** Jim Reynolds (EF-C15-082)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 50 – 5 AAC 06.331. Gillnet specifications and operations.** Allow permit stacking for set gillnet operations in the Egegik District, as follows:

Allow set gillnet dual permit stacking in the Egegik District of Bristol Bay. Allow other districts to opt into the dual permit program if the set gillnet stakeholders in each district choose to.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The issue is setnet permit stacking in Bristol Bay. We had setnet permit stacking for three years before the Board of Fisheries took it away. The program worked like it was supposed to. There were no problems. We had over 82% positive comments at the last board cycle for Bristol Bay. It was a sound program that allowed setnet fishers to not have to transfer between family members all the time. It added some stability to many setnet families allowing some flexibility in what family member could be present. It allowed a family member to take a summer off to go to special training that they couldn't get any other time than fishing season. Permit stacking also allowed a person to grow their fishing operation. Many young people are not looking at setnet fishing as a future because the upside is not there. By being limited to one permit they can see most single setnet operation just break even. Most all of the dual permit holders were family groups. Those permits were transferred back to family members not sold, nothing changed. Setnet permit prices didn't change by repealing dual permit program the board made it more difficult to juggle permits with in the family. Setnet permit stacking helped keep fishing families together. This program helped Alaska families

**PROPOSED BY:** Kim Rice (EF-C15-078)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 51 – 5 AAC 06.333. Requirements and specifications for use of 200 fathoms of drift gillnet in Bristol Bay.** Allow drift gillnet permit stacking for an individual who owns two drift gillnet permits in Bristol Bay, as follows:

Under the current regulation 5 AAC 06.333, the option of "permit stacking" is only allowed for two separate permit holders. I recommend the Alaska Board of Fisheries amend the current regulation under 5 AAC 06.333 to include individuals owning two Bristol Bay Salmon drift permits the same access of "permit stacking" as two separate permit holders.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Under the current regulation, two Bristol Bay drift gillnet CFEC permit holders may concurrently fish from the same vessel and jointly operate 200 fathoms of drift gillnet gear. In 2002, the Alaska Legislature passed House Bill 286, amending Alaska Statute 16.43.140 (c). This law allows individuals the ability to concurrently hold two salmon limited entry permits in the same permit fishery. House

Bill 251 provided the Alaska Board of Fisheries the authority to grant fishing privileges to the second permit held by an individual, otherwise known as permit stacking.

**PROPOSED BY:** Abe Williams (EF-C15-096)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 52 – 5 AAC 06.333. Requirements and specifications for use of 200 fathoms of drift gillnet in Bristol Bay.** Allow drift gillnet permit stacking for an individual who owns two drift gillnet permits in Bristol Bay and the operation of 200 fathoms of drift gillnet gear from a vessel with an individual holding two drift gillnet permits, as follows:

This proposal would allow an owner of two Bristol Bay drift gillnet permits to fish and operate 200 fathoms of drift gillnet gear from a single vessel.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Currently, the full benefit of permit stacking ("D" Permits) is not being realized. We are falling short of the potential improvement in fish quality and reduction of fishing vessels (Optimum Number Study).

**PROPOSED BY:** Kurt Johnson (EF-C15-122)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 53 – 5 AAC 06.333. Requirements and specifications for use of 200 fathoms of drift gillnet in Bristol Bay.** Increase the amount of drift gillnet gear allowed when two permit holders are jointly operating, as follows:

5 AAC 06.333 Requirements and specifications to use 300 fathoms of drift gillnet gear is amended to read:

(a) Two Bristol Bay drift gillnet CFEC permit holders may currently fish from the same vessel and jointly operate up to 300 fathoms of drift gillnet gear under this section

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Section 333 Requirements and Specifications for use of 200 fathoms of drift gill net gear in Bristol Bay."

"Laws and regulations governing the use or disposal of natural resources shall apply equally to all persons similarly situated with reference to the subject matter and purpose to be served by the law or regulation."

See also; Committee B report RC 81. Board of Fisheries (2009) Passed 5-1, 2009, for setnet permit stacking 5 AAC 06.333(f) with no optimum number study. 1858 Limited Entry Permits divided by two, is the optimum number. No Optimum Number Study is required.

**PROPOSED BY:** Todd Granger (EF-C15-032)  
\*\*\*\*\*



**PROPOSAL 54 – 5 AAC 06.359. Egegik River Sockeye Salmon Special Harvest Area Management Plan.** Close by the Egegik District Special Harvest Area to commercial salmon fishing for five days during times of high intercept fishing, as follows:

5 AAC 06.359.X is amended to read:

The commissioner shall close the Egegik District outer line, according to the coordinates of the Egegik District Special Harvest Area, during a 5 day period when the interception of sockeye salmon stocks migrating through the Egegik District are the highest.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The issue I would like the board to address is the interception of sockeye salmon stocks within the Egegik District. The proposal reduces the unwarranted allocation of harvest from the Naknek/Kvichak and Ugashik terminal fisheries to Egegik interception fishery. This allocation has a particularly direct impact on set net fishers in the Naknek/Kvichak and Ugashik districts due to the inability to move sites. It is already the intent of Fish and Game to keep interception rates low. A regulation exists (5 AAC 06.359(c)(3)) stating that in an effort to reduce interception of sockeye salmon migrating through the Egegik District bound for Naknek, Kvichak and Ugashik River systems, the commissioner may close the Egegik District outer line if "interceptions of Naknek, Kvichak, or Ugashik sockeye stocks within the Egegik District have been documented by past studies and in season indicators".

I believe that the results of the Western Alaska Sockeye Salmon Identification Project presented at the Bristol Bay Finfish Board of Fisheries meeting in Naknek 2012 show the rates of interception in different districts at different times and can be used to help reduce those interception rates in the Egegik District. If nothing changes, interception will continue at rates that are unnecessarily high.

**PROPOSED BY:** Eric Meyer (EF-C15-071)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 55 – 5 AAC 06.331. Gillnet specifications and operations.** Modify set gillnet operations in the Ugashik District, as follows:

5 AAC 06.331(m)(8) is amended to read:

**5 AAC 06.331. Gillnet specifications and operations.** (m) In the Naknek-Kvichak, Egegik, Ugashik, and Togiak Districts, no part of a set gillnet may be more than 1,000 feet from the 18-foot high tide mark, except that ...

(8) in the Ugashik District, in that portion of the east bank of the Ugashik River from a point at 57° 30.74' N. lat., 157° 24.10' W. long. to 57° 32.27' N. lat., 157° 24.36' W. long., no part of a set gillnet may be more than 600 feet from the 18-foot high tide mark, **except that a set gillnet may extend to 1,000 feet from the 18-foot high tide mark if**

**(A) notwithstanding the provisions of (i) of this section, the shoreward end of the set gillnet is at least 400 feet from the 18-foot high tide mark;**

**(B) the anchoring devices for the set gillnet are not more than 100 feet from the set gillnet;**

**(C) the set gillnet is not attached to a running line connected to the beach; and**

**(D) during closed periods, all set gillnet gear, except buoys and anchors, more than 600 feet from the 18-foot high tide mark must be removed from the water.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Returning the fishing distance in the Ugashik District section 321-50 to the minimum distance, 1,000 feet that the rest setnetters are governed by with the modifications as stated.

**PROPOSED BY:** Roland Briggs

(EF-C15-045)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 56 – 5 AAC 06.XXX. Alagnak River Salmon Fishery Management Plan.** Create an inriver Alagnak River Salmon Fishery Management Plan, as follows:

Possible (Suggested) Management Scenario:

Prior to allocation period no fishing allowed. During the allocation period June 20 to July 17 and only after escapement has been achieved for the Alagnak River then open the river 1/4 mile above the mouth for a distance 1 mile up river to commercial fishing for both set and drift net fishing. An Alagnak in river fishery to be managed in keeping with the management guidelines established for other rivers in the Bristol Bay Region.

After the allocation period, (currently July 17) open the Alagnak River for commercial harvest on an every other day basis. For example: 24 hours on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday Closed Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday. In every case, both during and after the allocation period, the actual days to be fished and timing of the fishery will be subject to daily decisions of the local management biologist.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?**

Manage the Alagnak River Fishery to increase economic recovery of harvestable salmon.

The Alagnak River has from time to time produced salmon in excess of the required escapement and over escapement has occurred. This over escapement could be harvested by permitted drift and set net fishers for the economic wellbeing of the industry.

Levelock Village Council is developing a village owned fish processing facility that would purchase fish from fishers on the Alagnak River. The Levelock plant will be operated with a local hire policy and an employee recruitment plan that will extend all .of the villages along the Kvichak and Lake Iliamna watershed. The plant will bring increased economic activity to area and in doing so help the surrounding economies. The facility will provide residents with opportunities for increased employment as well as allowing for the development processing technical and business management skills. A fishery on the Alagnak River after the allocation period would provide a source of fish that the Levelock Plant could compete for that would benefit the local economy after the main season has passed and into the late summer

The fishery will be open to all permitted fishers. There will be no exclusivity for purchasing or processing, any licensed processor will be able to purchase fish.

**PROPOSED BY:** Levelock Village Council (HQ-F15-061)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 57 – 5 AAC 06.XXX. Kvichak River Salmon Fishery Management Plan.** Create an inriver Kvichak River Salmon Fishery Management Plan, as follows:

Possible (Suggested) Management Scenario:

Prior to allocation period no fishing allowed. During the allocation period June 20 to July 17 no in river fishing allowed. After the allocation period extend the Kvichak upper fishing limit line to a point 15 miles up the river to commercial fishing for both set and drift net fishing. Manage the Kvichak River for commercial harvest on an every other day basis. For example: 24 hours on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Closed Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday. In every case the actual days to be fished and timing of the fishery will be subject to daily decisions of the local management biologist.

The fishery will be open to all permitted fishers. There will be no exclusivity; any licensed processor will be able to purchase fish.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Manage the Kvichak River Fishery to increase economic recovery of harvestable salmon.

After the allocation period there are fish in the Kvichak River that could be harvested to benefit the economic wellbeing of the industry. By managing a fishery in the Kvichak River after the allocation period (currently July 17) fish could be harvested which would contribute to the economic wellbeing of the industry or the region as a whole.

Levelock Village Council is developing a village owned fish processing facility that would purchase fish from fishers on the Kvichak River. The Levelock plant will be operated with a local hire policy and an employee recruitment plan that will extend all of the villages along the Kvichak and Lake Iliamna watershed. The plant will bring increased economic activity to the area and in doing so help the surrounding economies. The facility will provide residents with opportunities for increased employment as well as allowing for the development processing technical and business management skills. A fishery on the Alagnak River after the allocation period would provide a source of fish that the Levelock Plant could complete for that would benefit the local economy after the main season has passed and into the later summer.

The fishery will be open to all permitted fishers. There will be no exclusivity for purchasing or processing, any licensed processor will be able to purchase fish.

**PROPOSED BY:** Levelock Village Council (HQ-F15-062)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 58 – 5 AAC 06.200. Fishing districts and sections.** Expand the boundaries of the Naknek Section of the Naknek-Kvichak District, as follows:

Move the Naknek section boundary line out to allow more area in the Naknek section of the Naknek/ Kvichak District. Approximately 1/4 – 1/3 mile on the upper-end at Libbyville and approximately 1/2 mile on the lower Johnston Hill line.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The boundary line in the Naknek/Kvichak District that separates the Naknek District from the Kvichak District. The Naknek Section of the Naknek/Kvichak District is small and over crowded with allocation and in-river fishing in the Naknek River if the projected forecast for the Kvichak is below a 2.6 million return.

The Naknek section should be enlarged. At the boundary line at Libbyville, move the line about 1/4 – 1/3 mile out. At the lower boundary move that point where it intersects the Johnston Hill Line over about 1/2 mile. The problem with the lower line is when you set your net on the incoming tide at the outside corner, the current takes you over the boundary line and then back inside about the middle of where the ships anchor. On the upper end, the current takes you over the line a couple of miles before you get up to the upper corner boundary. By moving the line over it should allow a drift from the lower corner up to the ships without the current taking a drifting net over the line and allow for more time on the upper end.

**PROPOSED BY:** Randolph Alvarez (EF-C15-027)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 59 – 5 AAC 06.350. Closed waters.** Revise boundaries of closed waters at Graveyard Point in the Naknek-Kvichak District, as follows:

Change the GPS numbers on the east (Graveyard Point) side of the river.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Our setnet site (which we have owned since 1954) is now out of the district.

**PROPOSED BY:** The Entire and Extended Armstrong Clan (HQ-F15-064)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 60 – 5 AAC 06.XXX. Graveyard Creek Special Harvest Area Management Plan.** Create a special harvest area in the Graveyard Creek area, as follows:

We request the Board of Fisheries to create a special harvest area or something similar to allow certain right(s) to be protected and preserved or simply restore our right to fish. We request this be done via grandfathered rights or creating special provisions created for cases similar in nature.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Bristol Bay

The issue pertains to the permitted use of set net fishing inside of Graveyard Creek located in the Naknek, Kvichak River section which we are no longer allowed to fish. This event occurred over an extended period of days prior to the start of our season, after hiring and spending thousands of dollars to land ready to fish. After much agonizing and delay we accepted our fate and this was the end result made final by Alaska State Troopers. The threat of a criminal violation being issued by troopers or the seizure of our boat(s) and equipment left us devastated causing our entire family an extreme hardship.

That hardship has been ongoing and continues still. Our family has been negatively impacted and our right(s) affected. This area has been aggressively fished for decades by our entire family each and every period for years in the same historical places. Any data or science would have always included this area being fished. It has always been fished. The unique circumstances involve a complex variety of issues to consider so it is unlikely this issue will be easily resolved by the Board. However, we are optimistic. Our family's primary concern now pertains to our right(s) as fisherman and those rights should be protected. This should be reasonably acknowledged by anyone after being presented the facts surrounding our family's history with Graveyard Creek. The unforeseen actions taken by troopers without explanation or just cause have been damaging. Where did this decisive action begin and why? We have no answers and our rights to fish should be grandfathered or restored. We have fished this area specifically uncontested and free of any violations for our entire life now 3 generations later.

**PROPOSED BY:** Agostino Grossi (EF-C15-136)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 61 – 5 AAC 06.335. Minimum distance between units of gear.** Increase the minimum distance drift gillnet operations must maintain from a set gillnet operation in the Nushagak District, as follows:

**5 AAC 06.335 (b) Minimum distance between units of gear is amended to read:**

No part of a drift gillnet may be operated within 300 feet of the side of a set gillnet and within 100 feet of the offshore end of a set gillnet. [THE 100-FOOT RESTRICTION DOES NOT APPLY SEAWARD OF THE OFFSHORE SETNET DISTANCE RESTRICTIONS SET OUT IN 5 AAC 06.331 (M) AND (N).]

-OR-

**(e) In the Nushagak District, from the cannery dock at Clark's Point to an ADF&G regulatory marker at First Creek, no part of a drift net (including a drift gillnet vessel while operating fishing gear) may be within 100 feet of the offshore end of a set gillnet anchoring device, or outermost marker buoy.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** This proposal will help to ensure that drift gillnetters respect the set gillnetters who are fishing at their Shore Fishery Lease held with the state. Too often drifters wind up entangled in set net gear, leading to loss in opportunity to fish; loss of production; anchors, screw anchors, buoys, nets and lines getting

damaged. This will help clear up any confusion as to whether or not a drift vessel operator is fishing in a legal manner. All other fishing districts in Bristol Bay have protections from drift gillnet fisherman "corking" offset gillnet fisherman who have no other viable spot to harvest salmon. The Nushagak District should have those same protections offered.

**PROPOSED BY:** Kevin McCambly and Karen Villnave (EF-C15-133)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 62 – 5 AAC 06.335. Minimum distance between units of gear.** Increase the minimum distance drift gillnet operations must maintain from a set gillnet operation in the Nushagak District, as follows:

**5 AAC 06.335 (b) Minimum distance between units of gear is amended to read:**

In the Nushagak District, no part of a drift gillnet may be operated [WITHIN 100 FEET OF THE INSHORE END OF A SET GILLNET, EXCEPT THAT IN THE LOCATIONS DESCRIBED IN 5 AAC 06.331 (N), NO PART OF A DRIFT GILLNET MAY BE OPERATED] inshore of a set gillnet.

-OR-

In the Nushagak District, no part of a drift gillnet may be operated [WITHIN 100 FEET OF THE INSHORE END OF A SET GILLNET, EXCEPT THAT IN THE LOCATIONS DESCRIBED IN 5 AAC 06.331 (N), NO PART OF A DRIFT GILLNET MAY BE OPERATED] inshore of a set gillnet **from the Northern Boundary Line at Nushagak point (the east side of the bay) to the cannery docks at Clarks Point.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** This will offer set gillnet operators fishing on their Shore Fishery Leases in the Nushagak District with the state some protections from drift gillnet gear operators. It is in line with all other fishing district regulations.

**PROPOSED BY:** Kevin McCambly (EF-C15-135)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 63 – 5 AAC 06.331. Gillnet specifications and operations.** Change the seaward minimum distance between set gillnet gear in the Clark’s Point area in the Nushagak District, as follows:

**5 AAC 06.331(n)(2) is amended to read:**

From the cannery dock at Clark’s Point to an ADF&G regulatory marker at First Creek, 500 feet from the mean high tide mark, or to the minus 3 foot low tide mark whichever location is closer to the mean high tide mark. **Except between 50° 49.945' N lat., 158° 33.456' W long., and 58° 49.241' N lat., 158° 33.061' W long. (at Clark’s Point Bluff mudflat) 750 feet from the mean high tide mark, or to the minus three foot low tide mark whichever location is closer to the mean high tide mark.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The existing regulation for the set net distance limit of 500 feet from the mean high tide mark results in the lack of sufficient water to fish for the set net sites on Clark's Point bluff mudflat between 50° 49.945' N lat., 158° 33.456' W long., and 58° 49.241' N lat., 158° 33.061' W long. The set net sites in the specified area are now severely limited by the existing regulation as it does not accommodate the need for an extended limit in this area so the sites can have adequate fishing water/time. The specified area has always been a mud flat, but over the years it has filled in making the mud flat longer and the area within and beyond the 500 feet distance shallower. This expansion of the mud flat exacerbates the need for an extended distance beyond 500 feet.

Extending this regulation to a 750 feet limit in the specified area would put the offshore distance in line with other set net areas that are situated in similar large mud flats in the Nushagak District. Other set net areas with long mud flats have either 700 to 1,000 feet limits for set netters. First Creek to Third Creek on Ekuk beach, Flounder Flats (Third Creek to Etolin Point), and Igushik are prime examples of similar mud flats with an extended adequate distance (700-1000 feet) to get sufficient water to fish. Clark's Point Bluff is the only fishing area with an extended mud flat that is restricted to 500 feet, severely reducing our sites access to adequate water and fishing time.

Extending the limit in the specified area to 750 feet would:

- a. Exhibit regulatory consistency with other similar areas in the Nushagak district.
- b. Adjust the regulation to accommodate for the reduced fishing opportunity due to the expanding mud flat.
- c. Provide adequate water for the set netters in the affected area to be able to have the opportunity to have sufficient fishing time/water for a successful season.

If this regulation does not change it will:

- a. Continue to arbitrarily restrict the specified set netters from having sufficient water to fish due to environmental changes therefore unnecessarily restricting the set netters opportunity for successful fishing seasons.

Other solutions we considered but rejected included a low tide set. However, due to the length of the mudflat it could be an unreasonable distance and hazard for gillnetters and set netters to be fishing that far out into the Bay.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alannah Hurley (EF-C15-119)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 64 – 5 AAC 06.367. Nushagak District Commercial Set and Drift Gillnet Sockeye Salmon Fisheries Management and Allocation Plan.** Increase fishing time for drift gillnet gear during incoming tides in the Nushagak District, as follows:

5 AAC 06.367 is amended to read:

(d) (1) may open, by emergency order, concurrent fishing periods and set gillnet only fishing periods at approximately two and one-half to three hours before high water, except

that when a tide is greater than 18 feet, openings will begin at least three hours before high water: **drift gillnet openings will begin at least one hour before book high water:**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Establish in regulation a minimum amount of flood tide fishing time for drift gillnets in the Nushagak fishing district. Currently many of the openings for the drift gillnets provide minimum amounts of flood fishing time. Flood fishing time provides for increases in harvest for time spent fishing when compared to ebb tide fishing.

**PROPOSED BY:** Robert Heyano (HQ-F15-038)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 65 – 5 AAC 06.367. Nushagak District Commercial Set and Drift Gillnet Sockeye Salmon Fisheries Management and Allocation Plan.** In the Nushagak District repeal emergency order authority to limit gillnet mesh to not exceed four and three-quarters inches, as follows:

**5 AAC 06.367(e) is amended to read:**

**(e) Repealed ###/###/####.** [IF THE COMMISSIONER DETERMINES IT NECESSARY FOR THE PROTECTION OF SOCKEYE SALMON, THE COMMISSIONER MAY OPEN, BY EMERGENCY ORDER, FISHING PERIODS IN THE NUSHAGAK DISTRICT DURING WHICH GILLNET MESH SIZE MAY NOT EXCEED FOUR AND THREE-QUARTERS INCHES.]

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Repeal section 5 AAC 06.367(e) in its entirety. There was no scientific evidence to support the passage of this amended language. The result of this regulation has not lead to the outcome desired when implemented in 2012. The requirement of having additional gear has created an extra cost; has resulted in more permit holders fishing smaller gear which leads to more roll-outs, or wanton waste. Commercial fishing gear can be hung in such a way as to minimize any fallout of untargeted species. Allow the permit holder greater choice and flexibility in the size of fishing gear utilized.

**PROPOSED BY:** Kevin McCambly (EF-C15-132)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 66 – 5 AAC 06.368. Nushagak River Coho Salmon Management Plan.** Amend the Nushagak River Coho Salmon Management Plan to establish a fixed escapement goal, change the fishery start date, and repeal language pertaining to pink salmon escapement, as follows:

5 AAC 06.368 is amended to read:

(c) If the total in river coho salmon return in the Nushagak River is projected by the department to be less than **90,000** [100,000 BUT AT LEAST 60,000] fish by August 25 the



department shall close, by emergency order, the [DIRECTED COHO] salmon commercial fishery in the Nushagak District by **midnight August 1** [July 23]

REMOVE; (1) [DURING EVEN-NUMBERED YEARS, MANAGE THE PINK SALMON COMMERCIAL FISHERY TO ACHIEVE A PINK SALMON ESCAPEMENT RANGE OF 1.2 TO 2.4 MILLION FISH (0.3 TO 1.5 MILLION FISH ABOVE THE BIOLOGICAL ESCAPEMENT GOAL) AND CLOSE THE DIRECTED PINK SALMON COMMERCIAL FISHERY NO LATER THAN 12:00 MIDNIGHT, AUGUST 1. DURING COMMERCIAL FISHING PERIODS UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH THE USE OF COMMERCIAL GILL NET WITH WEBBING LARGER THAN FOUR AND THREE QUARTER INCHES SHALL BE PROHIBITED FOR ALL FISHING PERIODS AFTER 12:00 MIDNIGHT JULY 23.]

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?**

(A) Change escapement trigger on the start date of the Coho Management Plan from a range of 130,000 to 70,000 to the biological escapement goal of 90,000 by August 25. This would give the department a fixed number to manage for instead of a broad range.

(B) Change the Coho Management Plan start date from July 23 to midnight August 1. It is difficult if not impossible to project coho escapement by the regulation date July 23 with only an average of 6% of the coho escapement in at that time. This hinders the ability to harvest potential surplus sockeye, pink, and coho salmon after July 23. By August 1 there is an average of 23.8% of coho escapement in, which provides the department needed information to manage the coho salmon season and ample opportunity to manage for shortfalls in the coho run.

(C) Eliminate 5AAC 06.368 (C-1) language pertaining to pink salmon from the Coho Management Plan. This language is cumbersome and no longer needed to protect the coho salmon run. This still maintains the ability to fish for pink salmon until midnight August 1.

**PROPOSED BY:** Travis Ball and Lloyd T. O'Connor (HQ-F15-002)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 67 – 5 AAC 06.368. Nushagak River Coho Salmon Management Plan.** Change the Nushagak River Coho Salmon Management Plan to reflect changes in escapement goals that have previously been implemented, as follows:

5 AAC 06.368 is amended to read:

(a) The purpose of this management plan is to provide guidelines to ensure an adequate spawning escapement of coho salmon into the Nushagak River system. It is the intent of the Board of Fisheries (board) that Nushagak coho salmon be harvested by the fisheries that have historically harvested them. The plan in this section provides management guidelines to the department in an effort to preclude allocation conflicts between various users of this resource. The department shall manage coho salmon stocks in a conservative manner consistent with sustained yield principles and the subsistence priority.

(b) The department shall manage the commercial fishery in the Nushagak District to achieve an inriver run goal of **70,000 – 130,000** [100,000] coho salmon present in the Nushagak River upstream from the department sonar counter located near the village of Portage Creek by August 25. The inriver goal provides for

(1) the department's **sustainable** [BIOLOGICAL] escapement goal of **60,000 – 120,000** [90,000] coho salmon upstream from the sonar counter by August 25;

(2) a reasonable opportunity for subsistence harvest of coho salmon; and

(3) a daily bag and possession limit of five coho salmon, and a guideline harvest level of 2,000 fish in the sport fishery; the sport fish guideline harvest level of 2,000 fish does not apply if the total inriver coho salmon return is projected to be greater than **120,000** [100,000] fish by August 25; the department shall manage the sport fishery to ensure that the biological escapement goal of **60,000 – 120,000** [90,000] coho salmon is achieved.

(c) if the total inriver coho salmon return in the Nushagak River is projected by the department to be less than **120,000** [100,000] but at least **70,000** [60,000] fish by August 25, the department shall close, by emergency order, the directed coho salmon commercial fishery in the Nushagak district by July 23; and

(1) during even-numbered years, manage the pink salmon commercial fishery to achieve a **minimum** pink salmon escapement **of 465,000**, [RANGE OF 1.2 TO 2.4 MILLION FISH] (**300,000** [0.3 TO 1.5 MILLION] fish above the **sustainable** [BIOLOGICAL] escapement goal) and close the directed pink salmon commercial fishery no later than 12:00 midnight, August 1; during commercial fishing periods under this paragraph, the use of a commercial gillnet with webbing larger than four and three-quarter inches shall be prohibited for all fishing periods after 12:00 midnight, July 23;

(2) the commissioner may restrict, by emergency order, the coho salmon sport fishery in the Nushagak River drainage upstream from the department sonar counter located near the village of Portage Creek so that the harvest does not exceed 2,000 coho salmon by one or more of the following:

(A) reduce the bag and possession limit;

(B) prohibit the use of bait;

(C) restrict fishing times and areas;

(D) restrict terminal tackle to single hook artificial lures; and

(E) allow catch-and-release fishing only;

(3) it is the intent of the board that the lower the projected inriver coho salmon return is, the more restrictive that management measures will be in the sport and commercial fisheries under this section].

(d) If the total inriver coho salmon return in the Nushagak River is projected by the department to be less than **70,000 fish** [60,000] and the number of spawners is projected to be more than **60,000** [50,000] fish on August 25, the department shall

(1) close the directed commercial fishery no later than 12:00 midnight July 23;

(2) close the coho salmon sport fishery in the Nushagak River drainage; and

(3) restrict the coho salmon subsistence fishery in the Nushagak River drainage by establishing periods by emergency order, during which

(A) coho salmon may be taken only from 9:00 a.m. Monday to 9:00 a.m. Tuesday, from 9:00 a.m. Wednesday to 9:00 a.m. Thursday, and from 9:00 a.m. Friday to 9:00 a.m. Saturday; and

(B) set gillnets may not be more than 10 fathoms in length.

(e) If the number of coho salmon spawners in the Nushagak River is projected by the department to be less than **60,000 fish** [50,000] by August 25, the department shall close the subsistence, commercial, and sport fisheries.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** In 2012, the department reevaluated the existing escapement goal for Nushagak coho and pink salmon. This new goal has not been incorporated into regulation and the department feels it is appropriate that it is.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F15-018)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 68 – 5 AAC 06.358. Wood River Sockeye Salmon Special Harvest Area Management Plan.** Repeal the Wood River Sockeye Salmon Special Harvest Area Management Plan, as follows:

Repeal the Wood River Sockeye Salmon Special Harvest Area and Management Plan.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Use of this Wood River Sockeye Salmon Special Harvest Area Management Plan (WRSHA) and area has been controversial from its inception. Many feel that any time the commercial fishery is put into this area, catch opportunity is not fair, is hard on gear, has major impacts on some fishers and buyers, and produces poor quality fish. Some feel the coho salmon run is strong enough that the WRSHA is not needed. Others believe there are alternative management actions that could be used to protect coho.

**PROPOSED BY:** Nushagak Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F15-072)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 69 – 5 AAC 06.358. Wood River Sockeye Salmon Special Harvest Area Management Plan.** Amend the Wood River Sockeye Salmon Special Harvest Area Management Plan to eliminate management based on Nushagak District drift and set gillnet gear allocations, as follows:

5 AAC 06.358(d)(3)(4) Delete that portion of (4) [EXCEPT AS SPECIFIED IN (5) OF THIS SUBSECTION.]

5 ACC 06.358(d)(3)(5) Delete (5) [WHEN THE WOOD RIVER SPECIAL HARVEST AREA IS OPEN UNDER (c)(3) OF THIS SECTION, THE GEAR GROUP THAT IS BEHIND IN THE ALLOCATION SPECIFIED IN 5 AAC 06.367(b) FOR THE NUSHAGAK DISTRICT.]

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Deleting the requirement to manage for the Nushagak allocations as specified in 5 AAC 06.367 when the Wood River Special Harvest Area is open in accordance to 5 AAC 06.358(c)(3). At the last Bristol Bay cycle the Board of Fisheries eliminated the 74 percent drift gillnet harvest and 26 percent set gillnet harvest for other openings in the Wood River Special Harvest area,

and replaced it with a 3 drift gear fishing periods to every one set gillnet fishing periods. To be consistent with the Board's intent, the entire Wood River Special Harvest Area should be managed on the same 3 to 1 ratio.

**PROPOSED BY:** Robert Heyano (HQ-F15-037)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 70 – 5 AAC 06.358. Wood River Sockeye Salmon Special Harvest Area Management Plan.** Modify the Wood River Sockeye Salmon Special Harvest Area Management Plan to open separate drift and set gillnet fishing periods based on achievement of gear allocation instead of a fixed seasonal fishing period ratio, as follows:

**5 AAC 06.358 (d) Wood River Sockeye Salmon Special Harvest Area Management Plan is amended to read:**

(4) except as specified in (5) of this subsection, when the Wood River Special Harvest Area is open, the drift gillnet and set and set gillnet fisheries will open separately, **for the gear group that is behind in the allocation specified in 5 AAC 06.367(b) for the Nushagak District. [WITH A SEASONAL RATIO OF THREE DRIFT GILLNET GEAR FISHING PERIODS TO EVERY ONE SET GILLNET FISHING PERIOD;]**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Remove any mention of a "seasonal ratio" of 3:1 drift to set gillnet fishing periods in the Wood River Sockeye Salmon Special Harvest Area Management Plan (SSSHA). The use of the SSSHA should remain consistent under all circumstances, used as a tool for the management to avoid over-escapement into the Wood River; allowing for opportunity to harvest a surplus of fish; ensure that the allocation plan between both gear types (drift and set gillnet) dictates which gear type is allowed to fish in the SSSHA.

**PROPOSED BY:** Kevin McCambly (EF-C15-129)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 71 – 5 AAC 06.358. Wood River Sockeye Salmon Special Harvest Area Management Plan.** Update the description of the Wood River Special Harvest Area by deleting references to regulatory markers, as follows:

5 AAC 06.358(b) is amended to read:

(b) The Wood River Special Harvest Area consists of the waters of the Wood River from a line between **Hansen Point** [ADF&G REGULATORY MARKERS LOCATED] at 59° 06.05' N. lat., 158° 29.30' W. long. [(HANSEN POINT)] and **a point across from Hansen Point** at 59° 06.29' N. lat., 158° 28.84' W. long. [(ACROSS FROM HANSEN POINT)], upstream to a line between **a point on the west shore downstream of the Muklung River** [ADF&G REGULATORY MARKERS LOCATED] at 59° 09.71' N. lat., 158° 32.61' W. long. **and a point on the east shore downstream of the Muklung River at** [(ON THE WEST SHORE DOWNSTREAM OF THE MUKLUNG RIVER) AND] 59° 09.78' N. lat., 158° 31.99' W. long.

[(ON THE EAST SHORE DOWNSTREAM OF THE MUKLUNG RIVER)], and from a line between **a point on the west shore upstream of Muklung River** [ADF&G REGULATORY MARKERS LOCATED] at 59° 10.44' N. lat., 158° 31.73' W. long. **and a point on the east shore upstream of the Muklung River at** [(WEST SHORE UPSTREAM OF THE MUKLUNG RIVER) AND] 59° 10.23' N. lat., 158° 31.43' W. long. [(EAST SHORE UPSTREAM OF THE MUKLUNG RIVER)] upstream to a line between a point **on the west shore downstream of Silver Salmon Creek** [ADF&G REGULATORY MARKERS LOCATED] at 59° 12.26' N. lat., 158° 33.34' W. long. [(WEST SHORE DOWNSTREAM OF SILVER SALMON CREEK)] and **a point on the east shore downstream of Silver Salmon Creek at** 59° 12.20' N. lat., 158° 33.12' W. long. [(EAST SHORE DOWNSTREAM OF SILVER SALMON CREEK)].

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Remove reference to department regulatory markers from the description of the Wood River Sockeye Salmon Special Harvest Area Management Plan. The department has switched to latitude and longitude coordinates to define areas and no longer maintains regulatory markers. Removing references to regulatory markers that are no longer maintained will help clarify the regulations.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F15-011)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 72 – 5 AAC 06.370. Registration and reregistration.** Change the description of statistical areas in the Nushagak District by deleting references to department regulatory markers, and renaming the Nushagak Statistical Area, as follows:

5 AAC 06.370(l) is amended to read:

(l) In the Nushagak District, .....

...

(3) Coffee Point Statistical Area: all waters of the Nushagak Section, as described in 5 AAC 06.200(3), between **a point two miles below Bradford Point at 58° 58.63' N. lat., 158° 33.62' W. long. and a point four miles below Coffee Point at 58° 52.90' N. lat., 158° 43.30' W. long.** [AN ADF&G REGULATORY MARKER AT 58° 58.63' N. LAT., 158° 33.62' W. LONG. (TWO MILES BELOW BRADFORD POINT) AND AN ADF&G REGULATORY MARKER AT 58° 52.92' N. LAT., 158° 43.19' W. LONG. (FOUR MILES BELOW COFFEE POINT)];

(4) Ekuk Statistical Area: all waters of the Nushagak Section, as described in 5 AAC 06.200(3), between **Ekuk at 58° 49.15' N. lat., 158° 33.30' W. long. and Etolin Point at 58° 39.37' N. lat., 158° 19.31' W. long.** [AN ADF&G REGULATORY MARKER AT 58° 49.15' N. LAT., 158° 33.30' W. LONG. (EKUK) TO AN ADF&G REGULATORY MARKER AT 58° 39.42' N. LAT., 158° 19.29' W. LONG. (ETOLIN POINT)];

(5) Clark's Point Statistical Area: all waters of the Nushagak Section, as described in 5 AAC 06.200(3), between **Clark's Point at 58° 50.71' N. lat., 158° 32.49' W. long. and Ekuk at 58° 49.15' N. lat., 158° 33.30' W. long.** [AN ADF&G REGULATORY MARKER AT 58° 50.71' N. LAT., 158° 32.49' W. LONG. (CLARK'S POINT) TO AN ADF&G REGULATORY MARKER AT 58° 49.15' N. LAT., 158° 33.30' W. LONG., (EKUK)];

(6) Queen's Statistical Area: all waters of the Nushagak Section, as described in 5 AAC 06.200(3), enclosed by a line from **a point at 58° 51.27' N. lat., 158° 30.34' W. long. to the outlet of Queen's Slough at 58° 51.41' N. lat., 158° 30.38' W. long.** [AN ADF&G REGULATORY MARKER AT 58° 51.27' N. LAT., 158° 30.34' W. LONG. TO AN ADF&G REGULATORY MARKER AT 58° 51.41' N. LAT., 158° 30.38' W. LONG. (OUTLET OF QUEEN'S SLOUGH)];

(7) **Combine** [NUSHAGAK] Statistical Area: all waters of the Nushagak Section, as described in 5 AAC 06.200(3), between **Nushagak Point at 58° 56.79' N. lat., 158° 29.53' W. long. and Clark's Point at 58° 50.71' N. lat., 158° 32.49' W. long.** [AN ADF&G REGULATORY MARKER AT 58° 56.79' N. LAT., 158° 29.53' W. LONG. (NUSHAGAK POINT) TO AN ADF&G REGULATORY MARKER AT 58° 50.71' N. LAT., 158° 32.49' W. LONG. (CLARK'S POINT)], except those waters described in (6) of this subsection.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Remove references to department regulatory markers from the registration and reregistration section. The department has switched to latitude and longitude coordinates to define areas and no longer maintains regulatory markers. Removing references to regulatory markers that are no longer maintained will help clarify the regulations.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F15-009)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 73 – 5 AAC 06.200. Fishing districts and sections.** Redefine the description of the Nushagak District and the Igushik Section in the Nushagak District by deleting references to department regulatory markers, as follows:

5 AAC 06.200(a) and (a)(1) are amended to read:

(a) Nushagak District: all waters of Nushagak Bay north of a line from **a point at Nichols Hills at** [AN ADF&G REGULATORY MARKER AT APPROXIMATELY] 58° 33.77' N. lat., 158° 46.57' W. long. **to Etolin Point at** [(NICHOLS HILLS) TO AN ADF&G REGULATORY MARKER LOCATED AT APPROXIMATELY] 58° 39.37' N. lat., 158° 19.31' W. long. [(ETOLIN POINT)].

(1) Igushik Section: all waters of Nushagak Bay **enclosed** [BOUNDED] by a line from **a point at Nichols Hills at** [AN ADF&G REGULATORY MARKER LOCATED AT APPROXIMATELY] 58° 33.77' N. lat., 158° 46.57' W. long., to a point at 58° 36.28' N. lat., 158° 34.40' W. long., to a point at 58° 44.80' N. lat., 158° 41.50' W. long., to **a point at** [AN ADF&G REGULATORY MARKER LOCATED AT APPROXIMATELY] 58° 46.13' N. lat., 158° 46.65' W. long.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Remove reference to department regulatory markers from the regulations describing fishing districts and sections. The department has switched to latitude and longitude coordinates to define open and closed areas

and no longer maintains regulatory markers. Removing references to regulatory markers that are no longer maintained will help clarify the regulations.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F15-006)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 74 – 5 AAC 06.350. Closed waters.** Redefine the description of closed waters for salmon in the Snake River in the Nushagak District by deleting a reference to department regulatory markers, as follows:

5 AAC 06.350(a)(4) is amended to read:

(a) The following locations in the Nushagak District are closed to the taking of salmon:

...

(4) those waters of the Snake River upstream from **the latitude of a line** [ADF&G REGULATORY MARKERS LOCATED] at 58° 52.80' N. lat.;

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Remove the reference to department regulatory markers from the description of closed waters. The department has switched to latitude and longitude coordinates to define open and closed areas and no longer maintains regulatory markers. Removing references to regulatory markers that are no longer maintained will help clarify the regulations.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F15-005)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 75 – 5 AAC 06.350. Closed waters.** Reduce the amount of time that certain waters in the Togiak District are closed to commercial fishing for salmon with a drift gillnet, as follows:

5 AAC 06.350. Closed Waters is amended to read:

...

(e)(3) from June 1 through **July 11** [JULY 15], those waters of the Togiak District inside a line from 59° 03.19' N lat., 160° 20.18' W. long. to 59° 01.76' N. lat., 160° 28.17' W. long. are closed to commercial fishing for salmon with a drift gillnet.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The closed water section in the regulation was proposed by the community of Togiak in hopes of developing a Chinook management plan and to protect the Chinook salmon stock in Togiak. The problem is the unreasonable restriction of shallower calmer waters during the peak sockeye salmon fishing for a small amount of Chinook migrating through.

**PROPOSED BY:** Togiak Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-C15-055)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 76 – 5 AAC 06.200. Fishing districts and sections.** Change the current description of the Osviak Section in the Togiak District by correcting a GPS coordinate in the description, as follows:

5 AAC 06.200(e)(3) is amended to read:

(e) Togiak District: .....

...

(3) Osviak Section: waters within a line between Estus Point at **58° 46.86' N. lat., 161° 10.98' W. long.** [58° 46.85' N. LAT., 161° 10.98' W. LONG.] and Asigyugpak Spit at 58° 41.00' N. lat., 161° 18.20' W. long.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Change the northeast coordinate defining the Osviak Section so that it is identical to the southwest coordinate of the adjacent Matogak Section. The department believes these two adjacent section-defining coordinates were intended to be identical and this will change them to be identical, reducing ambiguity in the regulations.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F15-020)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 77 – 5 AAC 06.369. Togiak District Salmon Management Plan.** Change the Togiak District Salmon Management Plan to reflect recent department escapement goal changes, and remove coho and king salmon goals, as follows:

5 AAC 06.369(b) is amended to read:

(b) The department shall manage the commercial fishery in the Togiak River Section of the Togiak District for a **sustainable escapement goal range of 120,000 – 270,000** [BIOLOGICAL ESCAPEMENT GOAL OF 150,000] sockeye salmon past the counting tower at Togiak Lake [AND BIOLOGICAL ESCAPEMENT GOALS OF 50,000 COHO SALMON, AND 10,000 KING SALMON IN THE TOGIK RIVER].

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Change the Togiak District salmon management plan to reflect the sockeye salmon sustainable escapement goal established by the department and remove coho and king salmon escapement goals from regulation to reflect recent department escapement goal review changes. These changes will reflect the current escapement management directives the department follows, removing any confusion and clarifying the regulations.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F15-010)  
\*\*\*\*\*



**PROPOSAL 78 – 5 AAC 01.320. Lawful gear and gear specifications.** Change the boundaries, methods of harvest, and seasons for subsistence harvests of sockeye salmon in the Naknek River drainage, as follows:

5 AAC 01.320 is amended to read:

From August 30 through **DECEMBER 31** by spear, dipnet, gillnet, **AND BEACH SEINE**. Along a 100 yard length of shoreline near the outlet of Naknek River as marked by ADF&G regulatory markers; at Johnny’s Lake on the Northwestern side of Naknek Lake; at the outlet of Idavians Creek on the North side of Naknek Lake; at the mouth of Brooks River from September 18 through December 31.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Allow for beach seining to release non-targeted finfish species. Idavians Creek is a traditional location used by local residents. (At the mouth of Brooks River by spear, dipnet, gillnet, and beach seine from September 18 through December 31.) Separate season for Brooks River. Extend season to Dec 31 for said descriptions and include beach seine as additional method to harvest spawned out sockeye. The proposed seasons and methods will be in line with traditionally practiced subsistence practices of local residents.

The 2014 forecast for Bristol Bay sockeye for the Naknek River portion is estimated to be 3.35 million and escapement at 1.10 million into the Naknek River drainage. Forecast for harvest is estimated at 2.25 million. The Naknek River portion estimate does not account for the South Peninsula.

Spawned out sockeye have traditionally been harvested for personal (subsistence) use by the Katmai descendants. Harvest of spawned-out salmon occurs when the commercial/sport fishing season are inactive. It makes fall red fish (spawned out salmon) available to traditional and cultural descendants of Naknek Lake and its river drainages for all Naknek Lake and River descendants.

The methods, dates, and places do not reflect the proper access to our traditional and cultural foods. The harvest of spawned-out sockeye salmon has no significant commercial value, but is a traditional food source for local residents.

Title 36 CFR, Part 13. Alaska regulations. Katmai National Park and Preserve Special Regulations 13.1204 allows for a traditional redbird fishery for “Local residents who are descendants of Katmai residents who lived in the Naknek Lake and River Drainage...” Seasons and methods for the take of redbird will be set by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in the annual Subsistence and Personal Use Statewide Fishing Regulations booklet.

Our people, (rural residents of King Salmon, Naknek, South Naknek) traditionally had access to their traditional foods (subsistence resources) in Naknek Lake and its surrounding drainages. The

current dates in regulation will not allow access to traditional food supply (resources) traditionally practiced by local traditional tribes.

**PROPOSED BY:** Bristol Bay Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (EF-C15-008)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 79 – 5 AAC 01.310. Fishing seasons and periods.** Eliminate subsistence fishing period for the Naknek, Egegik, and Ugashik Rivers to allow subsistence salmon fishery to occur any time, as follows:

Open it up seven days a week so people don't have to come down river when it's blowing hard, though in-river it can get quite rough at Paul's Creek and Savonoski Crossing. Also for the convenience of doing fish when we have time not just two times a week. Over the past three years, biologists have Emergency Ordered this to open it up seven days a week. If the escapement should be in trouble it could always be cut back. The run to the Naknek River has been very strong. We enjoy being able to fish at our pace.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** I would like to change from the 9:00 a.m. June 23 to the 9:00 a.m. July 17 openers on Tuesday 9:00 a.m. to Wednesday 9:00 a.m. and Saturday 9:00 a.m. to Sunday 9:00 a.m. for safety concerns and convenience

**PROPOSED BY:** William Regan Jr. (EF-C15-035)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 80 – 5 AAC 01.310. Fishing seasons and periods.** Re-describe the subsistence fishing area in the Nushagak District that is restricted to three days per week by removing references to regulatory markers, as follows:

5 AAC 01.310(d) is amended to read:

(d) In the Nushagak District, in all waters upstream of a line **from a point approximately two miles south of Bradford Point at 58° 58.63' N. lat., 158° 33.62' W. long. and Nushagak Point at 58° 56.79' N. lat., 158° 29.53' W. long. to a point at Red Bluff on the west shore of the Wood River at 59° 09.58' N. lat., 158° 32.36' W. long., and to** [BETWEEN AN ADF&G REGULATORY MARKER LOCATED TWO STATUTE MILES SOUTH OF BRADFORD POINT AND AN ADF&G REGULATORY MARKER LOCATED ON NUSHAGAK POINT TO AN ADF&G REGULATORY MARKER LOCATED AT RED BLUFF ON THE WEST SHORE OF THE WOOD RIVER, AND TO AN ADF&G REGULATORY MARKER LOCATED AT] Lewis Point on the north shore on the Nushagak River **at 58° 59.46' N. lat., 158° 05.57' W. long.**, from 9:00 a.m. July 2 through 9:00 a.m. July 17, salmon may be taken only from

- (1) 9:00 a.m. Monday to 9:00 a.m. Tuesday;
- (2) 9:00 a.m. Wednesday to 9:00 a.m. Thursday; and
- (3) 9:00 a.m. Saturday to 9:00 a.m. Sunday.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Remove reference to department regulatory markers from the description of fishing seasons and periods. The department has switched to latitude and longitude coordinates to define areas and no longer maintains regulatory markers. Removing references to regulatory markers that are no longer maintained will help clarify the regulations.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F15-065)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 81 – 5 AAC 01.320. Lawful gear and gear specifications.** Define subsistence fishing boundaries so that the 10 fathom net restriction applies to Dillingham beaches and the 25 fathom net length restriction applies elsewhere, and remove reference to department regulatory markers, as follows:

5 AAC 01.320(b) – (d) are amended to read:

(b) Outside the boundaries of any district, salmon may only be taken by set gillnet, except that salmon may also be taken as follows:

(1) in the Togiak River,

(A) excluding its tributaries, by spear;

(B) between the mouth of the river and upstream approximately two miles to **a line across the river from XX° XX' N. lat., XX° XX' W. long. to XX° XX' N. lat., XX° XX' W. long.** [THE ADF&G REGULATORY MARKERS], by a drift gillnet that is not more than 10 fathoms in length;

(2) from August 30 through September 30, by spear, dip net, and gillnet along a 100 yard length of the west shore of Naknek Lake near the outlet to the Naknek River **between a line from XX° XX' N. lat., XX° XX' W. long and XX° XX' N. lat., XX° XX' W. long.** [AS MARKED BY ADF&G REGULATORY MARKERS];

...

(c) Except as specified in (b) of this section, the maximum lengths for gillnets and beach seines used to take salmon are as follows:

(1) set gillnets may not exceed 10 fathoms in length in

(A) the Naknek, Egegik, and Ugashik Rivers;

(B) the Nushagak District during the emergency order subsistence openings described in 5 AAC 01.310(b);

(C) all waters **of Nushagak Bay upstream of a line from a point approximately two miles south of Bradford Point at 58° 58.63' N. lat., 158° 33.62' W. long. to Snag Point at 59° 03.18' N. lat., 158° 25.59' W. long.** [ENCLOSED BY A LINE FROM AN ADF&G REGULATORY MARKER LOCATED TWO STATUTE MILES SOUTH OF BRADFORD POINT TO AN ADF&G REGULATORY MARKER LOCATED AT NUSHAGAK POINT TO AN ADF&G REGULATORY MARKER LOCATED AT SNAG POINT];

(2) in the **remaining waters of the Wood River and Nushagak River not described in (c)(1)(C) of this section** [REMAINING WATERS OF THE AREA, INCLUDING THE WATERS OF THE WOOD RIVER AND NUSHAGAK RIVER THAT ARE UPSTREAM OF A LINE FROM AN ADF&G REGULATORY MARKER LOCATED AT NUSHAGAK

POINT TO AN ADF&G REGULATORY MARKER LOCATED AT SNAG POINT], **set** gillnets may not exceed 25 fathoms in length;

(3) beach seines may not exceed 25 fathoms in length.

(d) No part of a set gillnet may be operated within 300 feet of any part of another set gillnet, except that

(1) **in** the Nushagak District from **a point approximately two miles south of Bradford Point at 58° 58.63' N. lat., 158° 33.62' W. long. to a point** [AN ADF&G REGULATORY MARKER LOCATED TWO STATUTE MILES BELOW BRADFORD POINT TO AN ADF&G REGULATORY MARKER LOCATED] at Red Bluff on the west shore of Wood River **at 59° 09.58' N. lat., 158° 32.36' W. long.**, no part of a set gillnet may be operated within 100 feet of any part of another set gillnet;

...

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Remove reference to department regulatory markers from the description of the lawful gear and gear specifications section. The department has switched to latitude and longitude coordinates to define areas and no longer maintains regulatory markers. Removing references to regulatory markers that are no longer maintained will help clarify the regulations.

(Editor note: Complete coordinates were not available at the deadline for proposals and will be available prior to the meeting.)

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F15-066)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 82 – 5 AAC 01.336. Customary and traditional subsistence uses of fish stocks and amounts necessary for subsistence uses.** Establish and adopt amounts reasonably necessary for subsistence uses for herring spawn on kelp in waters of the Togiak District, as follows:

5 AAC 01.336(b) is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

(b) The board finds that

**(3) X,XXX – X,XXX pounds of herring spawn on kelp in the waters of the Togiak District as described in 5 AAC 27.805(a) are reasonably necessary for subsistence uses in the Bristol Bay Area.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** In 5 AAC 01.336 there are two customary and traditional use findings, one for all finfish and one for herring spawn on kelp in the Togiak District (5 AAC 01.336(a)). The board has adopted amounts reasonably necessary for subsistence for salmon and finfish other than salmon. There are no specific findings for the amounts reasonably necessary for subsistence for herring spawn on kelp. Recent data collected in the area includes comprehensive surveys in Togiak, Aleknagik, and Manokotak for the 2008 study

year and Dillingham for the 2010 study year. The department conducted directed herring spawn on kelp harvest assessment surveys in the Togiak District to document the harvest, use, and sharing patterns associated with this unique finfish resource annually from 2011 to 2015.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F15-003)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 83 – 5 AAC 67.022. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means in the Bristol Bay Area.** Allow the traditional harvest of whitefish and non-salmon subsistence fish in specific waters of the Newhalen River, as follows:

**5 AAC 67.022** (k) is amended to read:

**5 AAC 67.022**

...

(k) In the fresh waters of the Bristol Bay Area where the use of bait is not allowed as described in **5 AAC 01.325(c)**, (**only including the Newhalen River from Mile 1 to 22**), a person may not apply to fishing gear or place in the water any substance for the purpose of attracting fish by scent, including

- (1) fish eggs in any form;
- (2) natural or preserved animal, fish, fish oil, shellfish, or insect parts;
- (3) natural or processed vegetable matter; and
- (4) natural or synthetic chemicals.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The current “no chumming” regulation could potentially result in citations for Alaska residents who harvest whitefish and other non-salmon species under sport fishing regulations at traditional fish camps where salmon are processed that are harvested under subsistence regulations. This issue is specific to the area of the upper Newhalen River from River Mile 22 extending into Six Mile Lake, the Lake Clark drainage, and Lake Iliamna where the majority of subsistence salmon fishers process their harvest shore side, keeping their fish in the water to keep their catch cool during processing.

Persons sport fishing (using a rod-and-reel) at a subsistence camp, while there are fish parts in the water, are essentially violating the “no chumming” regulation and could be cited by the Alaska State Troopers for a sport-fishing violation. This situation often occurs when subsistence harvesters are targeting whitefish that are likely attracted to the scent of the sockeye salmon being stored submerged in fresh waters for processing or their parts returned to the water after processing which were harvested under subsistence regulations. Often these are children who are fishing with rod and reel while their parents clean fish nearby.

The Nondalton Tribal Council would like the Alaska Board of Fisheries to recognize this customary and traditional way of harvesting whitefish and other non-salmon species in the areas

included in this proposal, by exempting this method of harvest from being considered “chumming.”

**PROPOSED BY:** Nondalton Tribal Council (EF-C15-115)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 84 – 5 AAC 67.022. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means in the Bristol Bay Area.** Establish non-retention king salmon sport fishing in the Big Creek drainage of the Naknek River drainage, as follows:

5 AAC 67.022(d)(11) is amended to read:

(11) the Big Creek drainage [, INCLUDING WATERS WITHIN A ONE-QUARTER MILE RADIUS OF ITS CONFLUENCE WITH THE NAKNEK RIVER] is closed to **the retention of all** [SPORT FISHING FOR] king salmon year round.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Big Creek is the only portion of the Naknek drainage that is realistically available to fly fish for king salmon. All other waters of the drainage are too large, fast and deep to allow access by fly fishermen. King Salmon Creek and Paul’s Creek were closed to all fishing for king salmon many years ago and Big Creek was the only alternate left for fly fishermen to use as a location to fly fish for kings. By closing this creek it has totally eliminated the possibility for fly fishermen wanting to fish for king salmon in the Naknek drainage. In addition it has unintentionally displaced the gear fishery that has historically occurred in front of the mouth of the creek. By implementing the regulation to include the phrase "within 1/4 mile radius of its confluence with the Naknek River" it disrupted a fishery that has been in use for generations, for no biological reason.

This wording would allow for fly fishermen to access the creek for catch and release fishing only, it would allow for the gear fishery to return to historic use and still protect the king salmon in the drainage. Again, there was no biological concern for the creek when this regulation was implemented. This change will still show an abundance of caution for the king salmon fishery in the Naknek drainage while no longer displacing a user group and restoring a fishery that was and is not identified as being a problem for the resource or any social reason in the main stem of the Naknek River.

**PROPOSED BY:** Nanci Morris Lyon (EF-C15-062)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 85 – 5 AAC 67.022. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means in the Bristol Bay Area.** Redefine the sport fishing boundary description for non-retention of king salmon in the Big Creek drainage, as follows:

5 AAC 67.022(d)(11) is amended to read:

(11) the Big Creek drainage, including waters **from the confluence of Big Creek with the Naknek River** [WITHIN A ONE-QUARTER MILE RADIUS OF ITS CONFLUENCE WITH THE NAKNEK RIVER:];

Closed all year round to all king salmon fishing.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** This area boundary correction reflects the intent of the regulation proposal when it was originally made. The current radius boundary interrupts fishing lanes in the main stem of the river and serves no conservation purpose.

**PROPOSED BY:** Joe Klutsch (HQ-F15-076)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 86 – 5 AAC 67.020. Bag limits, possession limits, annual limits, and size limits for Bristol Bay.** Implement a mail-in requirement for all king salmon harvest tickets in Bristol Bay sport fisheries, as follows:

This proposal would require anglers to record their harvest (and catch?) data on a department provided mail-in harvest ticket much like that for big game hunting in Alaska. The cards must be returned to ADF&G at the end of the Chinook salmon season in Bristol Bay.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** To address concerns for chinook (king) salmon catch and harvest data and to make more efficient use of the current requirement to record Chinook salmon harvests in the Bristol Bay sport fisheries. Numerous Bristol Bay residents express concern and doubt regarding the timeliness and accuracy of current methods for assessing the sport harvest and catch of area Chinook salmon. The Statewide Harvest Survey (SWHS) results are delayed by up to two years and are not trusted by many. Guided angler data is sent to ADF&G weekly. Other than the SWHS there is no in-season data collected on non-guided anglers unless an expensive onsite angler survey is conducted. ADF&G cannot survey all waters every season.

Bristol Bay area sport anglers of all ages are already required to record their Chinook salmon harvests on their license or on a special report card.

It is expected the data from these cards could be used by ADF&G to refine their assessment of harvest (and catch?) of Bristol Bay Chinook salmon.

**PROPOSED BY:** Nushagak Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F15-071)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 87 – 5 AAC 67.022. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means in the Bristol Bay area.** Eliminate the use of egg-simulating lures in rainbow trout fishing, as follows:

5 AAC 67.022(d) is amended to read:

Only unbaited, single-hook artificial lures excluding plastic, rubber, neoprene, fiber, or any other material that simulates a fish egg or egg cluster may be used year round.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Hook injury and mortality due to the use of egg simulator lures is causing excessive harm to rainbow trout populations catch and release techniques attempted by inexperienced fishermen are generally not effective especially younger age class fish. This would constitute a conservation measure.

**PROPOSED BY:** Joe Klutsch (HQ-F15-075)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 88 – 5 AAC 27.832. Seine specifications and operations for Bristol Bay Area.** Change the regulatory description for herring purse seine and hand purse seine, as follows:

5 AAC 27.832(a)(2) is amended to read:

(a) A herring purse seine or hand purse seine

...

(2) may not be more than **630** [625] meshes in depth [, OF WHICH NO MORE THAN 600 MESHES MAY HAVE A MESH SIZE LARGER THAN ONE AND ONE-HALF INCHES].

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Before 1998, gear specifications and operations for both herring gillnet and seine gear appeared in 5 AAC 27.831. At that time the provision was worded as follows:

(d) A herring purse seine or hand purse seine may not exceed 100 fathoms in length and not more than 625 meshes in depth, of which 600 meshes may not have a mesh size larger than one and one-half inches.

In 1998, when the seine specifications and operations were moved into their own section under 5 AAC 27.832, the text was changed to read as it currently reads in 5 AAC 27.832(a):

(a) A herring purse seine or hand purse seine

(1) may not exceed 100 fathoms in length; and

(2) may not be more than 625 meshes in depth, of which no more than 600 meshes may have a mesh size larger than one and one-half inches.

This changed the regulation from allowing a net to have no more than 25 meshes over one and one-half inches to allowing 600 meshes to be over one and one-half inches. The regulation appears to have changed inadvertently during the editing process. This proposal would correct this error and incorporate industry practices in building purse seines. Industry practices use 200.5 mesh strips to construct the base net. This net is then attached at the top and bottom to cork and lead lines with additional meshes. The number of meshes used at the top and bottom varies but can total 25. So to allow for the additional half meshes in the base strips it seemed appropriate to



change the total number of meshes to 630. The industry standard is for a mesh size of one and one-half inches.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F15-008)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 89 – 5 AAC 27.865. Bristol Bay Herring Management Plan.** Delete references to sac roe in the Bristol Bay Herring Management Plan, as follows:

5 AAC 27.865 is amended to read:

5 ACC 27.865(b)(7) Delete the words [SAC ROE]

5 AAC 27.865(b)(8) Delete the words [SAC ROE]

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Delete all reference to sac roe in the Bristol Bay Herring Management Plan. With continuing weak markets for sac roe herring, the highest level of product quality could be other uses of herring than the roe. By removing the reference to "sac roe" could allow development of other product forms leading to new markets thus increasing the value of Togiak herring.

**PROPOSED BY:** Robert Heyano (HQ-F15-039)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 90 – 5 AAC 27.865. Bristol Bay Herring Management Plan.** Change the management plan to allow the department to waive the catch allocation requirement for gillnet and purse seine fleets, as follows:

5 AAC 27.865 is amended to read:

5 AAC 27.865

(b)(8) After the spawn-on-kelp harvest and the Dutch Harbor food and bait fishery have been subtracted, the remaining harvestable surplus is allocated to the sac roe fishery. The department **may** [SHALL] manage for a removal of 30 percent of that surplus by the gillnet fleet and 70 percent by the purse seine fleet. To maintain those percentages inseason, the commissioner **may** [SHALL] make adjustments to fishing periods and fishing areas by emergency order. After the gillnet and purse seine fleet have harvested at least 50 percent of each gear group's allocation, the commissioner may allow either fleet to harvest its remaining allocation without further restrictions.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Delete the words "shall" and replace with "may". The current low prices being paid for sac roe herring has resulted in a significant reduction in gillnet effort. Requiring the commissioner to manage for the 70/30

harvest of at least 50% of each gear's allocation places additional unnecessary financial risks for all participants in a marginal profitable fishery in the best of conditions.

**PROPOSED BY:** Robert Heyano (HQ-F15-040)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 91 – 5 AAC 27.850. Closed waters in Bristol Bay Area.** Redefine the description of closed waters for the Togiak herring fishery by deleting references to department regulatory markers, as follows:

5 AAC 27.850 is amended to read:

**5 AAC 27.850. Closed waters in Bristol Bay Area.** (a) Metervik Bay is closed to herring fishing north of a line from **a point at** [AN ADF&G REGULATORY MARKER AT] 58° 49.10' N. lat., 159° 47.25' W. long. to **a point at** [AN ADF&G REGULATORY MARKER AT] 58° 49.97' N. lat., 159° 45.75' W. long. This closure does not apply to the taking of herring spawn on kelp.

(b) Ungalikthluk Bay is closed to the taking of herring north of a line from [AN ADF&G REGULATORY MARKER AT] Rocky Point **at 58° 53.25' N. lat., 160° 14.25' W. long. to a point** [(58° 53.25' N. LAT., 160° 14.25' W. LONG. TO AN ADF&G REGULATORY MARKER] at 58° 51.90' N. lat., 160° 09.75' W. long. This closure does not apply to the taking of herring spawn on kelp.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Remove reference to department regulatory markers from the description of closed waters. The department has switched to latitude and longitude coordinates to define open and closed areas and no longer maintains regulatory markers. Removing references to regulatory markers that are no longer maintained will help clarify the regulations.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F15-004)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES  
ARCTIC / YUKON / KUSKOKWIM FINFISH  
JANUARY 12–17, 2016**

**PROPOSAL INDEX**

*Following is a list of proposals that will be considered at the above meeting sorted by general topic. A board committee roadmap will be developed and distributed prior to the meeting.*

**PROPOSAL NUMBER (55 proposals)    SUBJECT**

**Kuskokwim Area Salmon and Herring (15 proposals)**

***Kuskokwim Salmon Management Plan (3 proposals)***

- |    |   |
|----|---|
| 92 | Modify the Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Plan to manage the king salmon subsistence fishery based on the Bethel Test Fishery. |
| 93 | Modify the Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Plan to establish an inriver run goal of king salmon above the Bethel Test Fishery.  |
| 94 | Establish an inriver run goal for the Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Plan.   |

***Subsistence Salmon (6 proposals)***

- |     |  |
|-----|--|
| 95  | Create a Tier II subsistence king salmon fishery in the Kuskokwim River.   |
| 96  | Separate the amounts necessary for subsistence use of king salmon into three parts on the Kuskokwim River.               |
| 97  | Create a permitting system for king salmon subsistence fishing in the Kuskokwim River.                                   |
| 98  | Establish descriptions of subsistence fishing sections for the Kuskokwim River during times of king salmon conservation. |
| 99  | Modify gear operation in the Kuskokwim River by limiting four-inch mesh subsistence gear to one gillnet per household.   |
| 100 | Establish subsistence beach seine specifications in the Kuskokwim Area.  |

***Commercial Salmon (4 proposals)***

- |     |   |
|-----|---|
| 101 | Repeal Kuskokwim Area depth specifications for commercial gillnets greater than six-inch mesh.  |
| 102 | Change gillnet mesh size from six inches or smaller to five and three-quarters inches or smaller in District 4 of the Kuskokwim Area. |
| 103 | Amend the Kuskokwim Area District 4 Salmon Management Plan to include District 5.   |
| 104 | Increase the commercial fishing area in District 5 of the Kuskokwim Area.   |

***Sport Salmon (1 proposal)***

- |     |   |
|-----|---|
| 105 | Modify gear specifications to reduce king salmon harvest in the Kanektok and Arolik rivers. |
|-----|---|

***Commercial Herring (1 proposal)***

- 106 Extend the Nelson Island herring fishing district from Atrnak Point toward Cape Vancouver.

***Yukon Area Salmon (22 proposals)***

***Management Plans (5 proposals)***

- 107 Close the Yukon River summer chum salmon commercial fishery to protect king salmon.
- 108 Reduce management triggers in the Yukon River Summer Chum Salmon Management Plan based on the run size of summer chum salmon.
- 109 Modify the Yukon River Summer Chum Salmon Management Plan triggers.
- 110 Increase the commercial fishery threshold trigger in the Yukon River Drainage Fall Chum Salmon Management Plan.
- 111 Eliminate the use of GHs in the Yukon River King Salmon Management Plan.

***Subsistence (10 proposals)***

- 112 Allow all gear used in Yukon Area commercial fisheries to be allowed in Yukon Area subsistence fisheries.
- 113 Prohibit the use of drift gillnets in the Yukon Area subsistence fishery and in the Yukon Area commercial fishery.
- 114 Require subsistence salmon fishing permits in Yukon Area District 5 and set permit limits for king salmon during times of king salmon conservation.
- 115 Allow for the retention of king salmon less than 25 inches in length in Yukon Area fish wheel subsistence fisheries.
- 116 During times of salmon conservation in the Yukon Area, require fish wheels with live boxes to be manned and require immediate release of the specified salmon.
- 117 Prohibit the use of beach seines in the Yukon Area subsistence salmon fishery and in the Yukon River and Anvik River summer chum salmon commercial fisheries.
- 118 Establish specifications for a beach seine used for subsistence fishing in the Yukon Area.
- 119 Require live release of king salmon from subsistence beach seines during times of king salmon conservation in the Yukon Area.
- 120 Allow subsistence fall chum salmon fishing seven days per week in District 5 of the Yukon Area once a fall chum salmon commercial fishery is opened.
- 121 Expand the area of allowable subsistence drift gillnet fishing for chum salmon in Subdistrict 4-A of the Yukon Area.

***Commercial (7 proposals)***

- 122 Modify Yukon Area commercial set gillnet length specification to an aggregate length standard.
- 123 Further define commercial beach seine specifications for summer chum salmon in the Yukon Area.
- 124 Allow for six-inch or smaller mesh gillnets in the commercial salmon fishery in Yukon River District 6 by emergency order.
- 125 Establish gillnet gear provisions to allow a directed pink salmon commercial fishery in districts 1–3 of the Yukon Area.
- 126 Add purse seine gear as an allowable commercial salmon fishing gear to target summer chum salmon in districts 1–3 of the Yukon River during times of king salmon conservation.
- 127 Expand the commercial fishing area of Yukon Area District 1.
- 128 Extend commercial fishing three miles offshore and north to Point Romanof in District 1 of the Yukon Area.

**Norton Sound-Port Clarence Area Salmon (6 proposals)**

***Subsistence (4 proposals)***

- 129 In the Norton Sound-Port Clarence Area during times of conservation, require the return of a specified salmon species immediately to the water unharmed when beach seining.
- 130 Allow the restriction of gillnet mesh size during times of conservation for chum and king salmon in any portion of the Norton Sound-Port Clarence Area.
- 131 Increase subsistence fishing time with gillnets and beach seines in Subdistrict 1 of Norton Sound District.
- 132 Add cast net as a legal subsistence fishing gear and allow both dip net and cast net gear to be used in all subsistence fisheries in the Norton Sound-Port Clarence Area.

***Commercial (1 proposal)***

- 133 Allow the use of beach seines for commercial harvest of chum and pink salmon in Subdistricts 5 and 6 of the Norton Sound District during times of king salmon conservation.

***Norton Sound/Yukon Area Boundary (1 proposal)***

- 134 Change the boundary line separating the Norton Sound-Port Clarence Area and Yukon Area at Point Romanof in area and district descriptions.

**AYK Resident Species (12 proposals)**

***Sport (6 proposals)***

- 135 Prohibit the use of set lines in Grizzly and Jack lakes.
- 136 Allow only one fishing line per angler during the Fielding Lake winter fishery.

- 137 Allow the use of bait during the winter fishery on Fielding Lake.
- 138 Allow retention of Arctic grayling on the Chena River.
- 139 Update the Tanana River Area stocked waters regulation.
- 140 Repeal Yukon River Area rainbow trout regulations.

***Subsistence (4 proposals)***

- 141 Recognize rod and reel fishing as a legal means for subsistence fishing in all of the Kotzebue District.
- 142 Change the dates gillnet gear may be used in the South Fork and Middle Fork of the Koyukuk River from November 1 to June 30 to August 20 to June 30.
- 143 Reduce the bag and possession limit of northern pike in the Minto Flats Northern Pike Management Plan.
- 144 Allow the use of five and one-half inch mesh gillnets across an entire channel in portions of the Koyukuk River for the purpose of targeting northern pike.

***Personal Use (1 proposal)***

- 145 Repeal the regulation that prohibits the taking of northern pike in the Tanana River drainage personal use fishery.

***Commercial (1 proposal)***

- 146 Create a directed commercial fishery for cisco in Norton Sound or Port Clarence Districts.

**BOARD OF FISHERIES  
ARCTIC / YUKON / KUSKOKWIM FINFISH  
JANUARY 12-17, 2016**

**PROPOSAL 92 – 5 AAC 07.365. Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Plan.** Modify the Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Plan to manage the king salmon subsistence fishery based on the Bethel Test Fishery, as follows:

5 AAC 07.365(c)(2) is amended to add a new subparagraph (C) as follows:

(C) notwithstanding (A) and (B) of this section, when the preseason outlook is below 150,000 king salmon and taking into account recent run performance, the department shall manage the king salmon subsistence fishery conservatively and not open any subsistence salmon fishing periods until the approximate first 50% of the current king run has been determined to have passed the Bethel Test Fishery;

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Since 2010, the Kuskokwim River has experienced a decline in king salmon returns, with 2013 having the lowest total run and escapement on record, and 2014 seeing the implementation of unprecedented subsistence fishing restrictions for Kuskokwim Chinook salmon. In times of low run abundance, it becomes more difficult to ensure that adequate numbers of fish reach their spawning grounds and to provide enough fish for equitable distribution to subsistence users throughout the drainage. This proposal would close the subsistence salmon fishery until it has been determined that approximately 50% of the king salmon run has passed the Bethel Test Fishery.

**PROPOSED BY:** Orutsarmiut Native Council (HQ-F15-108)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 93 – 5 AAC 07.365. Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Plan.** Modify the Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Plan to establish an inriver run goal of king salmon above the Bethel Test Fishery, as follows:

The BOF should establishment an In-River goal for Chinook salmon on the Kuskokwim River. The lower end of which is based on the established SEG, adjusted for uncertainty (85,000) and the addition of 10,000 fish for a total In-River goal of 95,000 Chinook above the BTF site.

5 AAC07.365. Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Plan is amended to:

(c) In the king salmon fishery,

Replace all occurrences in this section of the Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Plan of: "drainage wide escapement goal", with "the established In-River Goal".

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Currently fisheries managers lack codified in-season management objectives to provide for reasonable opportunity

for the harvest of Chinook salmon in the middle/upper regions on the Kuskokwim River. Reasonable opportunity for subsistence harvest of Chinook salmon has not been provided for over a decade in these communities when taking into account that considerable more effort and expense has been required to meet basic subsistence needs. This has been especially evident over the last five years when ANS drainage-wide has not been met. Post season harvest data (1990 to 2011) shows that Bethel is harvesting a significantly greater proportion of Chinook than in the past, approximately a 5% per decade rate increase. Although the number of Chinook harvested per household (HH) in Bethel has remained relatively constant, the number of HH's has been rapidly increasing (about 50 HH's/per year), or roughly the equivalent of adding one new Village the size of Upper Kalskag to the Kuskokwim each year. Over this same period most villages in the middle and upper river harvest and number of HH's has remained constant or declined. What is not captured by the harvest statistics however is how much harder the villages in the middle and upper Kuskokwim have had to work, and resources they have expended just to remain constant, or slow the decline of harvest. The primary cause of this inequality is fundamentally due to lower densities of Chinook above Bethel, as a result of; low abundance, increased population growth of Bethel, no segregation of ANS by sub regions (i.e. lower, mid and upper-river), and more recently the adoption of the basin-wide SEG which allows for unrestricted subsistence harvest in the lower river even when abundance is well below historic means.

An appropriate in-season management goal that could increase the relative density of Chinook above Bethel is needed. The "tool" at the BOF's disposal to accomplish this is establishing an In-River Goal for Chinook salmon above the Bethel Test Fish (BTF) site. The current basin-wide SEG is 65,000 -120,000 Chinook, which correlates well with the BTF indices, however to account for uncertainty a management objective of 85,000 Chinook is typically used to ensure that the minimum escapement is met. The 25 year average of subsistence harvest has been approximately 81,000 Chinook for the entire drainage. Taking into account the increase in the proportional harvest at Bethel (5% per decade), over a 25 year period approximately 12.5% of the total harvest has been "reallocated" to Bethel, or the equivalent of about 10,000 Chinook. Total Chinook harvested by the middle and upper Kuskokwim Villages between 1990 and 2011 has declined by approximately 6,000 Chinook.

Through establishment of an in-river goal using the management objectives of 85,000 plus an additional 10,000 fish as the lower bounds of a goal, as measured by the BTF, managers would be more likely to meet minimum escapement, and increase the density of fish in the middle and upper river resulting in more equitable, reasonable opportunity for those communities.

As an alternative solution, and because the ANS for Chinook salmon on the Kuskokwim has not been met drainage-wide over the last five years, under AS 16.05.258. (b)(4)(B), "if the harvestable portion of the stock or population is not sufficient to provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses, the appropriate board shall. . . , distinguish among subsistence users..." i.e., establish a Tier II permitting system. The Board acknowledged this issue last October with its acceptance of ACR #8, and the establishment of the Kuskokwim Subsistence Salmon Panel to explore the issue further along with possible solutions. Three BOF proposals were adopted by the BOF addressing gear type changes; regrettably they fall far short of



addressing the core issues raised in ACR#8, and in this proposal. If the issue of inequitable harvest opportunity is not resolved by the BOF state statute clearly directs the BOF to institute a Tier II system for the subsistence harvest of Chinook salmon on the Kuskokwim River.

**PROPOSED BY:** Kuskokwim Native Association (HQ-F15-089)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 94 – 5 AAC 07.365. Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Plan.** Establish an inriver run goal for the Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Plan, as follows:

5 AAC 07.365. Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Plan is amended to read:

(c) In the king salmon fishery,

**(?) establish an Inriver Run Goal of 120,000 to 218,000 Chinook salmon, which is the historical median escapement +/- 30% plus the proposed nested ANS for communities upstream of Bethel.**

**(A) This inriver Run Goal would result in a level of escapement that ranges from the upper end of the current escapement goal, to well above the current goal.**

**(B) This inriver Run Goal provides a level of subsistence harvest opportunity upstream of Bethel consistent with historical opportunity. The level of annual escapement that would result also would provide decades of sustainable subsistence and commercial fisheries in the Kuskokwim River.**

(1) when the projected escapement of king salmon is below the drainage-wide escapement goal range, the commissioner shall, by emergency order, close the commercial, sport, and subsistence king salmon fisheries,

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The Stony-Holitna Advisory Committee has submitted three separate proposals to use as tools in addressing this issue. The three proposals (see Proposals 96 and 97) would be most effectively considered as a group in sequential order with this being the second proposal. However, each proposal could stand alone.

Reasonable opportunity for subsistence harvest of Chinook salmon has not been provided for many years in the middle/upriver communities on the Kuskokwim River. This has been especially evident over the last five years when there has been a limited harvestable surplus. The communities from Bethel and the surrounding area have harvested a disproportionate share of the Chinook. Currently there are no limits or reporting requirements for Chinook on the Kuskokwim. The increase in harvest at the lower end of the Kuskokwim results in not allowing enough Chinook to continue upriver to make escapement and provide a reasonable opportunity for those communities upriver of Bethel to meet their needs. The effect gets progressively more pronounced the further upriver a community is located.

Establish an inriver goal at a specific point, the Bethel Test Fishery, to guide managers in allowing enough Chinook upriver to provide reasonable opportunity for the middle/upriver

communities. This river goal could be set as the historical (1976-2013) median Chinook salmon escapement plus the nested ANS for the communities upriver of Bethel.

**PROPOSED BY:** Stony-Holitna Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F15-042)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 95 – 5 AAC 01.286. Customary and traditional subsistence uses of fish stocks and amounts necessary for subsistence uses; and 5 AAC 01.2xx. Tier II subsistence salmon fishing permits for the Kuskokwim River fishery.** Create a Tier II subsistence king salmon fishery in the Kuskokwim River, as follows:

5 AAC 01.286(b) and 5 AAC 01.2xx NEW

Because available surpluses of Kuskokwim River Chinook salmon remain very low, and for a sustained period of time have not been sufficient to provide a reasonable opportunity to meet subsistence needs, the Board should designate Kuskokwim River Chinook salmon stocks as a Tier II fishery, as specified in AS 16.05.258(b)(4) or implement an alternate system which will effectively ensure an equitable distribution of any harvestable surpluses throughout the drainage in periods when amount necessary for subsistence (ANS) cannot be met (i.e. community permits or quotas). AS 16.05.258 states that “if the harvestable portion of the stock or population is not sufficient to provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses, the appropriate board shall” [emphasis added] establish a system that distinguishes among subsistence users. Such a system, referred to as “Tier II,” gives priority to users based on a set of clear criteria including: 1) customary dependence, 2) proximity to the stock or population and 3) availability of alternative resources (AS 16.05.258(b)(4)(B)). Tier II has been applied in the past by the BOF to the Nome Subdistrict chum salmon subsistence fishery and in a number of cases by the Board of Game.

Given the clear language in statute requiring action on the part of the Board, if the Board elects not to take action they may be failing to fairly distribute limited harvestable surpluses of Kuskokwim River Chinook salmon in years when ANS is not being met and may be in violation of AS 16.05.258(b)(4).

The core of this proposal was the subject of an 2014 BOF ACR which was accepted by the BOF by a 7-0 vote and considered at their October 2014 work session, but did not result in any of the requested actions. [See **ACR #8**: “Subdivide Kuskokwim River king salmon ANS by geographic area and allocate Kuskokwim River king salmon subsistence harvest under a Tier II system (5 AAC 01.286(b) and 5 AAC 01.2xx NEW)”].

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The Kuskokwim River Chinook salmon stocks are currently in an extended period of very depressed runs. With severely depressed runs and all Alaska residents qualifying as subsistence users, it has not been possible for fishery managers to provide fishing opportunity for all users without impacting escapement needs essential to rebuilding the stocks. The minimum ANS (5 AAC 01.286) for Kuskokwim River Chinook salmon (67,200 to 109,800) has not been achieved for the past five consecutive years. The 2014 total harvest as estimated by ADFG was 11,762—more than 55,000 salmon below the bottom of the established ANS range.

Subsistence users in 26 communities spread out along the length of the River customarily harvest Chinook salmon for subsistence. In recent years, when there has been limited harvest opportunity – but well below the ANS range, middle river and upriver users in many communities assert that the distribution of harvest, and reasonable opportunity, has not been equitably shared throughout the drainage with disproportionate harvest opportunities provided to lower river harvesters.

**PROPOSED BY:** Grant Fairbanks (HQ-F15-097)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 96 – 5 AAC 01.286. Customary and traditional subsistence uses of fish stocks and amounts necessary for subsistence uses.** Separate the amounts necessary for subsistence use of king salmon into three parts on the Kuskokwim River, as follows:

5 AAC 01.286 is amended to read:

**5 AAC 01.286. Customary and traditional subsistence uses of fish stocks and amounts necessary for subsistence uses**

(a) The Alaska Board of Fisheries (board) finds that the following fish stocks are customarily and traditionally taken or used for subsistence:

...

(b) The board finds that the following amounts of fish are reasonably necessary for subsistence uses:

(1) 67,200 - 109,800 king salmon in the Kuskokwim River drainage, **including**

**(A) 22,400-36,600 in the Kuskokwim River from the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge boundary at the mouth of the Kuskokwim (a line between 59° 59.958' N, 162° 30.458' W and 59° 59.945' N and 162° 11.154' W) upstream to Graveyard Point.**

**(B) 22,400-36,600 in the Kuskokwim River from Graveyard Point to the Y below Kwethluk at the mouth of Kuskokwaq Slough; and**

**(C) 22,400-36,600 in the Kuskokwim River from the Y below Kwethluk at the mouth of Kuskokwaq Slough to the headwaters;**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The Stony-Holitna Advisory Committee has submitted three separate proposals to use as tools in addressing this issue. The three proposals (see Proposals 94 and 97) would be most effectively considered as a group in sequential order with this being the first proposal. However, each proposal could stand alone.

Reasonable opportunity for subsistence harvest of Chinook salmon has not been provided for many years in the middle/upriver communities on the Kuskokwim River. This has been especially evident over the last five years when there has been a limited harvestable surplus. The communities from Bethel and the surrounding area have harvested a disproportionate share of the Chinook. Currently there are no limits or reporting requirements for Chinook on the Kuskokwim. The increase in harvest at the lower end of the Kuskokwim results in not allowing enough Chinook to continue upriver to make escapement and provide a reasonable opportunity

for those communities upriver of Bethel to meet their needs. The effect gets progressively more pronounced the further upriver a community is located.

Using the present ANS number, divide the ANS into three equal parts, a nested ANS, based roughly on current subsistence harvest in these three portions of the river. One third to be below Bethel, one third to encompass the Bethel area and one third to be above Bethel. These proportions are based on subsistence harvest data both from a 5 year average and a 24 year average, with little or no change over that time span. This would give the managers a formal target to aim for in each part of the river. Managers have a broad spectrum of management tools available to them to be used to help each ANS area achieve an equal portion of the harvest. The goal is to strive for equal harvest in each ANS area. This may be achieved by using different management options in each area. Notwithstanding this goal, it is acknowledged that ANS is most useful as a post-season tool to be used to adjust management approaches for the coming year.

**PROPOSED BY:** Stony-Holitna Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F15-041)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 97 – 5 AAC 01.280. Subsistence fishing permits.** Create a permitting system for king salmon subsistence fishing in the Kuskokwim River, as follows:

5 AAC 01.280. Subsistence fishing permits is amended to read:

Fish may be taken for subsistence purposes without a subsistence fishing permit, **except Chinook salmon may be taken in the Kuskokwim River under authority of a subsistence fishing permit.**

**(a) Only one subsistence fishing permit may be issued to a household per year. The permit must be retained, and in the possession of the permittee, and readily available for inspection upon request by a peace officer of the state, while taking or transporting Kuskokwim River king salmon taken for subsistence uses under this permit.**

**(b) A record of subsistence-caught king salmon must be kept on the reverse side of the permit. The record must be completed immediately upon taking subsistence-caught king salmon and must be returned to the local representative of the department no later than September 30.**

**(c) Permit limits: only one subsistence fishing permit may be issued to a household; and an annual limit of Chinook taken may be attached to this permit to be set by ADFG management.**

**(d) A permittee who fails to comply with reporting requirements in this section is ineligible to receive a subsistence fishing permit for Kuskokwim River king salmon subsistence fishing during the following calendar year, unless the permit applicant demonstrates to the department that failure to report was due to unavoidable circumstances; notwithstanding the provisions of this paragraph, the department may determine that it is administratively impractical to apply the penalty for failure to report.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Stony-Holitna Advisory Committee submitted three separate proposals to use as tools in addressing this issue.

The three proposals (see Proposals 94 and 96) would be most effectively considered as a group in sequential order with this being the third proposal. However, each proposal could stand alone.

Reasonable opportunity for subsistence harvest of Chinook salmon has not been provided for many years in the middle/upriver communities on the Kuskokwim River. This has been especially evident over the last five years when there has been a limited harvestable surplus. The communities from Bethel and the surrounding area have harvested a disproportionate share of the Chinook. Currently there are no limits or reporting requirements for Chinook on the Kuskokwim. The increase in harvest at the mouth of the Kuskokwim results in not allowing enough Chinook to continue upriver to make escapement and provide a reasonable opportunity for those communities upriver of Bethel to meet their needs. The effect gets progressively more pronounced the further upriver a community is located.

A household permit system for Chinook should be instituted on the entire Kuskokwim River Drainage. This would allow a method to equitably distribute the harvestable surplus when it is forecast to be below the total ANS. Permits would give ADFG a method to allocate the forecast harvestable surplus equitably between all households. Such a permit system would also serve as a reporting mechanism for actual catch that would include all fishing households, not just those available for voluntary interviews in October during the subsistence post-season surveys. This additional data would give better numbers on which to base management decisions.

**PROPOSED BY:** Stony-Holitna Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F15-043)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 98** – 5 AAC 01.255. **Description of districts and subsections.** Establish descriptions of subsistence fishing sections for the Kuskokwim River during times of king salmon conservation, as follows:

5 AAC 01.255 is amended to read:

**5 AAC 01.255. Description of districts and subsections.** **(a)** Districts and subdistricts are as described in 5 AAC 07.200.

**(b) During times of king salmon conservation, the Kuskokwim River may be divided into the following sections by emergency order:**

**(1) Section 1: from a line from the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge boundary at the mouth of the Kuskokwim River at 59° 59.96' N. lat., 162° 30.46' W. long. to the confluence of the Johnson River and Kuskokwim River at 59° 59.95' N. lat., 162° 11.15' W. long.;**

**(2) Section 2: from the confluence of the Johnson River and Kuskokwim River to a line between ADF&G regulatory markers located approximately one-half mile upstream of the Tuluksak River mouth;**

**(3) Section 3: from a line between ADF&G regulatory markers located approximately one-half mile upstream of the Tuluksak River mouth to a line between ADF&G regulatory markers at the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge boundary near Aniak;**

**(4) Section 4: from the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge boundary near Aniak to a line between ADF&G regulatory markers located downstream of the Holitna River mouth;**

**(5) Section 5: from a line between ADF&G regulatory markers located downstream of the Holitna River mouth to the headwaters of the Kuskokwim River.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The department has been dividing the Kuskokwim River into five sections by emergency order to manage the subsistence fishery during times of king salmon conservation. There has been a lot of confusion regarding the descriptions or definitions of these areas. This proposal seeks to establish clear definitions in regulation.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F15-012)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 99 – 5 AAC 01.270. Lawful gear and gear specifications and operation.** Modify gear operation in the Kuskokwim River by limiting four-inch mesh subsistence gear to one gillnet per household, as follows:

Amend 5 AAC 01.270 is amended to read:

When 4” mesh restrictions are in place for the purpose of king salmon conservation, there is an additional limitation of only one (1) net per household;

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Since 2010, the Kuskokwim River has experienced a decline in king salmon returns, with 2013 having the lowest total run and escapement on record, and 2014 seeing the implementation of unprecedented subsistence fishing restrictions for Kuskokwim Chinook salmon. A 4” mesh, 60’ net allowance was made in order to give people an opportunity to fish for other resident species to have some opportunity for “fresh fish on the table”, but was not meant to be used for the targeting of king salmon. It has been observed and reported on numerous occasions that some have abused this opportunity by having multiple (2-5) legal nets in the water to increase their chances of “incidental” take of king salmon during their run. At fisheries meetings this winter many resident fishermen also expressed great concern for perceived increase in mortality to kings from encountering the greatly increased numbers of 4” inch mesh nets in the water.

**PROPOSED BY:** Orutsararmiut Native Council (HQ-F15-107)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 100 – 5 AAC 01.270. Lawful gear and gear specifications and operation.** Establish subsistence beach seine specifications in the Kuskokwim Area, as follows:

5 AAC 01.270 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

**(p) A beach seine may not exceed 50 fathoms in length or 100 meshes in depth. Seine mesh size may not exceed three and one-half inches stretched measure.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Beach seines are legal gear under current subsistence fishing regulations, though there are no specifications. Therefore, any combination of net length, depth, and mesh size could be operated within the Kuskokwim Area as a beach seine. Under current regulations, a very large or very long beach seine could potentially capture king salmon. Because of king salmon conservation concerns, it is prudent to ensure beach seine gear will not cause king salmon mortality. This will provide clarification and set maximum allowable gear specifications for beach seines in the Kuskokwim Area.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F15-021)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 101 – 5 AAC 07.331. Gillnet specifications and operations.** Repeal Kuskokwim Area depth specifications for commercial gillnets greater than six-inch mesh, as follows:

5 AAC 07.331(b) is amended to read:

(b) The maximum depth of gillnets is as follows:

(1) gillnets with six-inch or smaller mesh may not be more than 45 meshes in depth;

(2) **repealed** / / / [GILLNETS WITH GREATER THAN SIX-INCH MESH MAY NOT BE MORE THAN 35 MESHES IN DEPTH].

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Within the Kuskokwim Area commercial fisheries, only gillnets with six-inch or smaller mesh are considered legal gear. Since gillnets with larger than six-inch mesh are not legal gear in the Kuskokwim Area commercial fisheries, there is no need to have a mesh depth regulation specified for that mesh size. The suggested change would simplify the codified regulations and remove unnecessary regulatory language.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F15-023)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 102 – 5 AAC 07.331. Gillnet specifications and operations.** Change gillnet mesh size from six inches or smaller to five and three-quarters inches or smaller in District 4 of the Kuskokwim Area, as follows:

**5 AAC 07.331. Gillnet specifications and operations is amended to readL:**

(d)

(2) salmon may be taken only with gillnets of **5 3/4-inch** [6-inch] or smaller mesh.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Due to the closed and highly regulatory restrictions on the harvest of the Chinook salmon in District W-4, commercial fisherman, have foregone the opportunity to harvest the more abundant sockeye and chum salmon. Sockeye and chum salmon runs overlap the Chinook salmon run which makes it a challenge to minimize the commercial harvest of the more abundant species. Additionally, the nature and design of the commercial salmon fishery in the “W-4” district makes it an incredible

challenge to utilize alternative gear to avoid and minimize the harvest of Chinook salmon. Many of the commercial fisherman of District W-4 (Quinhagak) depend on the commercial fishery as their sole source of income for the few short months it is open. By reducing the mesh size from 6 inches to 5 3/4 inches, this would allow commercial fisherman the opportunity to harvest sockeye and chum salmon during their peak run timing while providing the Chinook salmon the opportunity to escape during times of conservation. Should the Chinook salmon conservation be lifted, then so should the mesh size reduction, allowing commercial fisherman in district W-4 to go back up to 6-inch or less in mesh size.

(Editor note: 5 AAC 07.331(d) also addresses District 5.)

**PROPOSED BY:** Native Village of Kwinhagak (EF-C15-107)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 103 – 5 AAC 07.367. District 4 Salmon Management Plan.** Amend the Kuskokwim Area District 4 Salmon Management Plan to include District 5, as follows:

5 AAC 07.367 is amended to read:

5 AAC 07.367. District 4 **and 5** Salmon Management Plan. (a) The objective of the District 4 **and 5** Salmon Management Plan is to maintain a level of sustained yield which will provide for subsistence needs, the long-term economic health of the commercial and sport fishing industries, and recreational opportunities, in the **districts** [DISTRICT] and freshwater systems flowing into the **districts** [DISTRICT].

(b) The District 4 commercial salmon fishery is to open before June 16.

(c) When the catch of king salmon in the commercial fishery is less than 50 percent of the catch of king and sockeye salmon combined, the department shall manage, to the extent practicable, the commercial salmon fishery based on the strength of the sockeye salmon return.

(d) Commercial salmon fishing periods are established by emergency order. The department shall allow at least one fishing period per week, unless a severe conservation problem develops.

(e) When a closure of the commercial salmon fishery is required, the department shall decide, on or before the 10th day of the closure, whether to close the sport fishery to the taking of the species of the biological concern and whether additional management actions on the sport fishery are needed.

**(f) During times of king salmon conservation, the commercial fishery in District 5 may be restricted to that portion of Goodnews Bay east of a line from ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately two miles south on the seaward side of the entrance of Goodnews Bay to an ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately two miles north on the seaward side of the entrance of Goodnews Bay and west of a line from Big Beluga to Little Beluga.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Currently the department uses elements of the *District 4 Salmon Management Plan* to manage District 5 salmon resources for sustained yield. Including applicable aspects of the *District 4 Salmon Management Plan* to manage



District 5 will make fisheries management strategies clearer to fishermen in District 5. The District 5 fishing area has been reduced in the past by emergency order to conserve king salmon while directing the harvest at sockeye salmon.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F15-022)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 104 – 5 AAC 07.200. Fishing districts, subdistricts, and sections.** Increase the commercial fishing area in District 5 of the Kuskokwim Area, as follows:

5 AAC 07.200(d) is amended to read:

(d) District 5 consists of that portion of Goodnews Bay east of a line from an ADF&G regulatory marker located at Red Mountain, approximately 3–5 [TWO] miles south of the seaward side of the entrance [MOUTH] of Goodnews Bay to an ADF&G regulatory marker located at Qengallek Point, approximately 3–4 [TWO] miles north of the seaward side of the entrance of Goodnews Bay and west of a line between the mouth of Ukfigag Creek at 59° 04.17' N. lat., 161° 36' W. long., and the mouth of the Tunulik River at 59° 08' N. lat., 161° 37' W. long."

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Extend the line on the seaward side of the district. When the fishery opens during the summer there are lot of fishermen that comes down to Goodnews Bay District from other villages to fish and with the influx of fishermen there is a lack of space to fish, especially during low tides. The inside of the Bay shrinks to more than half of its size since most of the Bay becomes mudflats and most of it becomes very shallow and what little area of deep enough water to fish in, it always becomes congested creating sometimes tensions between the fishermen and the only option is to go outside of the Bay to fish and even outside with more boats from other villages there is lack of space to fish since it would be impracticable to fish very close to the other boats.

**PROPOSED BY:** Peter Julius, Native Village of Goodnews Bay (EF-C15-036)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 105 – 5 AAC 71.010. Seasons and bag, possession, annual, and size limits for the Kuskokwim - Goodnews Area.** Modify gear specifications to reduce king salmon harvest in the Kanektok and Arolik rivers, as follows:

**5 AAC 71.010. Seasons and bag, possession, annual, and size limits for the Kuskokwim - Goodnews Area is amended to read:**

Reduce the sport fishing gear sizes to no more than 9-weight for fly fishing rods, no more than 200-grains for fishing lines, and no more than 10-feet for sink tips on fishing lines for the Kanektok and Arolik Rivers.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The Chinook salmon stocks in the Kanektok and Arolik Rivers have experienced a state of decline in the recent years

resulting in harvest restrictions in the Chinook salmon sport fishery. By reducing the size of their gear during the Chinook salmon season, sport fisherman will decrease their chances of harvesting Chinook salmon. Chinook salmon are an important staple food for many of the indigenous people of Quinhagak who rely on the Kanektok and Arolik River's Chinook salmon runs.

**PROPOSED BY:** Native Village of Kwinhagak (EF-C15-108)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 106** – 5 AAC 27.875. **Description of Kuskokwim Area districts.** Extend the Nelson Island herring fishing district from Atrnak Point toward Cape Vancouver, as follows:

5 AAC 27.875(c) is amended to read:

(c) The Nelson Island District consists of the waters north of the latitude of Chinigyak Cape (60° 27' N lat.) and east of the longitude of **Arriat (approximately half a mile (1/2) east from Cape Vancouver and approximately 7–8 miles west of Umkumiut), [ATRNAK POINT (165° 15' W long.) (APPROXIMATELY TWO MILES WEST OF UMKUMIUT),]** and all waters north of the latitude of Talurarevuk Point (60° 35' N lat.) and south of the latitude of the southernmost tip of Chinit Point (60° 36' N lat.) and east of the 165° 30' W long., and all waters of the latitude of the northernmost tip of Chinit Point (60° 37'N lat.) and south of the latitude of the southeastern most tip of KIgigak Island (60° 49' N lat.) and east of 165 of the°30' W long.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Extend the line westward from Atrnak Point toward Cape Vancouver. Early on during the first opening of each openings most of the herrings are within the closed area between Atrnak Point and Cape Vancouver. The reason behind the extension is so that the fishermen would be able to take advantage of the herring with better roe content and less spawn outs.

**PROPOSED BY:** Peter Julius (EF-C15-102)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 107** – 5 AAC 05.362. **Yukon River Summer Chum Salmon Management Plan.** Close the Yukon River summer chum salmon commercial fishery to protect king salmon, as follows:

5 AAC 05.362 is amended to read:

**No commercial openings on summer chum run in Yukon River as a means of protecting king run.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** At issue here the Tanana Rampart Manley Fish and Game Advisory Committee felt that while they support reasonable and sustainable commercial harvests they felt that management was unable to say no to the extreme pressures by commercial interests to have summer chum commercial openings and protect king salmon at the same time. Corruption of the pulse protection principle to not protect the last main

pulses of king salmon in order to allow commercial chum fishing sooner is an example. Members also pointed out regulations passed (fish wheel live box use) and management bowing to pressure to consider things such as drift seining and Board of Fisheries passing of beach seining and live box fishing for summer chum while releasing kings caught in same gear.

Basically members felt that until time can be found to deal properly with these issues the best move would be to stop all commercial summer chum fishing.

**PROPOSED BY:** Tanana Rampart Manley Fish and Game Advisory Committee

(EF-C15-023)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 108 – 5 AAC 05.362. Yukon River Summer Chum Salmon Management Plan.**  
Reduce management triggers in the Yukon River Summer Chum Salmon Management Plan based on the run size of summer chum salmon, as follows:

We suggest that:

1. Subsistence fisheries should be managed below the low end of the BEG range, 600,000 salmon, so that no less than 400,000 salmon are allowed to spawn;
2. The commercial exploitation rate shall be 50% of the commercially available harvestable surplus of runs between 700,000 and 800,000; and
3. The commercial exploitation rate shall be up to 100% of the commercially available harvestable surplus of runs in excess of 800,000.

Suggested changes to the Yukon River Summer Chum Salmon Management Plan follows:

**5 AAC 05.362. Yukon River Summer Chum Salmon Management Plan**

(b) When the projected run size of summer chum salmon is **400,000** [600,000] fish or less, the commissioner shall, by emergency order, close the...

(c) When the projected run size of summer chum salmon is more than **400,000** [600,000] fish, but not more than **600,000** [700,000] fish,

(1) the commissioner shall close, by emergency order, the commercial, sport, and personal use directed summer chum salmon fisheries;

(2) the department shall manage the subsistence directed summer chum salmon fishery to achieve drainage-wide escapement of no less than **400,000** [600,000] summer chum salmon, except that, if indicators show that individual escapement goals within a district, subdistrict, or portion of a district or subdistrict will be met, the commissioner may open, by emergency order, a less restrictive directed subsistence summer chum fishery in that district, subdistrict, or portion of a district or subdistrict.

(d) When the projected run size of summer chum salmon is more than **600,000** [700,000] fish, but not more than **700,000** [1,000,000] fish,...

(e) Notwithstanding (d) of this section, when the projected run size of chum salmon is more than **700,000** [900,000] fish, but not more than **800,000** [1,000,000] fish, the commissioner may, by emergency order, open a drainagewide commercial fishery to harvest up to 50,000 fish above

the run size of **700,000** [900,000] chum salmon distributed by district or subdistrict in proportion to the guideline harvest levels established in (g) of this section.

(f) When the projected run size of summer chum salmon is more than **800,000** [1,000,000] fish, the commissioner may open, by emergency order, a drainagewide commercial fishery with the harvestable surplus distributed by district or subdistrict in proportion to the guideline harvest levels established in (g) of this section.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) recently completed a Biological Escapement Goal (BEG) analysis for Yukon River summer chum salmon. Based on that analysis, ADF&G may establish a BEG range for the entire Yukon River drainage of 600,000 to 1,000,000 salmon. The current Yukon River Summer Chum Salmon Management Plan was based on an implied drainage-wide escapement above Yukon Sonar project of at least 1,000,000 salmon. At that time, this implied escapement goal was based on the fact that half of the summer chum salmon passing the Yukon Sonar project site were destined to the Anvik River and that the established BEG for the Anvik River was point estimate of 500,000. At that time also, ADF&G assumed that productivity for the non-Anvik River stocks within the Yukon River drainage was probably similar to the Anvik River, so escapement to that portion of the drainage above the Yukon Sonar site should be similar.

Therefore, we ask the BOF to critically examine the current summer chum management plan and alter the trigger points in relation to the newly established drainage-wide summer chum salmon BEG, with consideration not to burden the subsistence fishery with Maximum Sustained Yield (MSY) management in years of low runs. Note that the strategy that allows the subsistence fishery to harvest summer chum salmon below the established BEG does not alter the trigger points that are associated with the commercial fishery.

Since there will likely be a new drainage-wide escapement goal for summer chum salmon, the management plan needs to be modified accordingly. We suggest that because Yukon River summer chum salmon have good production at low levels of escapement, subsistence harvests should be allowed to occur when runs are projected to provide for the escapements less than the lower end of the BEG. Note that there hasn't been an escapement below 400,000 salmon in recorded history, but escapements within the 400,000 to 500,000 range have produced well. For example, the estimated escapement of 486,000 salmon in 2000 produced an estimated 750,000 salmon, while the estimated escapement of 423,000 salmon in 2001, the lowest escapement recorded, produced a record 5.1M salmon, with an associated return per spawner (R/S) of 11.8, which is the also the highest on record. The only other escapement near the 600,000 lower end of the BEG range occurred in 1990 with an escapement of 622,000 salmon that produced the third highest return on record at 3.2M salmon, with a R/S of 4.9, which ranks second.

BEG-based management, on the average, is expected to produce MSY 90% of the time. We believe that when low runs occur (<600,000 salmon), management of the subsistence fishery to the attainment of escapements within the BEG is not in the best interest of the state. We believe that closing subsistence fisheries when runs are projected to be between 400,000 and 600,000 manages the stock for an expected MSY 4 or 5 years in the future on the backs of the subsistence fishers, which is unnecessary. The people of the Yukon River, particularly the people of the Lower Yukon Area, are extremely dependent on the summer chum salmon to sustain them

through the winter. It is, and always has been, the major and most important salmon species to for food. In our opinion, denying people the food they need because of MSY management is totally and absolutely wrong. Summer chum salmon subsistence fisheries of the Lower Yukon Area are necessary for the people's food security. The state should not be managing for future MSY when runs are below the low end of the BEG. I also note that in 2000 and 2001, ADF&G was reluctant to close the subsistence fisheries even though it was obvious inseason that the escapement target in the summer chum salmon management plan was not going to be achieved.

Strictly speaking, with an assumed subsistence harvest of 100,000 summer chum salmon, and in consideration of the established BEG, commercial fishing should be able to harvest the surplus over a run projected in excess of 700,000 salmon. However, we realize that the subsistence fishery may take more summer chum salmon because of the reduced king salmon subsistence harvest and that projections may not always be accurate. Therefore, we suggest that, similar to the present summer chum management plan, an exploitation rate of 50% be applied to the run between 700,000 and 800,000 salmon, with the possibility of full commercial exploitation on the commercially-available surplus for runs projected in excess of 800,000 salmon. This management strategy allows a commercial harvest to occur when runs are a full 200,000 fish less than the current management trigger point of 900,000 salmon. This change in the management plan will allow some income for commercial fishers when runs are lower than the current management plan triggers and will also foster maintaining commercial markets for the unique chum salmon of the Yukon River. Of course, we realize and expect that escapements should and will fall within the BEG, commensurate with run size. However, we also believe that ADF&G should do everything in their power to eliminate escapements in excess of 1.8M salmon. No escapements over 1.8M salmon have replaced themselves and usually have detrimental repercussions on the productivity of the stock.

Two other considerations should be discussed by the BOF regarding the summer chum salmon management plan: 1. Summer chum salmon subsistence harvests will probably fall below the assumed 100,000 salmon when more kings are taken for subsistence in the future, thereby eliminating that need for a buffer; and 2. The inability of the commercial fishery to efficiently harvest the commercial surplus available when king conservation strategies are in place, provides an additional buffer to escapement and subsistence needs. For example, in 2013 an estimated 1,487,000 summer chum salmon were available for harvest in Districts 1 and 2 of the Yukon Area. Actual commercial harvest was only 379,000 salmon, or about 25% of the allocation

**PROPOSED BY:** Kwik'pak Fisheries (EF-C15-123)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 109 – 5 AAC 05.362. Yukon River Summer Chum Salmon Management Plan.**  
Modify Yukon River Summer Chum Salmon Management Plan triggers, as follows:

5 AAC 05.362(a)–(f) are amended as follows:

(a) The objective of this management plan is to provide the department with guidelines to manage for the sustained yield of Yukon River summer chum salmon. The department shall use the best available data, including preseason run projections, test fishing indices, age and sex composition, subsistence and commercial harvest reports, and passage estimates from

escapement monitoring projects to assess the run size for the purpose of implementing this plan. **Management of the summer chum salmon fisheries may be affected during times of king salmon conservation.**

(b) When the projected run size of summer chum salmon is 600,000 fish or less, [THE COMMISSIONER SHALL, BY EMERGENCY ORDER CLOSE THE]

(1) **the commissioner shall close, by emergency order, the** commercial, sport, and personal use directed summer chum salmon fisheries;

(2) **the department may restrict or close the** subsistence summer chum salmon fisheries, except that, if indicators show an individual escapement goal in a district, subdistrict, or portion of a district or subdistrict will be met, the commissioner may open, by emergency order, a directed subsistence summer chum fishery in that district, subdistrict, or portion of a district or subdistrict.

(c) When the projected run size of summer chum salmon is more than 600,000 fish, but not more than **750,000** [700,000] fish,

(1) the commissioner shall close, by emergency order, the commercial, sport, and personal use directed summer chum salmon fisheries;

(2) the department **may restrict** [SHALL MANAGE] the subsistence [DIRECTED] summer chum salmon fishery [TO ACHIEVE DRAINAGEWIDE ESCAPEMENT OF NO LESS THAN 600,000 SUMMER CHUM SALMON], except that, if indicators show that individual escapement goals within a district, subdistrict, or portion of a district or subdistrict will be met, the commissioner may open, by emergency order, a less restrictive directed subsistence summer chum fishery in that district, subdistrict, or portion of a district or subdistrict;

**(3) if indicators show that individual escapement goals within a district, subdistrict, or portion of a district or subdistrict will be met, the commissioner may open, by emergency order, a summer chum fishery for commercial, sport, or personal use fishing in that district, subdistrict or portion of a district or subdistrict.**

(d) **Repealed** / / [WHEN THE PROJECTED RUN SIZE OF SUMMER CHUM SALMON IS MORE THAN 700,000 FISH, BUT NOT MORE THAN 1,000,000 FISH,

(1) THE COMMISSIONER MAY OPEN, BY EMERGENCY ORDER, A SUBSISTENCE FISHERY WITH FISHING SEASONS AND PERIODS AS SPECIFIED IN 5 AAC 05.360(d);

(2) AND IF INDICATORS SHOW THAT INDIVIDUAL ESCAPEMENT GOALS WITHIN A DISTRICT, SUBDISTRICT, OR PORTION OF A DISTRICT OR SUBDISTRICT WILL BE MET, THE COMMISSIONER MAY OPEN, BY EMERGENCY ORDER, A SUMMER CHUM FISHERY FOR COMMERCIAL, SPORT, OR PERSONAL USE FISHING IN THAT DISTRICT, SUBDISTRICT OR PORTION OF A DISTRICT OR SUBDISTRICT].

(e) **Repealed** / / [NOTWITHSTANDING (d) OF THIS SECTION, WHEN THE PROJECTED RUN SIZE OF CHUM SALMON IS MORE THAN 900,000 FISH, BUT NOT MORE THAN 1,000,000 FISH, THE COMMISSIONER MAY, BY EMERGENCY ORDER, OPEN A DRAINAGEWIDE COMMERCIAL FISHERY TO HARVEST UP TO 50,000 FISH ABOVE THE RUN SIZE OF 900,000 CHUM SALMON DISTRIBUTED BY DISTRICT OR SUBDISTRICT IN PROPORTION TO THE GUIDELINE HARVEST LEVELS ESTABLISHED IN (g) OF THIS SECTION].

(f) When the projected run size of summer chum salmon is more than **750,000** [1,000,000] fish, the commissioner may open, by emergency order, a drainagewide commercial fishery

**managed to achieve escapements within the established drainagewide escapement goal range of 600,000 – 1,000,000 summer chum salmon. The targeted harvest of the surplus will be [WITH THE HARVESTABLE SURPLUS] distributed by district or subdistrict in proportion to the guideline harvest levels established in (g) of this section.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The Yukon River summer chum salmon management plan originated in 1990 with abundance and escapement triggers based upon historical estimates of abundance and potential escapement needs. The department is developing a Yukon River drainagewide escapement goal of 600,000 – 1,000,000 summer chum salmon. Therefore, some modifications of the summer chum salmon plan are appropriate at this time. The summer chum salmon escapement goal is based on a stock-recruit analysis aimed at maximizing sustainable yield in the fishery. However, escapements as low as 400,000 summer chum salmon have yielded a sustainable population. The amount necessary for subsistence (ANS) for summer chum salmon on the Yukon River is 83,500 – 142,192 fish. Recent subsistence harvests from 2010–2014 have ranged from 88,000 – 127,000 summer chum salmon. Given that escapements as low as 400,000 have yielded a sustainable population, there could be some flexibility for allowing subsistence opportunity at a run size at below 600,000. There is increasing demand for summer chum salmon to supplement declining king salmon subsistence harvests on the Yukon River. This proposal seeks to provide the department flexibility to provide a subsistence harvest when the summer chum salmon run size is at or near 600,000 fish. Other uses, primarily the commercial fishery, would be allowed commensurate with the new escapement goal and providing for the subsistence priority.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F15-028)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 110 – 5 AAC 01.249. Yukon River Drainage Fall Chum Salmon Management Plan.** Increase the commercial fishery threshold trigger in the Yukon River Drainage Fall Chum Salmon Management Plan, as follows:

**5 AAC 01.249. Yukon River Drainage Fall Chum Salmon Management Plan (3)(C)(5) is amended to read:**

(5) when the projected run size is more than **600,000** [500,000] chum salmon, the commissioner may, by emergency order, open and close, commercial fisheries drainage-wide and manage the fisheries to achieve escapements within the established drainage-wide escapement goal range of 300,000 - 600,000 chum salmon; the targeted harvest of the surplus will be distributed by district or subdistrict proportional to the guideline harvest range established in 5 AAC 05.365; the department shall distribute the harvest levels below the low end of the guideline harvest range by district or subdistrict proportional to the midpoint of the guideline harvest range;

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** When projected run estimates for Yukon River fall chum salmon are 600,000 or less, second pulse protection of fall chum would be put in place with no commercial fishing allowed in Districts Y1 through Y5 so

that sufficient fall chum salmon will move upriver to meet subsistence needs and escapement goals.

Fall chum is the only salmon available to the upper Yukon River communities since Chinook salmon declines and closure of all directed Chinook harvest projected for the foreseeable future. Fall chum salmon is now needed to provide food for Yukon River communities more than ever before. Protections are needed to ensure commercial harvest of fall chum in the lower Yukon River does not prevent subsistence families from meeting their harvest needs in the upper river. This proposal is to increase the threshold at which the fall chum salmon commercial fishery can open from projected run size of 500,000 chum salmon to 600,000 chum salmon.

**What would happen if nothing is changed?** The current fall chum salmon commercial fishery threshold trigger of 500,000 is the lowest it has ever been in regulation. While currently the fall chum returns have been strong, this may not continue to be the case in the future and regulations take a long time to go into effect to be responsive and thus require proactive conservation management. If the regulation is not changed the uncertainty of projected run size could cause circumstances again in the future where a commercial fishery is prosecuted and runs do not return as expected, causing escapement goals to not be met and also place all the burden of limiting harvest on subsistence communities in the upper river (as well as commercial and sport fisheries in District 5) in order to meet escapement goals. Fall chum salmon is relied on more heavily now by subsistence communities in times of low Chinook returns and any restriction to subsistence fall chum salmon harvest caused by overharvest in the commercial fisheries causes great hardship to subsistence communities in the upper Yukon River that have no other salmon options.

This commercial fishery threshold increase will help build in protection for uncertain run size projections so that more fall chum can move upriver where they are necessary to meet increasing subsistence needs in the upper river prior to any accidental overharvest in the lower river by missed projections and still will allow for the commercial opportunity for the lower river. Increasing the projected run size commercial fishing threshold trigger will be a tool for managers to assure escapement goals are achieved and subsistence needs are met in the upper river Yukon River districts prior to removal of fall chum salmon from the system before fully knowing the run strength. The example is that if fall chum salmon don't actually return in the numbers that were projected, but a commercial fishery is already prosecuted in the lower Yukon districts then subsistence fishing in district Y5 has to be restricted in order to meet escapement goals.

**PROPOSED BY:** Eastern Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council  
(EF-C15-125)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 111 – 5 AAC 05.360. Yukon River King Salmon Management Plan.** Eliminate the use of GHs in the Yukon River King Salmon Management Plan, as follows:

We recommend the elimination of the GH in numbers of fish and just use the associated percentages that are already in regulation.



**5 AAC 05.360. Yukon River King Salmon Management Plan**

(b) The department shall manage commercial fishing as follows:

(2) the department shall manage the Yukon River commercial king salmon fishery [FOR A GUIDELINE HARVEST RANGE OF 67,350 - 129,150 KING SALMON, DISTRIBUTED AS FOLLOWS:

(A) DISTRICTS 1 AND 2: 60,000 - 120,000 KING SALMON;

(B) DISTRICT 3: 1,800 - 2,200 KING SALMON;

(C) DISTRICT 4: 2,250 - 2,850 KING SALMON;

(D) DISTRICT 5:

(i) SUBDISTRICT 5-B AND 5-C: 2,400 - 2,800 KING SALMON;

(ii) SUBDISTRICT 5-D: 300 - 500 KING SALMON; AND

(E) DISTRICT 6: 600 - 800 KING SALMON ;

(3) WHEN THE PROJECTED KING SALMON HARVEST RANGE FOR DISTRICT 1 - 6 COMBINED IS BELOW THE LOW END OF THE HARVEST LEVEL FROM ZERO TO 67,350 FISH, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ALLOCATE] **by allocating** the commercial harvest available by percentage for each district as follows:

(A) Districts 1 and 2: 89.1 percent;

(B) District 3: 2.7 percent;

(C) District 4: 3.3 percent;

(D) Subdistricts 5-B and 5-C: 3.6 percent;

(E) Subdistrict 5-D: 0.4 percent; and

(F) District 6: 0.9 percent.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Yukon River commercial king salmon Guideline Harvest Ranges (GHR), in numbers of fish, are meaningless. They should be deleted because they do not represent expected commercial harvest of Yukon king salmon. Originally, they were established so that fishers could have some expectation of the harvest within a district or subdistrict. Commercial harvests of king salmon have not been within the guideline harvest level since 1999. The last directed king salmon commercial fishery occurred in 2007. The state prohibited the sale of incidentally caught king salmon from the directed summer chum salmon fishery in 2009, and from 2010 through 2014. Sale of incidentally caught king salmon caught in the fall season fisheries was prohibited since 2012. Drainage-wide commercial harvests of equal to or more than 67,350 king salmon are highly unlikely for the foreseeable future. Therefore it does not make any sense to have this GHR, expressed in numbers of fish, as an expectation in regulation.

We suggest using the percentages in regulation to distribute any commercially-harvestable surplus by district and or subdistrict.

**PROPOSED BY:** Kwik'pak Fisheries

(EF-C15-124)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 112 – 5 AAC 01.220. Lawful gear and gear specifications.** Allow all gear used in Yukon Area commercial fisheries to be allowed in Yukon Area subsistence fisheries, as follows:

5 AAC 01.220 is amended to read:

**Fishing gear allowed in one section of the Yukon River for a commercial and/or subsistence fishery should be allowed for subsistence in the whole river unless a run sustainability issue is apparent. In the case of run sustainability being an issue, commercial restrictions shall be addressed first.**

Tanana Rampart Manley Fish and Game Advisory Committee supported this unanimously.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** At issue here is that over the years, commercial fishing interests often get heard best because of more money and manpower to promote itself. This was seen long ago during the creation of unfair limited entry quotas and allowing commercial fishers in areas with the best fishing and biggest quotas to harvest fish with the highly efficient method of drift netting while some areas of very poor fishing are only allowed to setnet for their subsistence needs.

This issue continues today with commercial interests recently obtaining the right to beach seine and drift dipnet for commercial chum salmon in some areas not traditional, yet in our area which had pre-limited entry historical dip net fisheries, dipnet fishing for even subsistence is currently illegal.

Fairness aside, subsistence is supposed to have priority over commercial and we feel this has not been happening.

**PROPOSED BY:** Tanana Rampart Manley Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-C15-024)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 113 – 5 AAC 01.220. Lawful gear and gear specifications; and 5 AAC 05.330. Gear.** Prohibit the use of drift gillnets in the Yukon Area subsistence fishery and in the Yukon Area commercial fishery, as follows:

Suggested language: **There will be no subsistence or commercial drift net fishing allowed on the Yukon River for Chinook salmon**

Tanana Rampart Manley Fish and Game Advisory Committee (TRM AC) supports the similar king salmon part of the Fairbanks AC’s anti-drift net proposal that they plan to be sending in to the board.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** At issue here we feel (unanimous TRM AC vote) is a non-sustainable, very unfair and extremely difficult to manage otherwise, drift net fishery in the Yukon River.

Our basic premise is that if the king runs ever recover to fishable numbers, a sustainable, fair fishery cannot exist with the current situation of allowing drifting in the areas easiest to catch kings and banning it in many of the hardest to catch king areas as is now the case. Drift net fishing also goes against the elders' principle of not targeting other peoples' fish. We believe that drift netting gives fishers way too much access to those kings going the farthest upriver (mid-river Canadian bound— the kings in most trouble) that would not otherwise be caught as frequently. Drift net use prior to the early 1970's was very minimal compared to today's vastly increased numbers we see during present day limited entry fish openings. There will never be a better, less painful time to remedy the unfairness and overfishing capabilities of the drift net fishery on the Yukon than now, while everyone grapples with how best to bring back and manage the fishery in the future.

**PROPOSED BY:** Tanana Rampart Manley Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-C15-016)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 114 – 5 AAC 01.230. Subsistence fishing permits.** Require subsistence salmon fishing permits in Yukon Area District 5 and set permit limits for king salmon during times of king salmon conservation, as follows:

The board will need to determine permit stipulations during times of king salmon conservation.  
**5 AAC 01.230. Subsistence fishing permits. (b)**

(1) for the **taking of salmon in District 5** [YUKON RIVER DRAINAGE UPSTREAM FROM THE WESTERNMOST TIP OF GARNET ISLAND TO THE MOUTH OF THE DALL RIVER];

...

**(3) Repealed**

**(f) In District 5, only during times of king salmon conservation, the department may set permit limits for king salmon by household or communities based upon the estimated surplus of king salmon.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Allow opportunity for subsistence king salmon harvest in District 5 during low king salmon runs through use of household or community subsistence fishing permits. In Districts 1–4 and 6, the department may allow 6-inch mesh gillnets to direct harvest at summer chum salmon with some incidental harvest of king salmon during times of king salmon conservation. Fish wheels may also be allowed to harvest summer chum and other species with king salmon required to be released unharmed. In District 5 there are few summer chum salmon available and the majority of king salmon in this district are Canadian bound. While many Yukon River fishermen can harvest summer chum salmon for food, District 5 fishermen may have less opportunity for obtaining fish for subsistence uses. A permit system would allow for a controlled harvest of king salmon in District 5 to allow for a more equitable distribution of king salmon harvest in this portion of the drainage during low runs. A permit system could allow fishermen to fish earlier in the run rather than fishing late in the run when fish quality is not as good and female king salmon may be more prevalent. A community permit might allow more involvement by local fishermen in

determining when they can fish and how to distribute a limited harvest while still meeting escapement needs to Canada. Since subsistence fishing permits are already required in portions of District 5, it might be reasonable to extend this regulation to the remainder of the district. The permit system would provide subsistence salmon harvest reporting for this portion of the river.

**PROPOSED BY:** Gene J. Sandone (EF-C15-121)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 115 – 5 AAC 01.220. Lawful gear and gear specifications.** Allow for the retention of king salmon less than 25 inches in length in Yukon Area fish wheel subsistence fisheries, as follows:

- Yukon River subsistence fish wheels
- Subsistence fish wheels that qualify for fish friendly operations would be allowed to retain chinook salmon less than 25 inches in length.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Retention of king salmon in the Yukon River.

There are age classifications of kings within those returning each year that are not needed for sustained yield. Studies in recent years have shown that over 90% of the four year old returning fish are males. The FAC proposal is for a gear restriction within the definition of fish friendly fish wheels that would allow subsistence fishermen to retain a select size of king salmon.

**PROPOSED BY:** Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F15-069)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 116 – 5 AAC 01.220. Lawful gear and gear specifications; and 5 AAC 05.368. Anvik River Chum Salmon Fishery Management Plan.** During times of salmon conservation in the Yukon Area, require fish wheels with live boxes to be manned and require immediate release of the specified salmon, as follows:

Suggested language:

**Fish wheels must be manned at all times when any catch and release of king salmon or other species is required in an executed fishery. There is to be no livebox holding and release of species required to be not kept, river wide.** (Note: This was written as to not interfere with more sound fish wheel release practices being considered at present by management such as live chute releasing of king salmon which does not use any live box holding methods.)

Tanana Rampart Manley Fish and Game Advisory Committee (TRM AC) supported this proposal submission unanimously.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** TRM AC is concerned about present regulations allowing and further attempts to increase fish wheels as a legal means

of targeting one species (such as chum salmon) while releasing another species (such as king salmon). Many of the methods of holding, release and equipment used are being portrayed as non-harmful ways of dealing with bycatch. TRM members come from an area of high fish wheel use and many are very familiar with the number of studies (mostly U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in this area) done on fish wheel live box holding and general fish wheel operation and how it affects caught and released fish. We feel these issues have been sufficiently neglected in management and Board of Fish (BOF) actions in the past, despite the literature presented to them and concerns voiced to management, and at Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association and BOF meetings, that a regulation against it needs to be clearly on the books.

**PROPOSED BY:** Tanana Rampart Manley Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-C15-022)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 117 – 5 AAC 01.220. Lawful gear and gear specifications; 5 AAC 05.362. Yukon River Summer Chum Salmon Management Plan; and 5 AAC 05.368. Anvik River Chum Salmon Fishery Management Plan.** Prohibit the use of beach seines in the Yukon Area subsistence salmon fishery and in the Yukon River and Anvik River summer chum salmon commercial fisheries, as follows:

Suggested language:

**There will be no subsistence or commercial beach seine fishing allowed on the Yukon River for Chinook salmon**

Tanana Rampart Manley Fish and Game Advisory Committee (TRM AC) supported this proposal unanimously.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The TRM AC feels that beach seines should not be allowed to target certain species (such as chum salmon) and release bycatch (such as king salmon) due to the lack of studies showing insignificant harm and multitude of studies showing significant harm to seined king and/or other species. Many of these studies showing harm are in situations where the migration after seining are extremely shorter than Yukon salmon and holding conditions are less severe.

Currently this condition exist under the guise of being not harmful to king salmon yet providing needed opportunity to commercial fishers of chum salmon. Because of the relentless efforts of some commercial interests to get different types of seining passed by the Board of Fisheries (some have passed) through numerous avenues we feel a regulation specifically banning seining in the Yukon is necessary and should be part of a larger effort to create and secure a healthy future for Yukon king salmon.

**PROPOSED BY:** Tanana Rampart Manley Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-C15-017)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 118 – 5 AAC 01.220. Lawful gear and gear specifications.** Establish specifications for a beach seine used for subsistence fishing in the Yukon Area, as follows:

5 AAC 01.220(f) is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

**(10) a beach seine may not exceed 150 fathoms in length or 100 meshes in depth with mesh size that does not exceed three and one-half inches stretched measure.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Beach seines are legal gear under current subsistence fishing regulations, though there are no specifications. Therefore, any combination of net length, depth, and mesh size could be operated within the Yukon Area as a beach seine. Under current regulations, a very large or very long beach seine could potentially capture king salmon. Because of king salmon conservation concerns, it is prudent to ensure beach seine gear will not cause king salmon mortality. The beach seine gear specifications proposed here would also align with proposed commercial beach seine specifications.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F15-016)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 119 – 5 AAC 01.220. Lawful gear and gear specifications.** Require live release of king salmon from subsistence beach seines during times of king salmon conservation in the Yukon Area, as follows:

5 AAC 01.220(n) is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

**(4) a beach seine may be used, however, all king salmon caught with a beach seine must be released to the water alive.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Beach seines are permitted under current regulations as subsistence gear. In 2014, subsistence fishing in Yukon River Districts 1–2 was restricted to dip nets and beach seines to target summer chum salmon while minimizing the impact to a low king salmon run. During times of king salmon conservation, current regulations require live release of king salmon caught in dip nets but do not specify that king salmon caught in beach seine gear must be released alive to the water. Fishermen could retain any king salmon caught using beach seine gear for subsistence fishing. Requiring live release of king salmon from beach seine gear aligns with regulations for other selective gear types, such as dip nets, and also aligns with commercial beach seine regulations during times of king salmon conservation.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F15-024)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 120 – 5 AAC 01.210. Fishing seasons and periods.** Allow subsistence fall chum salmon fishing seven days per week in District 5 of the Yukon Area once a fall chum salmon commercial fishery is opened, as follows:

Suggested language:

**In District 5 once a fall chum fishery is determined healthy enough to have commercial openings on it then no subsistence restrictions on days open should be placed on that fishery. It is to be open 7 days a week.**

Tanana Rampart Manley Fish and Game Advisory Committee (TRM) supported this proposal submission unanimously.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Fall chum salmon fishing in this area comes late in summer. The weather is cooling and often the rains start making drying of fish difficult if not impossible on many days. Over the years we have tried to point out to management that the current reduced subsistence schedules of 4 days or 5 days a week that we find ourselves in, often do not coincide with days able to put up fish. This is especially true at the beginning of the run where the best quality fish for human consumption are found. For example in the last two years we have documented times where fishers have waited almost an entire open period of fishing only to have the sun come out on the closed days. Fall season is too short and lately, because of the king crisis, it has become too important to lose this opportunity. Admittedly, it is the king crisis that has pushed this issue to the forefront.

Issues of subsistence and commercial opening conflicts have never been a problem in this area but sometimes are a problem for others, so for that reason we ask for this in District 5 only and will let others propose as they choose. Also we are only trying to increase opportunity in situations where it would not be detrimental to any species, so any concerns that the Board of Fisheries or management would have over this proposal, TRM would be happy to adjust the proposal to meet those concerns. TRM has contacted the ADF&G Yukon fall chum manager on this proposal's acceptability and the language reflects those initial and preliminary talks.

TRM would like to thank the present fall manager for being very helpful in this matter, but we would like to see this in regulation so it would be easier to institute each year and future managers would not have to be educated and convinced of the need in order to execute as proposed. It would happen automatically.

**PROPOSED BY:** Tanana Rampart Manley Fish and Game Advisory Committee  
(EF-C15-021)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 121 – 5 AAC 01.220. Lawful gear and gear specifications.** Expand the area of allowable subsistence drift gillnet fishing for chum salmon in Subdistrict 4-A of the Yukon Area, as follows:

5 AAC 01.220(e)(2) is amended to read:

(e) In Districts 4, 5, and 6, salmon may not be taken for subsistence purposes by drift gillnets, except as follows:

...

(2) in Subdistrict 4-A downstream from the mouth of Stink Creek,

**(A) king salmon may be taken by drift gillnets from June 10 through July 14, unless closed by emergency order;**

**(B) from June 10 through August 2, the commissioner may open, by emergency order, fishing periods during which chum salmon may be taken by drift gillnets;**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** In March 2015, the Alaska Board of Fisheries adopted regulations allowing subsistence drift gillnet fishing, by emergency order, for chum salmon in the upper portion of the Yukon Area Subdistrict 4-A from June 10 through August 2. The intent was to allow subsistence opportunity to target abundant summer chum salmon with drift gillnets during times of king salmon conservation, as there are few set net sites in the area and river conditions can be dangerous for set net fishing during high water events. Fishermen had noted that there was missed opportunity to catch summer chum salmon for subsistence purposes. In 2014, fishermen in the lower portion of Subdistrict 4-A stated that they also experienced difficulty in meeting their subsistence needs for summer chum salmon using set nets. This proposal would extend the drift gillnet opportunity to harvest summer chum salmon for subsistence purposes from the upper portion of Subdistrict 4-A to all of Subdistrict 4-A. It would provide fishery managers emergency order authority to open and close drift gillnet subsistence fishing targeting summer chum salmon during times of king salmon conservation in all of Subdistrict 4-A, not just in the upper portion of the subdistrict.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F15-017)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 122 – 5 AAC 05.331. Gillnet specifications and operations.** Modify Yukon Area commercial set gillnet length specification to an aggregate length standard, as follows:

5 AAC 05.331(a) is amended to read:

- (a) A [NO] person may **not** operate
  - (1)** set gillnet gear that exceeds 150 fathoms in **aggregate** length;
  - (2)** [NO PERSON MAY OPERATE] drift gillnet gear that exceeds 50 fathoms in length.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Set gillnet gear is currently permitted with gear specifications on length for subsistence and commercial fishing. Subsistence regulations specify set gillnet gear as an aggregate length to allow for multiple nets to be fished, with the combined total length of nets limited to 150 fathoms. This proposal would provide clarification and align commercial regulations of set gillnet length to subsistence regulations.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F15-027)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 123 – 5 AAC 05.362. Yukon River Summer Chum Salmon Management Plan.** Further define commercial beach seine specifications for summer chum salmon in the Yukon Area, as follows:

5 AAC 05.362(k)(1)(B) is amended to read:



(1) a permit holder may fish with

...

(B) beach seine gear; **a beach seine may not exceed 150 fathoms in length or 100 meshes in depth** [,] with mesh size that does not exceed **three and one-half** [FOUR] inches stretched measure; and

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Beach seines are allowable gear under current commercial fishing regulations during times necessary for king salmon conservation. However, there are no specifications on length and depth for beach seines. Currently, any combination of net length and depth could be operated within the Yukon Area as a beach seine. Reducing the mesh size aligns with existing gear used in the fishery and may assist in conserving king salmon. The beach seine gear specifications proposed here would complement the proposed subsistence beach seine specifications.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F15-025)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 124 – 5 AAC 05.331. Gillnet specifications and operations.** Allow for six-inch or smaller mesh gillnets in the commercial salmon fishery in Yukon River District 6 by emergency order, as follows:

5 AAC 05.331(d) is amended to read:

(d) In **Districts 4 and 6** [DISTRICT 4], salmon may be taken only with gillnets of six-inch or smaller mesh **during periods established** [AFTER A DATE SPECIFIED] by emergency order.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Current regulations allow commercial set gillnets and fish wheels to be operated in Yukon River Districts 4–6. In 2014, gillnets restricted to six-inch or smaller mesh were allowed in Districts 1–2 for the directed harvest of summer chum salmon while reducing incidental king salmon harvest. However, the department does not have authority to specify six-inch or smaller mesh size for commercial set gillnet gear in District 6. Allowing for six-inch or smaller mesh size gillnets in the salmon fishery in Yukon River District 6 by emergency order gives fishery managers the flexibility to open and close set gillnet fishing targeting summer chum salmon in District 6, while minimizing king salmon mortality. It is common management practice to establish gear specifications by periods rather than after a date specified by emergency order.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F15-026)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 125 – 5 AAC 05.331. Gillnet specifications and operations.** Establish gillnet gear provisions to allow a directed pink salmon commercial fishery in districts 1–3 of the Yukon Area, as follows:

Establish a directed pink salmon fishery in the Yukon River with the use of gillnets four inches or less and no deeper than 50 mesh. Draft language adds a new section (k) to 5 AAC 05.331

**5 AAC 05.331. Gillnet specifications and operations**

**(k) Notwithstanding the other provisions of this section, in Districts 1 - 3, the commissioner may, by emergency order, close the fishing season and immediately reopen the season during which a person may take salmon only with a gillnet that has a mesh size of four inches or less and that is not more than 50 meshes in depth.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Pink salmon runs are strong and a harvestable surplus is available, particularly in even numbered years. Accordingly, we seek to establish a directed pink salmon fishery within the open waters of the Yukon Area using gillnets of four inch or less mesh size and no greater than 50 meshes deep. We believe that favorable market conditions exist. Although small numbers of pink salmon have been sold in the past, these fish were incidentally caught in the directed summer chum salmon fishery. We now seek to establish a directed fishery for pink salmon in the Yukon River. Although there has not been assessment of the pink salmon stock, we believe that it is relatively strong and there are no concerns with escapement and subsistence, particularly during the large runs in even numbered years.

**PROPOSED BY:** Kwik’pak Fisheries (EF-C15-066)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 126 – 5 AAC 05.362. Yukon River Summer Chum Salmon Management Plan.**

Add purse seine gear as an allowable commercial salmon fishing gear to target summer chum salmon in districts 1–3 of the Yukon River during times of king salmon conservation, as follows:

Specifically, we would like the BOF to approve the use of purse seines to harvest the abundant summer chum salmon during times of king salmon conservation 5 AAC 05.362 (k). We also seek that the BOF stipulate that all king salmon caught in a purse seine set must be released immediately and returned to the water unharmed.

**5 AAC 05.362. Yukon River Summer Chum Salmon Management Plan**

Add a new section (C)

(k)

...

(B) beach seine gear, with mesh size that does not exceed four inches stretched measure; [AND]

(C) **purse seine gear, with a mesh size that does not exceed three and one-half inches stretched measure and a total length not more than 150 fathoms; and**

...

(2) all king salmon caught in dip net, [AND] beach seine gear **and purse seine gear** must be released immediately and returned to the water unharmed.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** A huge commercially available harvestable surplus of summer chum salmon in the Yukon River cannot be harvested with the few gill net opening allowed during the extreme end of the summer chum salmon run (non-selective gear) because of the concern for the very low king salmon runs. Note that the kings and summer chum salmon runs tend to enter the mouth of the river together and migrate upriver concurrently. Previous regulations allowing dipnet and beach seine gear (selective gear) to be used in the Yukon River has allowed only a portion of the huge surplus to be harvested.

Declines in Yukon River king salmon runs have been noted in the Yukon River since 1998. However, the Yukon River king salmon runs have declined to a point that during 2014, ADF&G requested that subsistence fishers reduce their normal king salmon subsistence harvest dramatically and also took action to effectively eliminate the king salmon subsistence harvests within the Alaskan portion of the drainage. During the 2014 season, extremely severe subsistence restrictions were employed throughout the drainage to bolster king salmon escapements and to attempt to meet the agreed upon the minimum escapement of 42,500 king salmon in Canada plus the Canadian share of the TAC. The king salmon subsistence harvest in 2014 was approximately only 4,000 fish in the Alaskan portion of the drainage. The historic average subsistence harvest before the decline in Yukon River king salmon was approximately 45,000 fish.

In contrast, recent Yukon River summer chum salmon runs have been above average in run size. During the past few years, millions of commercially-harvestable summer chum salmon have passed through the Lower Yukon Area with very few being harvested because of the concern for the king salmon escapement. This foregone summer chum salmon harvest has been substantial in recent years, more than 1.0M fish in both 2011 and 2012. Despite new selective commercial fishing gear allowed in the lower Yukon River in 2013 and 2014 by the BOF, which included the use of dipnets, beach seines and shallower and smaller mesh size gillnets (5.5 stretch measure, 30 meshes deep), preliminary estimates indicate that more than 1.8M and 800,000 commercially-available summer chum were passed onto the spawning grounds in 2013 and 2014, respectively. Foregone harvest have translated into a possible loss to the fishermen of over \$22M during the past four years. The actual value of the Yukon Area summer chum salmon harvest was approximately \$6M for the same 4-year period. In contrast, the value of the commercial harvests in the mid-1990s, when king salmon were commercially harvested, was approximately \$15M annually.

The Lower Yukon Area is one of the most impoverished areas in the state of Alaska and the country. Off the road system and located in remote Alaska, fuel can often cost over \$6 a gallon. With little economic opportunity available in the region, fishermen's income has been severely reduced with the closure of the Chinook salmon commercial fishery and we are now struggling against restrictions and conservation concerns to make the commercial summer chum salmon fishery viable. There is an urgent need to find new and innovative ways to commercially harvest the surplus of summer chum salmon in the river while minimizing the impact to king salmon. We believe that the use of purse seines in the Lower Yukon Area would serve that dual purpose.

We believe that the lower Yukon River commercial fishers will benefit because they will be able to harvest more of the available summer chum salmon without any harm to any king salmon caught and released.

We also believe that all Yukon River summer chum salmon subsistence and commercial users will benefit because the summer chum salmon escapements will be reduced below the level that may be detrimental to the stock. Drainage-wide summer chum salmon escapements above 2.0M have reduced productivity and may result in smaller runs.

We foresee no harm to any fishers upriver. This is not an allocative issue.

**PROPOSED BY:** Kwik'pak Fisheries (EF-C15-053)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 127 – 5 AAC 05.200. Fishing districts and subdistricts; and 5 AAC 05.350. Closed waters.** Expand the commercial fishing area of Yukon Area District 1, as follows:

We recommend that the area open to commercial fishing be expanded to include the area between latitudes of Point Romanof and Apoon Pass. Draft regulatory language follows:

**5 AAC 05.200. Fishing districts and subdistricts.** (a) District 1 consists of that portion of the Yukon River drainage from **Point Romanof [ITS TERMINUS AT APOON PASS]** extending **south and** west [AND SOUTH] along the coast of the delta to the terminus of Black River upstream to the northern edge of the mouth of the Anuk River and all waters of the Black River.

**5 AAC 05.350. Closed waters.** Salmon may not be taken in the following waters:

(2) waters farther than one nautical mile seaward from any grassland bank in District 1 from **Point Romanof** [APOON PASS] extending **south and** west [AND SOUTH] to a line extending seaward from an ADF&G regulatory marker located on the beach approximately one nautical miles south from the mouth of Black River, except that in Acharon Channel of the south mouth of the Yukon River the closed waters are those waters farther than two and one-half nautical miles from a line bearing 285\_ extending from an ADF&G regulatory marker located below Chris Point to the opposite side of the channel;

**(new number) Pastolik River.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** We seek the Alaska Board of Fisheries to expand the area open to commercial fishing at the mouth of the Yukon River to include that portion from Apoon Pass to Point Romanof. Opening this area to fishing will alleviate crowding in the traditional set net area near the North Mouth of the Yukon River, caused by changes in the river mouth environment.

Because of a buildup of silted in areas of the coast, set net fishermen have less opportunity than they have had in the past. This has been an ongoing problem due to shifting channels. Extending the area open to commercial fishery will help to alleviate this problem.

In addition, we ask that the Pastolik River be closed to commercial salmon fishing because it is a small stock and the quality of those fish would be poor for commercial sale.

**PROPOSED BY:** Kwik'pak Fisheries (EF-C15-074)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 128 – 5 AAC 05.200. Fishing districts and subdistricts; and 5 AAC 05.350. Closed waters.** Extend commercial fishing three miles offshore and north to Point Romanof in District 1 of the Yukon Area, as follows:

We recommend that the area open to commercial fishing be expanded to the 3 mile limit around the delta. Draft regulatory language follows:

**5 AAC 05.200(a) Fishing districts and subdistricts is amended to read:**

(a) District 1 consists of that portion of the Yukon River drainage from **the latitude of Point Romanof [ITS TERMINUS AT APOON PASS]** extending **south and** west [AND SOUTH] along the coast of the delta to the terminus of Black River upstream to the northern edge of the mouth of the Anuk River and all waters of the Black River.

5 AAC 05.350. Closed waters is amended to read:

Salmon may not be taken in the following waters:

(1) repealed 4/13/2013;

(2) waters farther than **three** [ONE] nautical mile seaward from any grassland bank in District 1 from Apoon Pass extending west and south to a line extending seaward from an ADF&G regulatory marker located on the beach approximately one nautical miles south from the mouth of Black River[, EXCEPT THAT IN ACHARON CHANNEL OF THE SOUTH MOUTH OF THE YUKON RIVER THE CLOSED WATERS ARE THOSE WATERS FARTHER THAN TWO AND ONE-HALF NAUTICAL MILES FROM A LINE BEARING 285\_ EXTENDING FROM AN ADF&G REGULATORY MARKER LOCATED BELOW CHRIS POINT TO THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF THE CHANNEL];

(3) all waters south and west of a line extending seaward from an ADF&G regulatory marker located on the beach approximately one nautical mile south of the mouth of Black River, in a northwestern direction to an ADF&G regulatory marker located **three** [ONE] nautical mile offshore;

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** We seek the Alaska Board of Fisheries to expand the area open to commercial fishing at the mouth of the Yukon River to include all State of Alaska waters, extending three nautical miles seaward, around the delta. Opening this area to fishing will provide better quality salmon for harvest, it will alleviate crowding in the traditional set net area caused by changes in the river mouth environment, and it

will provide state managers options when/if the federal government prohibits commercial fisheries on abundant salmon species.

Please note that Kwik'pak Fisheries is also submitting a proposal to establish a directed commercial pink salmon fishery using four inch mesh gillnets. Because Yukon River pink salmon mature rapidly once they enter into the river, harvesting them in the ocean will ensure much better quality than harvesting in the river.

Secondarily, we would like to be able to harvest chum salmon in the ocean, also for better quality.

Thirdly, because of a buildup of silted in areas of the coast, set net fishermen have less opportunity than they have had in the past. This has been an ongoing problem due to shifting channels. Extending the area open to commercial fishery will help to alleviate this problem.

Other reasons for allowing commercial fishing out to the 3-mile limit surrounding the Yukon Delta are:

- It was the traditional legal boundary in the past;
- It would provide more room for set net fishermen, which has always been a traditional fishery;
- It would allow drift fishermen to fish in less concentrated areas during the compressed gillnet fishery openings; and
- It would provide more opportunity to subsistence fish.

**PROPOSED BY:** Kwik'pak Fisheries (EF-C15-073)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 129 – 5 AAC 01.170. Lawful gear and gear specifications.** In the Norton Sound-Port Clarence Area during times of conservation, require the return of a specified salmon species immediately to the water unharmed when beach seining, as follows:

5 AAC 01.170 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

**(m) During times when the commissioner determines that it is necessary for the conservation of a specific species of salmon, the commissioner may, by emergency order, close the fishing season in any portion of the Norton Sound-Port Clarence Area and immediately reopen the season in any portion of the Norton Sound-Port Clarence Area to subsistence fishing with beach seines and require that a specified salmon species be returned immediately to the water unharmed.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** During times of abundance of one salmon species there may be the necessity to conserve another salmon species. The department could allow the harvest of the salmon species in abundance while still protecting the salmon species requiring conservation. For example, during recent years, it has been necessary to conserve king salmon by requiring the release of king salmon back to the water alive while beach seining for chum and pink salmon. In Subdistrict 1, there have been times when there was the need to conserve chum or coho salmon. Beach seine gear may be used in such instances to allow

harvest of other species, particularly pink salmon, while requiring live release of species returning in low numbers. This proposal would provide more flexibility for the department to address salmon conservation concerns throughout the Norton Sound-Port Clarence Area.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F15-013)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 130 – 5 AAC 01.170. Lawful gear and gear specifications.** Allow the restriction of gillnet mesh size during times of conservation for chum and king salmon in any portion of the Norton Sound-Port Clarence Area, as follows:

5 AAC 01.170(i), (j), and (k) are amended to read:

(i) Notwithstanding (a) – (h) of this section, during times when the commissioner determines **that it is** [IT TO BE] necessary for the conservation of chum salmon, the commissioner, by emergency order, may close **the fishing season in any portion of the Norton Sound-Port Clarence Area and immediately reopen the season in any portion of the Norton Sound-Port Clarence Area during which gillnets**

(1) [THE PINK SALMON FISHING SEASON IN SUBDISTRICTS 1–6 AND IMMEDIATELY REOPEN THE SEASON IN THOSE SUBDISTRICTS, DURING WHICH GILLNETS] must have a mesh size of four and one-half inches or less; **and**

(2) **may not exceed the length specified by the commissioner** [THE FISHING SEASON IN SUBDISTRICTS 2–6 AND IMMEDIATELY REOPEN THE SEASON IN THOSE SUBDISTRICTS TO SUBSISTENCE FISHING WITH ANY GEAR THAT IS LAWFUL UNDER THIS SECTION, EXCEPT GILLNETS].

(j) Notwithstanding (a) – (h) of this section, during times when the commissioner determines **that** it is necessary for the conservation of king salmon, the commissioner may, by emergency order, close the fishing season in **any portion of the Norton Sound-Port Clarence Area** [SUBDISTRICTS 5 AND 6] and immediately reopen the season in **any portion of the Norton Sound-Port Clarence Area** [THOSE SUBDISTRICTS] during which gillnets

(1) must have a mesh size of

(A) **four and one-half inches or less;**

(B) six inches or less; or

(C) [(B)] seven inches or less; and

(2) may not exceed the length specified by the commissioner.

(k) **Repealed** / / [IN SUBDISTRICTS 5 AND 6 THE COMMISSIONER MAY, BY EMERGENCY ORDER, OPEN AND CLOSE FISHING PERIODS DURING WHICH A GILLNET MAY HAVE A MESH SIZE NO GREATER THAN

(1) FOUR AND ONE-HALF INCHES;

(2) SIX INCHES; OR

(3) SEVEN INCHES].

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Under current regulations, the department may only restrict gillnet mesh size during subsistence fishing in Subdistricts 5 and 6 for the conservation of king salmon and in Subdistricts 1–6 for the conservation of chum salmon. However, there are portions of the Norton Sound-Port Clarence Area that are not part of

any subdistrict, such as the St. Michael and Stebbins areas that are adjacent to the Yukon Area. During years of king salmon conservation, fishermen have been able to fish in southern Norton Sound adjacent to the Yukon Area with no gillnet mesh size restrictions. This proposal would provide more flexibility for the department to address any chum or king salmon conservation concerns throughout the Norton Sound-Port Clarence Area. Subsection (k) may be repealed since it is redundant to subsection (j).

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F15-014)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 131 – 5 AAC 01.160. Fishing seasons and periods; and 5 AAC 01.170. Lawful gear and gear specifications.** Increase subsistence fishing time with gillnets and beach seines in Subdistrict 1 of Norton Sound District, as follows:

In Subdistrict 1, allow fresh water subsistence periods east of Cape Nome five days a week from Wednesday 6:00 p.m. to Monday 6:00 p.m. from June 15 through August 15 with either gillnets or beach seine to allow subsistence fishermen an increased opportunity to harvest available salmon. After August 15, no beach seines in fresh waters unless by emergency order but gillnets would continue on a five day a week schedule. West of Cape Nome, allow marine water fishing five days a week from Wednesday 6:00 p.m. to Monday 6:00 p.m. with gillnets only. In the fresh water west of Cape Nome, allow for gillnet or beach seine from June 15 to August 1, from Wednesday 6:00 p.m. to Monday 6:00 p.m. After August 1 allow for gillnets only in fresh water.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** I would like the Board of Fisheries to address unnecessarily restrictive subsistence fishing periods and methods of harvest both east and west of Cape Nome in Norton Sound. I would like more time to fish when the weather may be better for fishing and processing fish, and also I would like to use more effective means of harvest during pink and chum seasons.

**PROPOSED BY:** Thomas Sparks (EF-C15-049)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 132 – 5 AAC 01.170. Lawful gear and gear specifications.** Add cast net as a legal subsistence fishing gear and allow both dip net and cast net gear to be used in all subsistence fisheries in the Norton Sound-Port Clarence Area, as follows:

**5 AAC 01.170. Lawful Gear and Gear Specifications.** (a) Salmon may be taken only by

- (1) gillnet;
- (2) beach seine;
- (3) fish wheel;
- (4) a hook and line attached to a rod or pole, as specified in (h) of this section;
- (5) dip net **or cast net**, as specified in (l) of this section.

(b) Fish other than salmon may be taken only by set gillnet, drift gillnet, beach seine, fish wheel, pot, longline, fyke net, dip net, **cast net**, jigging gear, spear and lead, or, as specified in (h) of this section, by a hook and line attached to a rod or pole.



(l) [IN THE PILGRIM RIVER DRAINAGE,] Dip nets **or cast nets** may be used to take salmon, except that during times when the commissioner determines that it is necessary for the conservation of specific salmon species, the commissioner may, by emergency order, close the season and immediately reopen the season during which specific salmon species must be returned immediately to the water alive.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** I propose that the Board of Fisheries adopt regulations allowing the use of cast nets as well as dip nets in waters open to subsistence fishing in the Norton Sound - Port Clarence Area with the exception of fishing for salmon in those waters open only to hook and line only gear for salmon as described in 5 AAC 01.1.75(c). Use of cast nets is currently not authorized, nor is the use of dip nets for salmon except in the Pilgrim River. Allowing the use of cast nets and dip nets will provide opportunity for participation in subsistence fisheries that are not currently available. Cast nets and dip nets are less expensive than seine and drift or set gillnet gear and do not require the investment in boats and motors necessary for the effective use of seine and gillnet gear. Also, cast nets, and in some instances dip nets, are effective gear in waters that are not suitable for use of seines or gillnets. Cast nets and dip nets allow fishers to be more selective in the fish that are harvested, as non-target fish may be released back into the water with little or no harm.

The primary interest in use of cast nets, that I am aware of, is to take capelin along Norton Sound beaches when they arrive in mid-summer and to take white fish in fresh water later in the summer.

**PROPOSEDBY:** Dan Reed (EF-C15-037)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 133 – 5 AAC 04.395. Subdistricts 5 and 6 of the Norton Sound District and the Unalakleet River King Salmon Management Plan.** Allow the use of beach seines for commercial harvest of chum and pink salmon in Subdistricts 5 and 6 of the Norton Sound District during times of king salmon conservation, as follows:

5 AAC 04.395(j) is added to read:

**5 AAC 04.395(j) If subsistence fishing for king salmon is restricted, the commissioner may, by emergency order, open the commercial chum and pink fishery to beach seine gear, with mesh size that does not exceed four inches stretched measure. King salmon may not be retained.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Allow use of beach seine gear for commercial harvest of chum and pink salmon in Norton Sound subdistricts 5–6 during times of king salmon conservation. Harvest of surplus Norton Sound chum and pink salmon have been reduced for years because of the need to minimize incidental harvest of king salmon. Beach seining was adopted on the Yukon River as a method to allow for the selective harvest of surplus chum salmon. It is believed that this gear type will allow for additional harvest of chum

and pink salmon while not harming king salmon. Historically a significant chum harvest occurred between June 2 and July 1. The use of beach seine will allow for additional commercial chum and pink salmon harvest.

**PROPOSED BY:** Southern Norton Sound Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F15-092)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 134 – 5 AAC 01.150. Description of the Norton Sound-Port Clarence Area; 5 AAC 01.200. Description of Yukon Area; 5 AAC 04.100. Description of Norton Sound-Port Clarence Area; 5 AAC 04.200. Fishing districts and subdistricts; 5 AAC 05.100. Description of Yukon Area; and 5 AAC 05.200. Fishing districts and subdistricts.** Change the boundary line separating the Norton Sound-Port Clarence Area and Yukon Area at Point Romanof in area and district descriptions, as follows:

5 AAC 01.150. Description of the Norton Sound-Port Clarence Area. The Norton Sound-Port Clarence Area includes all waters of Alaska between the latitude of the westernmost tip of Cape Prince of Wales and **a line extending 315° northwest from [THE LATITUDE OF] Point Romanof at 63° 12.16' N. lat., 162° 49.72' W. long.**, including the waters of Alaska surrounding St. Lawrence Island and those waters draining into the Bering Sea.

5 AAC 01.200. Description of Yukon Area. The Yukon Area includes all waters of Alaska between **a line extending 315° northwest from [THE LATITUDE OF] Point Romanof at 63° 12.16' N. lat., 162° 49.72' W. long.** and the latitude of the westernmost point of the Naskonat Peninsula, including those waters draining into the Bering Sea.

5 AAC 04.100. Description of Norton Sound-Port Clarence Area. The Norton Sound-Port Clarence Area includes all waters of Alaska between the latitude of the westernmost tip of Cape Prince of Wales and **a line extending 315° northwest from [THE LATITUDE OF] Point Romanof at 63° 12.16' N. lat., 162° 49.72' W. long.**, including the waters of Alaska surrounding St. Lawrence Island and those waters draining into the Bering Sea.

5 AAC 04.200. Fishing districts and subdistricts.

(b) The Norton Sound District consists of all waters between the latitude of the westernmost tip of Cape Douglas and **a line extending 315° northwest from [THE LATITUDE OF] Point Romanof at 63° 12.16' N. lat., 162° 49.72' W. long.** The following are the regulatory subdistricts of the Norton Sound District:

...  
5 AAC 05.100. Description of Yukon Area. The Yukon Area includes all waters of Alaska between **a line extending 315° northwest from [THE LATITUDE OF] Point Romanof at 63° 12.16' N. lat., 162° 49.72' W. long.** and the latitude of the westernmost point of the Naskonat Peninsula, including those waters draining into the Bering Sea.

5 AAC 05.200. Fishing districts and subdistricts.

(h) Coastal District: all waters between the latitude of the westernmost point of the Naskonat Peninsula and **a line extending 315° northwest from [THE LATITUDE OF] Point Romanof at 63° 12.16' N. lat., 162° 49.72' W. long.** not included in (a) – (f) of this section.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The current boundary description using the latitude of Point Romanof separating the Norton Sound-Port Clarence Area and the Yukon Area bisects part of the Yukon River delta, which is part of the Yukon Area. Changing the description will more clearly separate the two fishing areas and reduce potential confusion.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F15-015)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 135 – 5 AAC 74.010. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Tanana River Area.** Prohibit the use of set lines in Grizzly and Jack lakes, as follows:

Add **Grizzly Lake** and **Jack Lake** to the list of lakes in the Tanana River drainage sport fish regulations in which “Burbot set lines may not be used”.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** State sport fish general regulations regarding the use of set lines for burbot are not consistent for a localized group of five lakes which are known to support burbot populations. These lakes are located near Nabesna and the geologic divide between the Upper Copper River drainage and the Tanana River drainage. Copper, Tanada, and Sheep Lakes are in the Copper River drainage, while Jack and Grizzly lakes are in the Tanana River drainage. Access is primarily by snowmachine trails originating from the Nabesna Road. Trails then cross and interconnect these lakes.

General regulations of the Tanana River Area (Jack and Grizzly Lakes) allow the seasonal use of set lines in all but five lakes, whereas, the general regulations of the adjacent Upper Copper/Upper Susitna Area prohibit the use of set lines in all lakes (including Copper, Tanada, and Sheep lakes). Fishermen travelling through and among these lakes could easily be confused as to which regulations apply.

Burbot are relatively long-lived and slow growing making them potentially vulnerable to overexploitation in small water bodies. Conservation concerns could arise if sustained trends of increased harvests were to occur on these lakes. Set lines are known to be a highly effective means of catching burbot. Due to conservation concerns, state regulations have banned the use of set lines in all lakes of the adjacent Upper Copper/Upper Susitna Management Area since 1992.

Passage of this proposal will create burbot fishery regulations that are consistent for all lakes of this one localized area that are known to support burbot populations. It will standardize these regulations with those of the management area from which the fishery participants access the

lakes. It will also eliminate the incentive of utilizing unattended lines to target slow growing fish populations in the relatively small Grizzly and Jack Lakes.

**PROPOSED BY:** National Park Service (EF-C15-065)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 136 – 5 AAC 74.010. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Tanana River Area.** Allow only one fishing line per angler during the Fielding Lake winter fishery, as follows:

Under 5 AAC 74.010(7), add the following:

Only one closely attended line may be used when ice fishing

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Since approximately 2007 there has been a no bait restriction at Fielding Lake which has severe implications for those who enjoy ice fishing. The no bait restriction was implemented because harvests were exceeding an 80 fish a year recommended upper limit. A recent 2010-2011 stock assessment reached the conclusion that the 1999 estimate of mature lake trout was biased low resulting in an expanded population estimate. Harvest estimates since 2007 have been under half the upper limit set by the Department. Same years, far lower.

I believe there is room for compromise to allow reasonable ice fishing opportunities at Fielding Lake while limiting harvest to within the fair and appropriate levels set by the department.

If my other submitted proposal allowing a limited winter bait season is implemented, reducing the number of closely attended lines from two to one should also be implemented. The Lake Trout Management Plan indicates studies have shown that two lines can significantly increase catch rates. The Management Plan further discusses this alternative under their gear restriction section to limit harvest. Other studies indicate reducing the number of lines to one, very significantly increases the odds that jigging is the preferred fishing method. This has two very important results: first the catch rate can be significantly reduced, but not the opportunity, and second, mortality is reduced by better insuring lip caught fish.

If nothing changes, those who enjoy ice fishing at Fielding Lake will continue to have very limited opportunities to catch burbot and lake trout.

Other options considered:

- Keeping current regulations intact. My belief is this unreasonably limits fair opportunity when there are creative solutions available to promote opportunity and keep harvest within acceptable limits.

**PROPOSED BY:** Ethan Birkholz (EF-C15-051)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 137 – 5 AAC 74.010. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Tanana River Area.** Allow the use of bait during the winter fishery on Fielding Lake, as follows:

5 AAC 74.010(d)(7)(B) is amended to:

Modify the special regulations concerning bait, for Fielding Lake as follows:

The use of set lines is prohibited April 16-October 31: Only one unbaited, single hook, artificial lure may be used November 1-April 15: Only one single hook, artificial lure, bait may be used.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Since approximately 2007 there has been a no bait restriction at Fielding Lake which has severe implications for those who enjoy ice fishing. The no bait restriction was implemented because harvests were exceeding an 80 fish a year recommended quota. A recent 2010-2011 stock assessment reached the conclusion that the 1999 estimate of mature lake trout was biased low. In addition harvest estimates since 2007 have been under half the target quota. Same years, far lower.

I believe there is room for compromise to allow a limited winter season that allows bait, similar to nearby lakes at Summit and Paxson. A regulation allowing bait, but still prohibiting set lines from November 1 to April 15, will allow a reasonable opportunity to fish for lake trout as well as burbot and, I believe, still keep the lake trout fishery under the recommended harvest quota.

If nothing changes, those who enjoy ice fishing at Fielding Lake will have no opportunity to catch burbot and extremely limited success fishing for lake trout.

Other options considered:

- Keeping current regulations intact. My belief is this unreasonably limits fair opportunity.
- Changing size limit and harvest to one fish any size. My experience fishing since the minimum 26 inch rule went into effect, is the number and size of mature lake trout has increased. I wish to keep this as is.
- Catch and release only. This would be acceptable to me, but I feel is unwarranted given the current sustained fish population.
- Further shortening a proposed winter bait regulation, say from January 1 to March 31. I would be open to this if it would be more palatable, but honestly feel it is not needed.
- Adding a "one tended line" restriction. Studies indicate this greatly increases the odds that jigging is the preferred fishing method which will reduce mortality. This should be added and is in fact mentioned in the lake trout management plan as a possible alternative.

**PROPOSED BY:** Ethan Birkholz

(EF-C15-050)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 138 – 5 AAC 74.010. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Tanana River Area.** Allow retention of Arctic grayling on the Chena River, as follows:

This proposal would allow a limited harvest of Arctic grayling less than 12 inches from June 1 to July 15 from a marker placed by the department 500 yards downstream of the Nordale Road Bridge to the confluence with the Tanana River including Piledriver Slough. From June 1 – July 15 the Chena River would remain closed to grayling retention above the Nordale Bridge. From July 16 to May 31 the entire Chena River would be closed to all grayling retention. The normal gear restrictions would apply. This regulation will sunset after three years.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Retention of grayling in a portion of the Chena River drainage.

The Chena River has been catch and release for Arctic grayling since 1991 (by EO and then regulation). The department has conducted virtually no studies on the population of Arctic grayling since 2005. The last stock assessments and abundance estimates are now 10 years old. The department has no funding for new work. The fishery is touted as one of the best “large” grayling streams on the road system and users report large congregations of fish on several stretches of the river.

The Fairbanks AC has supported the restriction to catch and release, but it was with the expectancy that the department would keep track of this population so that some harvest of grayling could be allowed without harm to the population. Anglers now concentrate the catch and release fishing at access points. The estimated mortality for the catch and release fishery is 5% to 7%. Because a large number of anglers on the lower river are children, visitors and new sports fishermen, some of the fish are treated pretty roughly in the catch and release fishery.

Our proposal would allow a very limited harvest. The limits would be both by season, size and bag limit and a sunset to the harvest regulation. The AC would like the department to have some information on the harvest because it has been so long since harvest was allowed; there is no data on the impact of limited harvest to the population. A three year “trial” would give the managers some information to work with. If this waterway is so popular it can be advertised in numerous “fish Alaska” type publications it should be studied for the potential for a return to some harvest. There is absolutely no need for the entire Chena River to catch and release forever. For example, the new Fairbanks hatchery can add fish to the system if the population starts to drop again.

**PROPOSED BY:** Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F15-067)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 139 – 5 AAC 74.010. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Tanana River Area.** Update the Tanana River Area stocked waters regulation, as follows:

5 AAC 74.010(c)(29) is amended to read:

(29) in stocked waters, the bag, possession, and size limit for rainbow trout, Arctic char/Dolly Varden, landlocked salmon, and Arctic grayling is 10 of all stocked species combined, of which no more than one fish may be 18 inches or greater in length; for the purposes of this paragraph, "stocked waters" include [ARTILLERY LAKE,] Backdown Lake, Ballaine Lake, Bathing Beauty Pond, Bear Lake (Eielson Air Force Base), Big "D" Pond, Birch Lake, Bluff Cabin Lake, Bolio Lake, Brodie Lake, Bullwinkle Lake, [CAVALRY LAKE,] Chena Lake, Chet Lake, CHSR 25.0 Mile Pit, CHSR 30.0 Mile Pit, CHSR 42.8 Mile Pit (Red Squirrel Pit), CHSR 45.5 Mile Pit, CHSR 47.9 Mile Pit, Coal Mine Road #5, Craig Lake, **Cushman Lake**, Dick's Pond, Doc Lake, Donna Lake, Donnelly Lake, Forrest Lake, Four Mile Lake, Fourteen Mile Lake, Geskakmina Lake, Ghost Lake, Grayling Lake [,] (Eielson Air Force Base), Hidden Lake (Eielson Air Force Base), Hidden Lake (Tetlin NWR.), [HORSESHOE LAKE,] "J" Lake, Jan Lake, Johnson Pit #2, [KENNA LAKE,] Ken's Pond, Kids Fishing Pond, [KIMBERLY LAKE,] Last Lake, Lisa Lake, Little Donna Lake, Little Lost Lake, Lost Lake, [LUKE LAKE,] Lundgren Pond, Manchu Lake, Mark Lake, Monte Lake, Monterey Lake, Moose Lake (Eielson Air Force Base), Mosquito Creek Lake, Mullins Pit, Nenana City Pond, Nickel Lake, [NO MERCY LAKE,] Nordale #2, North Chena Pond, North Pole Pond, North Twin Lake, Olnes Pond, Otto Lake, Parks 261 Pond, Paul's Pond, Polaris Lake, Quartz Lake, Rangeview Lake, Rapids Lake, Richardson Hwy. 28 Mile Pit, Richardson Hwy. 31 Mile Pit, Richardson Hwy. 81 Mile Pit, [ROCKHOUND LAKE,] Shaw Pond, Sheefish Lake, Sirlin Drive Pond, [SOUTH JOHNSON LAKE,] South Twin Lake, Steese Hwy. 28.8 Mile Pit, Steese Hwy. 29.5 Mile Pit, Steese Hwy. 31.6 Mile Pit, Steese Hwy. 33.5 Mile Pit, Steese Hwy. 34.6 Mile Pit, Steese Hwy. 35.8 Mile Pit, Steese Hwy. 36.6 Mile Pit, Stringer Rd. Pond, [STRYKER LAKE,] Triangle Lake, Wainwright #6, Weasel Lake, West Iksgiza Lake, Z Pit (Chena Floodway);

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** In conjunction with each Alaska Board of Fisheries cycle, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game reviews stocked waters to ensure consistency between the *Statewide Stocking Plan for Recreational Fisheries*, Tanana River Area stocked waters regulations, and the *Tanana River Area Stocked Waters Management Plan* (5 AAC 74.065). Stocked waters may be removed from the stocking plan, no longer stocked, and removed from the corresponding regulations due to a loss of public access, poor fish growth or survival, or insufficient fishing effort. As new waters are identified and included in the stocking plan they are added to the regulations.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F15-049)  
 \*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 140 – 5 AAC 73.010. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Yukon River Area.** Repeal Yukon River Area rainbow trout regulations, as follows:

5 AAC 73.010(b)(4) is repealed:  
 (b) ...  
 ...

(4) repealed / / [RAINBOW TROUT: THE BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT IS TWO FISH, OF WHICH ONLY ONE FISH MAY BE 20 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH];

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Current Yukon River Area sport fishing regulations include a bag and possession limit for rainbow trout. Wild or stocked populations of rainbow trout are not present in the Yukon River drainage. The species has not been captured or observed during department assessment projects or reported in the Statewide Harvest Survey. The current regulation imposes unnecessary language for a species that is not present in the Yukon River drainage and may cause confusion among sport anglers who may expect to catch rainbow trout in the Yukon River drainage since there is a bag and possession limit in regulation.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F15-050)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 141 – 5 AAC 01.120. Lawful gear and gear specifications.** Recognize rod and reel fishing as a legal means for subsistence fishing in all of the Kotzebue District, as follows:

5 AAC 01.120(b) is amended to read:

(b) Fish other than salmon may be taken by set gillnet, drift gillnet, beach seine, fish wheel, pot, longline, fyke net, dip net, jigging gear, spear, and lead, or, as specified in (f) of this section, **by rod and reel** or by a hook and a line attached to a rod or a pole.

...

(f) a person may use a rod and reel or a hook and line attached to a rod or a pole when subsistence fishing only

(1) in the state waters of, and all flowing waters that drain into, the Chukchi Sea or Kotzebue Sound from **Point Hope**[CAPE ESPENBERG] to Cape Prince of Wales;

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Recognize rod and reel as lawful gear for taking fish for subsistence and change the geographic area that 5 AAC 01.120 pertains to.

People in the Northwest Arctic Borough currently need a sport fish license to subsistence fish with rod and reel in state waters. Many fisheries, like herring snagging off the beach at Kotzebue and trout fishing in the Kivalina Lagoon, are carried out by people during a brief period using a rod and reel who otherwise do not fish with rod and reel the remainder of the year or for sport at any time. Others who fish in the region and around the state (whether residing in the region or not) regularly obtain sport fishing licenses. This would not be expected to change in any meaningful way if the proposal was adopted. This would be expected to pertain to a small number of individuals who use a rod and reel only for subsistence purposes in a very limited way in time and space.

Many of these same individuals being discussed currently do not purchase sport fishing licenses. The majority of their fishing is done by every other legal subsistence method throughout the year, which is basically everything from nets to hook and line through the ice. The only



exception to legal methods for subsistence fishing is rod and reel. Because they are used to being allowed to harvest hundreds of fish throughout the year by all other methods it should not be remarkable that they may not even think about it the very few times they may harvest fish with rod and reel. However, some of them have been subject to law enforcement actions over the years due to their lack of a license.

A similar allowance is provided on the northern Seward Peninsula.

**PROPOSED BY:** Kotzebue Sound Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-C15-028)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 142 – 5 AAC 01.220. Lawful gear and gear specifications.** Change the dates gillnet gear may be used in the South Fork and Middle Fork of the Koyukuk River from November 1 through June 30 to August 20 through June 30, as follows:

5 AAC 01.220(f)(8) is amended to read:

Gillnets three and one-half inches, (current size restriction), may be used only from August 20–June 30.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Change the open period for when subsistence gillnet may be used in the Middle and South Fork permit area, from the current November 1 to June 30 season, to August 20 to June 30. This proposal would still protect salmon when present but allow fall harvest of whitefish, grayling, suckers, and pike. I collected salmon samples under ADF&G Commissioner’s permit from 2010 to 2013, for the Genetic Conservation Lab. I found only summer chum and Chinook salmon present in the upper Koyukuk drainages from July15 to August 15. I found no fall chum or coho in the Middle or South fork drainage.

**PROPOSED BY:** Jack Reakoff (EF-C15-029)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 143 – 5 AAC 01.244. Minto Flats Northern Pike Management Plan.** Reduce the bag and possession limit of northern pike in the Minto Flats Northern Pike Management Plan, as follows:

Amend 5 AAC 01.244(b)(2)(B) Minto Flats Norther Pike Management Plan to read:

(B) there is no daily or annual bag limit, except that in the area described in (G) of this paragraph, the bag limit is 5 [10] fish and the possession limit is 5 [20] fish and any fish that exceeds 30" will be handled carefully and immediately returned to the river.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** My concern is with the reduced population of pike in Minto Lakes as evidenced by the poor results of summer bait and fly fishing. I'm especially aware of the slow decline over the past 15 years. As a cabin owner and constant visitor to Minto for over 50 years, it's obvious to me that there

is an issue. I believe that the main issue is the subsistence fishery in the Chatanika Special Harvest Area (SHA) that is really a glorified sports fishery that occurs during the winter. After the lakes freeze, the pike migrate to the confluence of Goldstream and the Chatanika. Due to this concentration, the fishing is easy and the fish plentiful. Fishermen are high-grading and taking the larger, female pike and that has a large consequence on the overall population of pike in the system. Of the 80 permits that were issued in 2014/15, 300 pike were reported as taken. Since most of these were large pike, those were mostly female spawners. The average catch for the past 15 years, as reported, exceeds 500 fish per year -that's a minimum of 7,500 large fish gone, which increases significantly when you consider that many of these are the spawning females.

Minto used to be a wonderful fishing experience for the hundreds of people from the Fairbanks North Star Borough who fly or boat into the Lakes each summer. Now, 80 people (permit holders) are allowed to effectively destroy the largest pike fishery in the United States. That's not right or o.k. If thru-the-ice fishing isn't reduced, the population will continue to decline from the low it is now, and it will be very difficult to recover based on the fact that it takes 15 to 20 years to grow a large pike.

My ideal solution would be to close the winter pike fishery down in the Chatanika SHA for 10 to 15 years. I understand that you cannot close subsistence fishing without also closing sport fishing, so at a minimum I would like to see the bag limit and possession limit the same as sport fishing and size restrictions in place to help protect the larger females.

**PROPOSED BY:** Marv Hassebroek (HQ-F15-086)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 144 – 5 AAC 01.220. Lawful gear and gear specification.** Allow the use of five and one-half inch mesh gillnets across an entire channel in portions of the Koyukuk River for the purpose of targeting northern pike, as follows:

We would like to be able to continue to fish the way we once did, and be able to put a gill net across the entire channel of some waterways. There is a current season that allows us to use smaller mesh nets in the drainage, but we would like to be able to use larger mesh to target larger pike as the smaller mesh does not allow us to effectively catch the larger pike. We would like to do this in the spring when pike are moving out of the lakes and into the rivers.

We would like to be able to use up to a 5 ½ in. mesh until June 15 in Racetrack Slough off of the Koyukuk River as well as sloughs attached to the Huslia River. We would like to be able to use the larger mesh sizes across the entire slough. Since the intent of this is to target larger fish, the idea behind using the larger sized mesh it to allow the smaller whitefish to pass through the net unmolested.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** There are too many pike in parts of the Koyukuk River drainage. Pike are excellent predators and this is leading to a potential decrease in salmon smolt survival, as well as less small mammals and waterfowl.

Residents of Huslia used to string nets across sloughs and other pike heavy areas to catch large numbers of them for subsistence needs. This is no longer legal. We would like to change this regulation in order to harvest more pike for subsistence needs, as well as help increase salmon smolt survival, and the populations of small mammals and birds.

**PROPOSED BY:** Jack Wholecheese (HQ-F15-090)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 145 – 5 AAC 77.174. Waters closed to personal use fishing.** Repeal the regulation that prohibits the taking of northern pike in the Tanana River drainage personal use fishery, as follows:

5 AAC 77.174(a) is repealed:

(a) **Repealed** / / [WATERS OF THE TANANA RIVER DRAINAGE ARE CLOSED TO THE PERSONAL USE TAKING OF PIKE ABOVE THE MOUTH OF THE KANTISHNA RIVER].

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Northern pike incidentally caught in the Subdistrict 6-C personal use salmon fishery cannot be retained and must be returned to the water dead or alive. The current regulations are inconsistent with the subsistence regulations in the surrounding areas, which allow incidentally caught northern pike to be retained. Available personal use incidental harvest data from Subdistrict 6-C (personal use area) shows that from 2004 through 2013, fishermen have reported the incidental catch of a total of 12 northern pike. Therefore, it is likely few northern pike are encountered in the personal use fishery. The stock of northern pike inhabiting this area is not believed to be in danger of overharvest, and there is no biological concern if retention of northern pike was allowed in this area at the current levels of incidental catch.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F15-029)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 146 – 5 AAC 04.6XX. Fishing seasons.** Create a directed commercial fishery for cisco in Norton Sound or Port Clarence Districts, as follows:

5 AAC 04.610 Fishing seasons. There is no closed season on cisco.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** A market for Cisco (whitefish) is developing in Western Alaska. Cisco from streams in the Norton Sound District have been rumored to have been caught and sold. This is an attempt to legally allow this activity within Norton Sound or Port Clarence Districts. With this regulatory change, these sales would be legal under customary trade (\$500/permit) or under an F04B CFEC card.

**PROPOSED BY:** Southern Norton Sound Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F15-091)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES  
ALASKA PENINSULA / ALEUTIAN ISLANDS / CHIGNIK FINFISH  
FEBRUARY 23–MARCH 1, 2016**

**PROPOSAL INDEX**

**Following is a list of proposals that will be considered at the above meeting sorted by general topic. A board committee roadmap will be developed and distributed prior to the meeting.**

**PROPOSAL NUMBER (59 proposals)      SUBJECT**

**Area Boundary and North Alaska Peninsula District (28 proposals)**

*Alaska Peninsula Area/Bristol Bay Area Boundary (3 proposals) This set of proposals will be heard at the Bristol Bay Finfish meeting, and heard and deliberated on at the Alaska Peninsula/Chignik/Aleutian Islands Finfish meeting.*

- |    |   |
|----|---|
| 22 | Move the Cinder River, Inner Port Heiden, and Outer Port Heiden sections of the Northern District from the Alaska Peninsula Area to the Bristol Bay Area. |
| 23 | Move the Cinder River, Inner Port Heiden, and Outer Port Heiden sections of the Northern District from the Alaska Peninsula Area to the Bristol Bay Area. |
| 24 | Move all waters of the Northern District east of the latitude of Cape Seniavin from the Alaska Peninsula Area to the Bristol Bay Area.                    |

**North Alaska Peninsula Salmon Northern District (25 proposals)**

- |     |   |
|-----|---|
| 147 | Repeal sequential closures in the Bear River, Three Hills, and Inik sections.   |
| 148 | Allow commercial fishing for salmon with drift gillnet gear in the Inik Section.  |
| 149 | Create a directed sockeye salmon fishery in the Cinder River Section.   |
| 150 | Describe waters of Cinder Lagoon open to commercial salmon fishing.   |
| 151 | Consider the catch of non-local salmon as a factor in management of Northern District salmon fisheries.   |
| 152 | From June 20 through July 20 manage the Northern District salmon fisheries jointly with Alaska Department of Fish and Game Alaska Peninsula and Bristol Bay staff.    |
| 153 | Include information on the abundance of non-local stocks as a factor in managing Northern District commercial salmon fisheries.                                       |
| 154 | Link management actions in the Northern District of the Alaska Peninsula Area commercial salmon fisheries to salmon abundance in adjacent Bristol Bay Area districts. |
| 155 | Close the Outer Port Heiden Section of the Northern District to commercial salmon fishing.  |
| 156 | Close the Outer Port Heiden Section of the Northern District to commercial salmon fishing.  |

- 157 In the Inner and Outer Port Heiden sections of the Northern District  
restrict commercial fishing for salmon to no more than four days in any  
seven day period.
- 158 Restrict commercial salmon fishing in the Three Hills, Ilnik, and Outer  
Port Heiden sections of the Northern District to no more than one and one-  
half miles offshore.
- 159 Open waters of the Outer Port Heiden Section of the Northern District  
from one and one half miles to three miles offshore to commercial salmon  
fishing.
- 160 Close waters of the Bear River and Nelson Lagoon sections of the  
Northern District between zero to one and one-half miles offshore to  
commercial salmon fishing with drift gillnet gear until escapement  
objectives have been met.
- 161 Close waters of the Northern District between zero and one and one-half  
miles offshore to commercial fishing with drift gillnet gear when Bear  
River and/or Nelson River coho salmon escapements do not meet  
objectives.
- 162 Close waters of the Northern District between zero and one and one-half  
miles offshore to commercial fishing with drift gillnet gear when Bear  
River and/or Nelson River sockeye salmon escapements do not meet  
objectives.
- 163 Between the longitude of Three Hills and the northern boundary of the  
Outer Port Heiden Section restrict drift and set gillnets to 29 and one-half  
meshes depth.
- 164 Manage commercial salmon fishing in the Black Hills Section and in  
Moffet Lagoon in the Izembek-Moffet Bay Section based on Moffet  
Lagoon escapement.
- 165 In the Nelson Lagoon Section allow the compliment of drift gillnet gear to  
be split into two 100 fathom nets that may be fished simultaneously.
- 166 Eliminate closed waters in Caribou Flats and allow drift gillnet fishing in  
Caribou Flats by emergency order if Nelson Lagoon escapement goals are  
achieved.
- 167 Open the Uria Bay Section of the Northwestern District to regular fishing  
periods.
- 168 Reduce closed waters in Christianson Lagoon.
- 169 Implement global positioning satellite coordinates for all district and  
section boundaries in the Northern District of the Alaska Peninsula Area.
- 170 Redefine the boundaries of the Outer Port Heiden Section using GPS  
coordinates.
- 171 Implement global positioning satellite coordinates for all district and  
section boundaries in the Northern District of the Alaska Peninsula Area.

**Commercial Salmon Chignik, South Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Island, Gear and Seward Boundary (23 proposals)**

***Chignik Salmon (5 proposals)***

- 172 Increase the passage of sockeye salmon above the Chignik River weir to provide additional subsistence fishing opportunity.
- 173 Reduce waters closed to commercial fishing for salmon in Kujulik, Portage, and Ivanof bays in the Chignik Area.
- 174 In July and August close Chignik Area commercial salmon fisheries between Castle Cape and Kupreanof Peninsula when the Southeastern District Mainland is closed to commercial salmon fishing with set gillnet gear.
- 2 Allow bycatch retention of Pacific cod in the Chignik Area salmon seine fishery. *(This proposal will be heard at the Pacific cod meeting and heard and deliberated on at the Alaska Peninsula / Chignik / Aleutian Islands Finfish meeting.)*
- 175 Create a pink salmon management plan in the Chignik Area.

***South Alaska Peninsula Southeastern District Mainland Salmon (5 proposals)***

- 176 Amend Southeastern District Mainland commercial salmon set gillnet fishery season opening times and fishing periods.
- 177 Revise the Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan to allow commercial salmon fishing with set gillnet gear concurrent to the Chignik Area commercial sockeye salmon fishery.
- 178 In the Southeastern District Mainland establish weekly fishing through July 10 for set gillnet gear and from July 11 through July 25 establish 48 hour open fishing periods and closures for set gillnet and purse seine gear.
- 179 Amend the Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan to establish that 40 percent of the sockeye salmon taken in the East Stepovak, Stepovak Flats, Southwest Stepovak, Balboa Bay, and Beaver Bay sections are considered to be of Chignik River origin.
- 180 Require all salmon harvested in the Southeastern District Mainland fishery to be landed within the Southeastern District.

***South Alaska Peninsula Salmon June Management Plan (6 proposals)***

- 181 Repeal the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan.
- 182 Modify the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan to shift the opening date for the drift gillnet fishery to coincide with the set gillnet fishery opening date.
- 183 Modify the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan to stagger opening days for the drift and purse seine fisheries.
- 184 Repeal the current South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan and readopt the management plan in place during 2003-2004.

185 Establish a Dolgoi Island Section and Dolgoi Island Section Management Plan.

186 Establish a Dolgoi Island Section and Dolgoi Island Section June Management Plan.

***South Alaska Peninsula Salmon Post-June Management Plan (2 proposals)***

187 Modify the Post-June Salmon Management Plan for South Alaska Peninsula to provide the department authority to make openings for specific gear groups.

***Aleutian Island salmon (1 proposal)***

188 Establish open commercial salmon fishing periods in the Unalaska District that coincide with the last two open fishing periods in July in the Shumagin Islands Section.

***Alaska Peninsula Salmon Gear and Seaward Boundary (5 proposals)***

189 Allow for dual permit vessels and increased gear limits for dual permit vessels in the Alaska Peninsula Area commercial salmon purse seine fishery.

190 Change purse seine depth measurement standard from number of meshes deep to an equivalent depth measurement in feet and inches.

191 Repeal minimum mesh size standards for drift gillnet gear.

192 Allow commercial fishing for salmon with set gillnets in the area between Popof Head and Dark Cliffs any time the area is closed to commercial salmon fishing with purse seine gear.

193 Change the Southwestern and Unimak District seaward boundary.

***Alaska Peninsula/Aleutian Islands Commercial Herring and Groundfish, and Subsistence and Sport Fish (8 proposals)***

***Aleutian Islands Groundfish (2 proposals)***

194 Close all waters of Unalaska Bay to commercial fishing for groundfish with pelagic trawl gear. *(This proposal will be heard at the Alaska Peninsula / Chignik / Aleutian Islands Finfish meeting, and be heard and deliberated on at the Statewide Finfish meeting)*

195 Update logbook requirements for Aleutian Islands state-waters sablefish fishery.

***Dutch Harbor Food and Bait Herring Fishery (1 proposal)***

196 Change the date fishermen using purse seine gear may access the Dutch Harbor food and bait herring gillnet allocation from July 25 to July 20.

***Alaska Peninsula/Aleutian Islands Subsistence (1 proposal)***

197 Clarify when commercial salmon fishing license holders may subsistence fish for salmon in the Alaska Peninsula Area.

***Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Sport Fish (4 proposals)***

- 198                      Require non-retention of king Salmon in the Sandy River.
- 199                      Amend the freshwater bag limit provisions for salmon species other than king salmon.
- 200                      Close Swanson Lagoon and its tributaries to sport fishing for sockeye salmon.
- 201                      Reduce the possession limit for coho salmon in Illiuliuk Creek.



**BOARD OF FISHERIES**  
**ALASKA PENINSULA / ALEUTIAN ISLANDS / CHIGNIK FINFISH**  
**FEBRUARY 23–MARCH 1, 2016**

**PROPOSAL 22 – 5 AAC 06.100. Description of area; 5 AAC 06.200. Fishing districts and sections; 5 AAC 09.100. Description of area; and 5 AAC 09.200. Description of districts and sections.** Move the Cinder River, Inner Port Heiden, and Outer Port Heiden sections of the Northern District from the Alaska Peninsula Area to the Bristol Bay Area, as follows (*This proposal will be heard at the Bristol Bay Finfish meeting, and heard and deliberated on at the Alaska Peninsula/Chignik/Aleutian Islands Finfish meeting.*):

We recommend that the BOF change the descriptions of the Bristol Bay area to include the Cinder River and Inner and Outer Port Heiden sections and remove the same sections from the Alaska Peninsula area. Suggested draft regulatory language follows:

**5 AAC 06.100. Description of area.** The Bristol Bay Area includes all waters of Alaska in Bristol Bay east of a line from Cape Newenham at 58° 38.88' N. lat., 162° 10.51' W. long. to Strogonof Point at 56° 53.50' N. lat., 158° 50.45' W. long. [CAPE MENSHIKOF AT 57° 28.34' N. LAT., 157° 55.84' W. LONG.]

**5 AAC 09.100. Description of area.** The Alaska Peninsula Area includes the waters of Alaska on the north side of the Alaska Peninsula, southwest of a line from Strogonof Point (56° 53.50' N. lat., 158° 50.45' W. long. [CAPE MENSHIKOF AT 57° 28.34' N. LAT., 157° 55.84' W. LONG.] to...

Additionally, we recommend deleting 5 AAC 09.200 (1) and (2) (A) and (B) from Chapter 09. Alaska Peninsula Area and adding new fishing districts (e) and (f) to the Bristol Bay area. We recommend adding to 5 AAC 06.200 Fishing Districts and sections

(e) Cinder River District, waters of Bristol Bay between Cape Menshikof at 57° 28.34' N. lat., 157° 55.84' W. long. and 158° 20.00' W. long

(f) Port Heiden District:

(1) Outer Port Heiden Section: waters located between 158° 20.00' W. long. and the longitude of Strogonof Point at 56° 53.50' N. lat., 158° 50.45' W. long., excluding the waters of the Inner Port Heiden Section;

(2) Inner Port Heiden Section: waters of Port Heiden Bay south and east of a line from Strogonof Point at 56° 53.50' N. lat., 158° 50.45' W. long. to the mainland shore of the northeast entrance to the bay at 56° 56.50' N. lat., 158° 51.50' W. long.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The residents of Port Heiden ask the Board of Fisheries to change the Alaska Administrative Code so that the boundaries of the Bristol Bay area include the village Port Heiden and the Cinder River and Port Heiden Districts for the following reason:

1. Port Heiden is a member community in the Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation;

2. The community of Port Heiden is within the Bristol Bay Coastal Resource Service Area;
3. The residents of Port Heiden have strong family ties to other communities in the Bristol Bay Area;
4. Most of the commercial fishing permits that are owned by Port Heiden residents are Area T permits, or commercial Bristol Bay fishing permits;
5. Including Port Heiden in the Bristol Bay area would facilitate enforcement efforts in the Outer and Inner Port Heiden sections.

**PROPOSED BY:** Native Village of Port Heiden (EF-C15-039)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 23 – 5 AAC 06.100. Description of area; and 5 AAC 09.100. Description of area.** Move the Cinder River, Inner Port Heiden, and Outer Port Heiden sections of the Northern District from the Alaska Peninsula Area to the Bristol Bay Area, as follows (*This proposal will be heard at the Bristol Bay Finfish meeting, and heard and deliberated on at the Alaska Peninsula/Chignik/Aleutian Islands Finfish meeting.*):

We recommend that the BOF change the descriptions of the Bristol Bay area to include the Cinder River and Inner and Outer Port Heiden sections and remove the same sections from the Alaska Peninsula area. Suggested draft regulatory language follows:

**5 AAC 06.100. Description of area.** The Bristol Bay Area includes all waters of Alaska in Bristol Bay east of a line from Cape Newenham at 58° 38.88' N. lat., 162° 10.51' W. long. to **Strogonof Point at 56° 53.50' N. lat., 158° 50.45' W. long.** [CAPE MENSHIKOF at 57° 28.34' N. lat., 157° 55.84' W. long.]

**5 AAC 09.100. Description of area.** The Alaska Peninsula Area includes the waters of Alaska on the north side of the Alaska Peninsula, southwest of a line from **Strogonof Point (56° 53.50' N. lat., 158° 50.45' W. long.)** [CAPE MENSHIKOF (57° 28.34' N. lat., 157° 55.84' W. long.) to...

Additionally, we recommend deleting 5 AAC 09.200 (1) and (2) (A) and (B) from Chapter 09. Alaska Peninsula Area and adding new fishing districts (e) and (f) to the Bristol Bay area.

We recommend adding to 5 AAC 06.200 Fishing Districts and sections

**(e) Cinder River District, waters of Bristol Bay between Cape Menshikof at 57° 28.34' N. lat., 157° 55.84' W. long. and 158° 20.00' W. long**

**(f) Port Heiden District:**

**(1) Outer Port Heiden Section: waters located between 158° 20.00' W. long. and the longitude of Strogonof Point at 56° 53.50' N. lat., 158° 50.45' W. long., excluding the waters of the Inner Port Heiden Section;**

**(2) Inner Port Heiden Section: waters of Port Heiden Bay south and east of a line from Strogonof Point at 56° 53.50' N. lat., 158° 50.45' W. long. to the mainland shore of the northeast entrance to the bay at 56° 56.50' N. lat., 158° 51.50' W. long.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The residents of Port Heiden ask the Board of Fisheries (BOF) to change the Alaska Administrative Code so that the

boundaries of the Bristol Bay area include the village Port Heiden and the Cinder River and Port Heiden Districts for the following reason:

1. Port Heiden is a member community in the Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation;
2. The community of Port Heiden is within the Bristol Bay Coastal Resource Service Area;
3. The residents of Port Heiden have strong family ties to other communities in the Bristol Bay Area;
4. Most of the commercial fishing permits that are owned by Port Heiden residents are Area T permits, or commercial Bristol Bay fishing permits;
5. Including Port Heiden in the Bristol Bay area would facilitate enforcement efforts in the Outer and Inner Port Heiden sections.

**PROPOSED BY:** Gerda Kosbruk (EF-C15-112)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 24 – 5 AAC 06.100. Description of Area and 5 AAC 09.100. Description of Area.** Move all waters of the Northern District east of the latitude of Cape Seniavin from the Alaska Peninsula Area to the Bristol Bay Area, as follows (*This proposal will be heard at the Bristol Bay Finfish meeting, and heard and deliberated on at the Alaska Peninsula/Chignik/Aleutian Islands Finfish meeting.*):

I propose that Area T, Bristol Bay, be recognized as starting at Cape Seniavin, and managed as such. The genetics of WASSIP clearly show that the vast majority of salmon caught above Cape Seniavin are bound for Bristol Bay. Port Heiden is recognized as part of Area T. I suggest that the Entry Commission inadvertently misdrew the divide between Area T and Area M. If you want to catch Bristol Bay fish, buy a Bristol Bay permit.

Alternatively, Area M fishing opportunity and area could be gradually curtailed within this zone.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** I am addressing the indiscriminate interception of Bristol Bay bound salmon. Area M fishing openers are specifically targeting Bristol Bay salmon stocks without adequate regard to escapement requirements. Bristol Bay stocks are managed through small terminus fisheries with strict adherence to the state's constitutional directive of sustainable fisheries. This sustainability is only guaranteed through the use of intense scientific and management procedures and tools. Decades ago the ADF&G recognized interceptive fisheries as dangerous to the health of salmon stocks and set in motion actions to curtail such fisheries. Area M intercepting Bristol Bay salmon is in violation of such mandatory efforts. Bristol Bay salmon must be managed for OEG's, not by "windows".

**PROPOSED BY:** Larry K. Christensen (EF-C15-134)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 147 – 5 AAC 09.369. Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.**  
Repeal sequential closures in the Bear River, Three Hills, and Ilnik sections, as follows:

5 AAC 09.369 is amended to delete subsection (n).

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan was amended in 2013 to include a series of rolling closures of certain sections of the North Peninsula area above Port Moller. This new regulation has created problems for the drift gillnet fleet in maintaining an orderly and effective fishery. The fishery in this area is important for processors and the local economy. The premise of the rolling closure regime was ensuring adequate returns to Nelson Lagoon, but this rationale was flawed: escapements and harvests in Nelson Lagoon are healthy and the drift gillnet fishery in the Bear River, Three Hills, and Ilnik Sections have low harvest rates on Nelson River stocks according to the recent WASSIP study.

**PROPOSED BY:** Concerned Area M Fishermen (EF-C15-041)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 148 – 5 AAC 09.369. Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.**  
Allow commercial fishing for salmon with drift gillnet gear in the Ilnik Section, as follows:

5 AAC 09.369 is amended to read:

To allow drift gear in the Ilnik Lagoon section from June 1 thru September 30. Openings will be Monday morning 6:00 a.m. to Thursday midnight and closures will be Friday to Monday morning at 6:00 a.m.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** I would like to open up Ilnik Lagoon section on the north side of the Alaska Peninsula for driftnet fishing on the inside of the lagoon. The reason why is to have another area to fish when the wind is blowing gale force wind. This peninsula can also give the drift fleet more area to fish. It can also help control escapement.

**PROPOSED BY:** Brian Hartman (HQ-F15-079)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 149 – 5 AAC 09.310. Fishing seasons; 5 AAC 09.320. Fishing periods; 5 AAC 09.330. Gear; 5 AAC 09.369. Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan; and 5 AAC 39.120. Registration of commercial fishing vessels.** Create a directed sockeye salmon fishery in the Cinder River Section, as follows:

5 AAC 09.310(a)(1)(B): from **June 20** [August 1] through September 30 throughout this section.  
5 AAC 09.320(a)(3): in the Cinder River Section, salmon may be taken from 6:00 a.m. Monday to 6:00 p.m. Tuesday from June 20 to July 31, and from 6:00 a.m. Thursday until 6:00 p.m. Saturday after July 31.

5 AAC 09.330(a)(1), add a new subsection as follows: ( ) from June 20 through July 31 salmon may be taken with drift gillnets only in the waters outside the lagoon into which the Cinder River drains.

5 AAC 09.369(m), add the following language: [.] , provided, that from June 20 to July 31 if the commissioner closes that portion of the Egegik District specified in 5 AAC 06.359(c) for conservation of Ugashik River sockeye salmon stocks, the commissioner may, by emergency order, close the portion of the Cinder River section outside the lagoon into which the Cinder River drains.

5 AAC 39.120(d), revise the definition for Area T as follows: T Bristol Bay Area (5 AAC 06.100) and **the following portions of the Alaska Peninsula Area (5 AAC 09.200): January 1 through June 19, the portion of the Cinder River section outside the lagoon into which the Cinder River drains; January 1 through December 31, the portion of the Cinder River Section within the lagoon into which the Cinder River drains** [Cinder River] and Inner Port Heiden Section; and August 1 through December 31, that portion of the Ilnik Section within Ilnik Lagoon and all waters inside the Seal Islands [of the Alaska Peninsula Area (5 AAC 09.200(a) – (3))].

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** This series of regulatory changes would establish a directed sockeye salmon fishery in the Cinder River Section from June 20 through September 30. Cinder River sockeye returns have been above escapement goals nearly every year for over a decade, which represents foregone harvest opportunity for the Area M drift gillnet fleet.

**PROPOSED BY:** Concerned Area M Fishermen (EF-C15-042)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 150 – 5 AAC 09.310. Fishing seasons.** Describe waters of Cinder River Lagoon open to commercial salmon fishing, as follows:

5 AAC 09.310(a)(1)(A) is amended to read:

- (a) In the Northern District, salmon may be taken as follows:
  - (1) Cinder River Section:
    - (A) from May 1 through September 30 within the lagoon into which Cinder River drains (locally known as False Ugashik or Shagong) **described by a line across the lagoon entrance from 57° 21.14' N. lat., 158° 06.82' W. long. to 57° 21.46' N. lat., 158° 04.68' W. long.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Current regulations do not describe Cinder River Lagoon, which is the only area of the Cinder River Section that can be

commercially fished for salmon prior to August 1. This proposal will define waters of Cinder River Lagoon that are currently open to commercial salmon fishing during scheduled weekly fishing periods.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F15-060)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 151 – 5 AAC 09.369. Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.** Consider the catch of non-local salmon as a factor in management of Northern District salmon fisheries, as follows:

5 AAC 09.369 is amended to read:

(b) The department shall manage the Northern District salmon fisheries on the basis of salmon abundance as determined by escapement information and catch-per-unit-effort information **taking into account the percentage of the catch which is not of the targeted river.** The department shall manage each section of the Northern District as specified in this management plan and 5 AAC 09.320.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Effectively manage the Northern Peninsula fishers areas by modifying 5 AAC 09.369.

**PROPOSED BY:** Roland Briggs (EF-C15-046)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 152 – 5 AAC 09.369. Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.** From June 20 through July 20 manage the Northern District salmon fisheries jointly with Alaska Department of Fish and Game Alaska Peninsula and Bristol Bay staff, as follows:

5 AAC 09.369 is amended to read:

(1) notwithstanding 5 AAC 09.320(a)(4), from June 20 through July 20, must be managed in cooperation with East Side Bristol Bay staff.

Strike the Section (B).

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** More effective manage individuals river’s stocks of fish.

Modify 5AAC 09.369.

**PROPOSED BY:** Roland Briggs (EF-C15-047)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 153 – 5 AAC 09.369. Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.** Include information on the abundance of non-local salmon stocks as a factor in managing Northern District commercial salmon fisheries, as follows:

5 AAC 09.369 is amended to:

(b) The department shall manage the Northern District salmon fisheries on the basis of salmon abundance as determined by escapement information and catch-per-unit-effort information **taking into account the abundance of non-Northern Peninsula in the catch area.** The department shall manage each section of the Northern District as specified in this management plan and 5 AAC 09.320.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** More effective manage rivers on the North Peninsula.

From the WASSIP study it showed that a significant portion of the Northern Peninsula catch was actually destined for non-North Peninsula rivers therefore managing by escapement and catch per unit effort could allow over exploitation of a rivers run. Managing based on catch per unit effort when it is established that a large portion of the catch is not of the targeted river puts sustainability in question.

**PROPOSED BY:** Roland Briggs (EF-C15-048)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 154 – 5 AAC 09.369. Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.** Link management actions in the Northern District of the Alaska Peninsula Area commercial salmon fisheries to salmon abundance in adjacent Bristol Bay Area districts, as follows:

5 AAC 09.369 is amended to read:

(a)The purpose of this management plan is to provide guidelines to the department for the management of salmon stocks in the Northern District of the Alaska Peninsula Management Area.

Realizing data on some of the river systems are limited the manager shall use all available data to correct his catch per unit effort numbers to reflect actual catch of the targeted river system. Up to and including smaller sub districts around the targeted river mouths or lagoons in order to trigger a management action in the district.

If past studies have shown that 40% or more of the catch is of non-targeted stocks then the area shall be co-managed by managers of the areas that have 15% or more of their fish in the catch. Or if past studies of catch in that area have shown the potential harvest of a particular river to be more that 30% of the low end escapement goal of a non-targeted river the area shall be co-managed.

The starting % shall be initiated from the WASSIP study. As more data is collected and as longer timeline and better picture of the long-term catch patterns in an area are achieved the management will adjust accordingly.

(Both managers must agree on openings if the managers cannot agree the commissioner shall make the final decision after reviewing the potential damage to each system.)

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The North Peninsula Management plan needs to work in partnership with management plans in areas where there is cross harvesting of resources. There are portions of the North Pacific Management Plan that appear to be in conflict with itself. It appears the managers are directed to make management decisions to which they have insufficient data to determine, thus this could lead to overharvest of the targeted river.

**PROPOSED BY:** Roland Briggs (EF-C15-091)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 155 – 5 AAC 09.310. Fishing seasons; 5 AAC 09.320. Fishing periods; 5 AAC 09.330 Gear; 5 AAC 09.350. Closed waters; and 5 AAC 09.369. Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.** Close the Outer Port Heiden Section of the Northern District to commercial salmon fishing, as follows:

Close the Outer Port Heiden Section to commercial fishing for sockeye salmon by amending the following:

5 AAC 09.310 Fishing Seasons.

(a) In the Northern District, salmon may be taken as follows: (2) Port Heiden Sections:

...

(B) Outer Port Heiden Section: **no open season** [FROM JUNE 20 TO JULY 31];

5 AAC 09.320.Fishing Periods.

(a) In the Northern District, salmon may be taken only during weekly fishing periods from 6:00 a.m. Monday until 6:00 p.m. Thursday, unless modified by emergency order, except as follows:

(4) In the [OUTER PORT HEIDEN,] Inner Port Heiden[,] and Ilnick Sections, salmon may be taken from 6:00 a.m. Monday through 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, except...

5 AAC 09.330. Gear.

...

[(10) OUTER PORT HEIDEN SECTION: WITH DRIFT GILLNETS ONLY]

5 AAC 09.350. Closed waters.

Salmon may not be taken in the following locations.

(3) Outer Port Heiden: waters of Outer Port Heiden Section



[(A) BETWEEN THE THREE-MILE SEAWARD BOUNDARY LINE, DESCRIBED IN 5 AAC 09.301, AND A LINE THAT IS ONE AND ONE-HALF MILES SHOREWARD OF THE THREE-MILE BOUNDARY LINE;]

5 AAC 09.369. Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.

(a) The purpose of this management plan is to....

[(1) THE OUTER PORT HEIDEN SECTION IS OPEN FROM JUNE 20 TO JULY 31 TO COMMERCIAL FISHING IN THOSE WATERS WEST OF A LINE FROM 57° 05.52' N. LAT., 158° 34.45' W. LONG. TO 57° 08.85' N. LAT., 158° 37.50' W. LONG. BASED ON THE ABUNDANCE OF MESHNIK RIVER SOCKEYE SALMON. IF THE COMMISSIONER CLOSES THE PORTION OF THE EGEGIK DISTRICT, AS SPECIFIED IN 5 AAC 06.359 FOR THE CONSERVATION OF UGASHIK RIVER SOCKEYE SALMON STOCKS, THE COMMISSIONER MAY, BY EMERGENCY ORDER, CLOSE THE OUTER PORT HEIDEN SECTION, AND IMMEDIATELY REOPEN THE OUTER PORT HEIDEN SECTION, WITH ADDITIONAL FISHING RESTRICTIONS THAT THE COMMISSIONER DETERMINES NECESSARY.]

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The Outer Port Heiden fishery is an intercept salmon fishery primarily targeting Bristol Bay sockeye salmon stocks. The stated management objective for the Outer Port Heiden fishery, harvesting Meshnik River-bound sockeye salmon, appears to be an excuse for allowing this fishery to be prosecuted since relatively few Meshnik River sockeye salmon are harvested. Additionally, the number of salmon in excess of established SEGs has been dramatically reduced because of increases in the escapement goal range since 2006. Further, we believe that the Outer Port Heiden fishery does not effectively target Meshnik River-bound sockeye salmon. We also find that the establishment of a new and expanding Outer Port Heiden fishery is contrary to the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) Mixed Stock Policy 5 AAC 39.220 (d). We seek to have the BOF close the waters of the Outer Port Heiden Section to the harvest of salmon. We also would like to encourage the BOF and ADF&G to effectively target Meshnik River-bound sockeye salmon through prosecution of an Inner Port Heiden commercial fishery.

The Outer Port Heiden Section of the Northern District of the Alaska Peninsula Area was closed to commercial fishing for salmon from 1990 through 2006. However, prior to 1990, only one commercial harvest of sockeye salmon was recorded during the period 1962–1989. This harvest consisted of 686 sockeye salmon in 1986. Therefore, this section was effectively closed until it was open to commercial fishing in 2007. Beginning in 2007 through the 2014 fishing season, the commercial sockeye salmon harvest from the Outer Port Heiden fishery has ranged from 254,916 salmon in 2013 to 786,025 in 2010. Not surprising, this new and expanding fishery accounted for 0.0% of the North Peninsula total sockeye salmon harvest prior to 2007 but up to 41.5% (2011) since it was opened in 2007. The dramatic shift in the percent of the total North Peninsula sockeye salmon harvest in this fishery has no doubt increased the proportion and number of Bristol Bay salmon stocks in the North Peninsula salmon harvest, and particularly, those fish bound for the Ugashik River.

At the February 2007 Alaska Peninsula/Aleutian Island Areas BOF meeting, a proposal (Proposal 210) to limit the fishery area in the Port Heiden, Three Hills, and Ilnik Fishing sections

for sockeye salmon to within one mile of land from May 1 to June 30 was amended to open the Outer Port Heiden Section to commercial fishing from June 20 to July 31. This amended proposal was passed by the BOF. Accordingly, commercial fishing in the Outer Port Heiden Section commenced in 2007. The BOF specified that the Outer Port Heiden Section was specifically opened to harvest sockeye salmon bound for the Meshik River.

Prior to 2007, the Sustainable Escapement Goal (SEG) range for the Meshik River was from 10,000 to 20,000 sockeye salmon. However, escapements to the Meshik River regularly exceeded 80,000 sockeye salmon. At that time, it appeared that there was a very large surplus of sockeye salmon that could be harvested. However, in 2007, ADF&G increased the Meshik River sockeye salmon SEG to 20,000 to 60,000 sockeye salmon, reducing the number of salmon that were in excess of the SEG. Further, in 2010, ADF&G again changed this goal to 25,000 to 100,000, effectively substantially reducing or eliminating the excess salmon above the SEG that was perceived in 2006.

In 2007 and 2008 the Outer Port Heiden commercial sockeye and chum salmon harvest was sampled under WASSIP. During these two years, this section accounted for 11.5% and 16.4% of the total Northern Peninsula sockeye salmon harvest. Genetic Stock Identification (GSI) analysis indicated that the vast majority of the sockeye salmon harvested in the Outer Port Heiden Section were destined to Bristol Bay, particularly the Ugashik River. Bristol Bay sockeye salmon comprised approximately 72.7% (282,061 salmon) in 2007 and 81.6% (262,543 salmon) in 2008 of the Outer Port Heiden section sockeye salmon harvest. The Ugashik River stock alone contributed approximately 43% to this harvest in both 2007 and 2008. Interestingly, North Peninsula sockeye salmon stocks contributed only 23.7% (91,991 salmon) in 2007 and 17.9% (57,591 salmon) in 2008. This means that vast majority of the sockeye salmon harvested in the Outer Port Heiden fishery, 76.3% in 2007 and 82.1% in 2008, were destined to non-North Peninsula Rivers of origin. These fish were intercepted in this fishery. More interestingly is that the harvest rate on sockeye salmon destined to the Meshik River was only 11.5% (26,140 salmon) in 2007 and 13.3% (44,872 salmon) in 2008.

Since the WASSIP sampling years, both the number and the contribution (percent) of the Outer Port Heiden fishery harvest to the Northern Peninsula total harvest has dramatically increased. The average Outer Port Heiden harvest during the WASSIP sampling years was 354,322 sockeye salmon and accounted for an average of 14.0% of the total Northern Peninsula sockeye salmon harvest. Since then, however, during the most recent 6-year period, 2009-2014, the average number of fish harvested in the Outer Port Heiden section has risen to 479,458 sockeye salmon and has accounted for an average of 34.4% of the total Northern Peninsula sockeye salmon harvest. We believe that this new fishery has expanded since inception and we also believe that there is a potential for further expansion. We also believe that most if not all of the increased harvest in this fishery is comprised of Bristol Bay-origin salmon, and most likely Ugashik River-bound sockeye salmon.

At the February 2010 BOF meeting, no substantial changes were made to the Outer Port Heiden Section fishery. However, ADF&G increased the SEG for the Meshik River sockeye salmon stock to an SEG range of 25,000 to 100,000, further decreasing the excess Meshik River sockeye salmon available for harvest.

At the February 2013 BOF meeting, the BOF recognized the primary intercept nature of this fishery and, in an attempt to shift the intercept harvest of sockeye salmon to more local North Peninsula stocks, particularly, the Meshik River sockeye salmon stock, closed the waters of the Outer Port Heiden section from a line 1.5 miles from the shore to the 3.0 mile line boundary line. This closure was to provide protection to the migrating Bristol Bay sockeye salmon stocks, which were thought to be migrating farther offshore than local North Peninsula sockeye salmon stocks.

Based on the above information, we conclude that the Outer Port Heiden fishery is an intercept salmon fishery, primarily targeting Bristol Bay sockeye salmon stocks. Accordingly, the stated management objective for the Outer Port Heiden fishery, harvesting Meshik River-bound sockeye salmon, appears to be an excuse for allowing this fishery to be prosecuted since relatively few Meshik River sockeye salmon are harvested and the number of salmon in excess of established SEGs has been dramatically reduced because of increases in the escapement goal range. We suggest that a viable alternative to prosecuting this fishery for the stated objective of harvesting Meshik River-origin salmon would be to prosecute a commercial fishery within the Inner Port Heiden section. We also find that the establishment of a new and expanding Outer Port Heiden fishery is contrary to the Alaska BOF Mixed Stock Policy 5 AAC 39.220 (d). Bristol Bay sockeye salmon stocks were fully allocated prior to the establishment of this fishery. The continued prosecution of this expanding fishery has shifted the allocation scheme of Bristol Bay sockeye salmon and particularly Ugashik River-origin sockeye salmon more toward the North Peninsula.

A GSI study conducted on the salmon present during the prosecution of the Outer Port Heiden fishery was conducted during the 2014 and will be conducted during the 2015 season. Results of this investigation will be provided to the BOF as an on-time comment prior to the February 2016 Alaska Peninsula BOF meeting. Because of the increased sockeye salmon harvest by the Outer Port Heiden along with the increased contribution of this harvest to the total North Peninsula sockeye salmon harvest, we anticipate an even higher contribution of Bristol Bay salmon to the Outer Port Heiden harvest with an even greater contribution of Ugashik River bound fish.

Who does this proposal benefit: The commercial fisherman of Bristol Bay will benefit from the acceptance of this proposal.

**PROPOSED BY:** Mitch Seybert (EF-C15-079)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 156 – 5 AAC 09.310. Fishing seasons; and 5 AAC 09.350. Closed waters.** Close the Outer Port Heiden Section of the Northern District to commercial salmon fishing, as follows:

Close the Outer Port Heiden Section.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The Northern Peninsula District is a mixed stock fishery that intercepts Bristol Bay salmon. At the 2007 Alaska Peninsula Board of Fish meeting the Northern Peninsula District’s opportunity to intercept Bristol Bay fish

was increased by opening the Outer Port Heiden Section. State fisheries policy is to not allow the expansion of mixed stock fisheries.

The WASSIP study shows that almost all of the fish caught in the Outer Port Heiden Section are bound for Bristol Bay and as much as 80% of those are bound for the Ugashik River. Ugashik is having trouble meeting its escapement goals in a time where the total Bristol Bay run is increasing.

**PROPOSED BY:** Kurt Johnson (EF-C15-111)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 157 – 5 AAC 09.320. Fishing periods.** In the Inner and Outer Port Heiden sections of the Northern District restrict commercial fishing for salmon to no more than four days in any seven day period, as follows:

In the Port Heiden Section of Area M’s North Peninsula commercial salmon fishery, fishing will be permitted a maximum of four days in a seven day period, to protect the escapement of the small streams in the Port Heiden Inner District, and North River Outer District and migrating stocks to Bristol Bay, and Nelson Lagoon in the month of July.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Conservation, subsistence harvest concerns, (kings, chums, sockeye).

High interception of Bristol Bay’s migrating stocks.

**PROPOSED BY:** Lower Bristol Bay Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-C15-092)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 158 – 5 AAC 09.350. Closed waters.** Restrict commercial salmon fishing in the Three Hills, Ilnik, and Outer Port Heiden sections of the Northern District to no more than one and one-half miles offshore, as follows:

In the Area M’s North Peninsula Commercial Salmon fishery,[Ilnik to Port Heiden] fishing will be permitted in a reduced area until total run strength to Ugashik is 2.5 million or 5 million to Egegik. Fishing will be permitted from the 18 ft high tide mark out to a GPS line 1.5 miles off shore, Starting from the Three Hills northern eastwest line go north to intersect the Port Heiden Outer Dist. southern eastwest corner line, 1.5 miles off shore.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Harvesting migrating Bristol Bay stocks in a year of less abundance when local stocks of Area M are healthy.

Harvesting Bristol Bay migrating stocks needed to sustain locally owned Bristol Bay permit numbers in the villages of Port Heiden, Ugashik, Egegik.

Harvesting migrating Bristol Bay stocks unnecessarily when it can be reduced with time and area that won't affect local harvests and escapements of Port Heiden and Illnik.

**PROPOSED BY:** Lower Bristol Bay Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-C15-109)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 159 – 5 AAC 09.350. Closed waters.** Open waters of the Outer Port Heiden Section of the Northern District from one and one half miles to three miles offshore to commercial salmon fishing, as follows:

5 AAC 09.350(3) is amended by deleting current subsection (A).

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The board in 2013 closed the portion of the Outer Port Heiden section from one and one-half miles offshore to the three-mile seaward boundary. These closed waters should be reopened in the interest of an orderly and safe fishery. The current open area, inside one and one-half miles, includes shallow waters and obstacles (e.g., snags) that are difficult and dangerous to fish in heavy weather, particularly during night hours. The three-mile line is well defined in charting programs, and is used throughout the North Peninsula District, but the one and one-half mile line is not, potentially creating enforcement/compliance problems.

**PROPOSED BY:** Concerned Area M Fishermen (EF-C15-040)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 160 – 5 AAC 09.369. Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.** Close waters of the Bear River and Nelson Lagoon sections of the Northern District between zero to one and one-half miles offshore to commercial salmon fishing with drift gillnet gear until escapement objectives have been met, as follows:

From June 1 to August 15 sockeye season, drift gear will be restricted to no less than 1.5 to 3 miles away from shore until Bear River and Nelson River have achieved their adequate escapement.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The *sustainability* of the Bear River and Nelson River Fishery due to the mismanagement of the North Peninsula Fishery between June 1 to August 15 sockeye salmon season.

Under the current management, the Bear River and Nelson River escapement will be depleted and will no longer have a fishery.

**PROPOSED BY:** Ray Johnson (EF-C15-110)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 161 – 5 AAC 09.369. Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.** Close waters of the Northern District between zero and one and one-half miles offshore to commercial fishing with drift gillnet gear when Bear River and/or Nelson River coho salmon escapements do not meet objectives, as follows:

From August 15 to September 30 coho salmon season drift gear will be restricted to no less than 1.5 to 3 miles away from shore until Bear River and Nelson River have achieved their adequate escapement.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The *sustainability* of the Bear River and Nelson River Fishery due to the mismanagement of the North Peninsula Fishery between August 15 to September 30 coho salmon season.

Under the current management, the Bear River and Nelson River escapement will be depleted and will no longer have a fishery.

**PROPOSED BY:** Ray Johnson (EF-C15-113)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 162 – 5 AAC 09.369. Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.** Close waters of the Northern District between zero and one and one-half miles offshore to commercial fishing with drift gillnet gear when Bear River and/or Nelson River sockeye salmon escapements do not meet objectives, as follows:

At any time between June 1st and September 30 salmon season, should the Bear River and/or Nelson River fall short of adequate escapement, the drift fleet will revert back to the 1.5 to 3 mile "away from shore" regulation.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The *sustainability* of the Bear River and Nelson River Fishery due to the mismanagement of the North Peninsula Fishery between June 1 to September 30 salmon season.

Under the current management, the Bear River and/or Nelson River escapement will be depleted and will no longer have a fishery.

**PROPOSED BY:** Ray Johnson (EF-C15-114)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 163 – 5 AAC 09.331. Gillnet specifications and operations.** Between the longitude of Three Hills and the northern boundary of the Outer Port Heiden Section restrict drift and set gillnets to 29 and one-half meshes depth, as follows:

In the North Peninsula of Area M's commercial salmon fishery, from the Northern Three Hills Section east/west boundary line to the northern shore boundary line of Outer Port Heiden Section maximum mesh depth permitted will be 29 ½ mesh.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Harvesting weak stocks (king, sockeye, chum) while targeting larger systems in the Port Heiden section.

Subsistence concerns.

Intercepting high percentages of Bristol Bay migrating stocks in the Illnik and Port Heiden sections of Area M.

**PROPOSED BY:** Lower Bristol Bay Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-C15-098)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 164 – 5 AAC 09.369. Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.** Manage commercial salmon fishing in the Black Hills Section and in Moffet Lagoon in the Izembek-Moffet Bay Section based on Moffet Lagoon escapement, as follows:

The Black Hills section starting north from Moffet Point should only be opened and closed with the Moffet Lagoon section to allow local escapement in Moffet Lagoon. If any emergency orders for opening the Black Hills section are made both Black Hills and Moffet Lagoon sections should be opened for fishing. Area biologists managing both areas need to communicate and align fishery openers. In the past Moffet Lagoon section closed and Black Hill section remained open by emergency order.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The depletion of Moffet Lagoon section escapement and fishery sustainability.

**PROPOSED BY:** Herman Samuelson (HQ-F15-078)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 165 – 5 AAC 09.331. Gillnet specifications and operations.** In the Nelson Lagoon Section allow the compliment of drift gillnet gear to be split into two 100 fathom nets that may be fished simultaneously, as follows:

In Nelson Lagoon, drift gear can be split into two 100 fathom nets, and fished separately yet simultaneously.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** In Nelson Lagoon the drift gear is no more than 200 fathoms. In some places the channel in the lagoon is not wide enough to hold a 200 fathom net.

**PROPOSED BY:** Ray Johnson (EF-C15-117)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 166 – 5 AAC 09.350. Closed waters; and 5 AAC 09.369. Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.** Eliminate closed waters in Caribou Flats and allow drift gillnet fishing in Caribou Flats by emergency order if Nelson Lagoon escapement goals are achieved, as follows:

5 AAC 09.350 and 5 AAC 09.369 are amended to read:

5 AAC 09.350 -- delete subsection (13)

5 AAC 09.369 Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan. Revise subsection (d) to read as follows: In the Caribou Flats Section, from June 16 through August 15, the commissioner may, by emergency order, allow commercial fishing for sockeye salmon if escapement goals in Nelson Lagoon have been achieved.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The Caribou Flats Section has been closed to drift gillnetting for many years, to ensure returns to Nelson Lagoon. The fishery inside the lagoon has concentrated on larger fish using larger mesh gear. This has, over time, skewed the escapement to smaller fish. Allowing drift gillnet effort in the Caribou Flats Section, once Nelson Lagoon escapements have been achieved, would likely result in the harvest of these smaller fish and help in rebalancing the size distribution of the escapement.

**PROPOSED BY:** Joe Hinton (HQ-F15-063)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 167 – 5 AAC 09.320. Fishing periods.** Open the Uria Bay Section of the Northwestern District to regular fishing periods, as follows:

5 AAC 09.320(b)(3) is amended to read:

**(3) Uria Bay Section from 6:00 a.m. Monday until 6:00 p.m. Thursday**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Uria Bay Section opens only by emergency order. This section in the past was open to commercial fishing, June 1<sup>st</sup> well into July on a weekly fishing period Monday thru Thursday.

**PROPOSED BY:** False Pass Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F15-085)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 168 – 5 AAC 09.350. Closed waters.** Reduce closed waters in Christianson Lagoon, as follows:

5 AAC 09.350(18)(A) is amended to read:

(A) Christianson Lagoon: waters of the lagoon **from a point located 250 yards upstream from the lagoon outlet channel terminus at the ocean shoreline [AND THOSE WATERS WITHIN 500 YARDS OF THE LAGOON’S EXIT CHANNEL TERMINUS AT THE OCEAN SHORELINE];**



**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Closed waters of Christianson Lagoon in the Uria Bay Section. This is a lagoon entrance and not a river mouth.

**PROPOSED BY:** Travis Hoblet (HQ-F15-084)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 169 – 5 AAC 09.200. Description of districts and sections; and 5 AAC 09.206. Use of global positioning system (GPS).** Implement global positioning satellite coordinates for all district and section boundaries in the Northern District of the Alaska Peninsula Area, as follows:

That Alaska Department of Fish and Game and/or Fish and Wildlife Protection establish a series of points that can be implemented by regulatory definition so all fishermen can be fish legally within boundaries that can be defined and navigated with modern GPS equipment.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The most offshore boundaries of the Sections of the North Peninsula fishing areas. At present there are no GPS specifications so that Area M fishermen can be confident that they are fishing legally within their Sections.

**PROPOSED BY:** Dan Barr (EF-C15-100)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 170 – 5 AAC 09.350. Closed waters.** Redefine the boundaries of the Outer Port Heiden Section using GPS coordinates, as follows:

5 AAC 09.350. Closed waters. Salmon may not be taken in the following locations:

...

- (3) Outer Port Heiden: waters of the outer Port Heiden Section
  - (A) **Seaward of a line of a line defined by the following GPS coordinates: N57 19.300 X W158 20.000, N57 16.400 X W158 26.500, N57 11.700 X W158 30.500, N57 03.200 X W158 40.500, N56 58.700 X W158 44.500, N56 56.500 X W158 47.200, N56 55.800 X W158 50.450** [BETWEEN THE THREE-MILE SEAWARD BOUNDARY LINE DESCRIBED IN 5 AAC 09.301, AND A LINE THAT IS ONE AND ONE-HALF MILES SHOREWARD OF THE THREE-MILE SEAWARD BOUNDARY-LINE];

Note: The line defined by the proposed coordinates roughly follows the 1 ½ mile limit on the most current NOAA chart. This was done in an attempt to maintain the current perceived legal fishing area. The number of points could easily be reduced by straightening the line which would slightly change the current fishing area.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Current regulatory language in 5 AAC 09.350(3) is very difficult to effectively enforce under the best of circumstances and especially difficult with aircraft patrols. The difficulty in enforcing the current regulation is differences in how the 3 mile line is drawn on NOAA charts and how that compares with 5 AAC 39.975(13) “waters of Alaska”. This is a remote fishing district and aircraft are the most used

method to patrol the area. Enforcement personnel must be able to determine if a violation is occurring and be able to take action to notify the operator. If a Trooper pilot must make passes over a vessel to determine the latitude and longitude it is fishing, and then later plot the location on a chart to determine if a violation exists, it is unlikely the trooper can address the violation in a timely manner.

Defining the Outer Point Heiden closed waters boundary with GPS coordinates would allow enforcement and fishermen to accurately determine if nets are fishing in legal waters. GPS coordinates are used to define all manner of fish and game boundaries throughout the state. GPS has been vetted extensively in the Alaska Court system and has been found to be extremely accurate. Even a very basic (cheap) GPS can accurately show a line between points and display a cross track distance from the line. GPS is practical, easy to use and defensible.

It is in the State's best interest to clearly defined, enforceable commercial fishing boundaries in order to protect the resource and to ensure appropriate allocation and management of resources. Using GPS coordinates to define the Outer Port Heiden closed waters line is a far better means of attaining these goals than the current method.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Public Safety, Alaska Wildlife Troopers (EF-C15-103)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 171 – 5 AAC 09.200. Description of districts and sections; and 5 AAC 09.206. Use of global positioning system (GPS).** Implement global positioning satellite coordinates for all district and section boundaries in the Northern District of the Alaska Peninsula Area, as follows:

In the North Peninsula Area M's commercial salmon fishery, all boundary lines will be defined by true enforceable GPS lines.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Lack of enforceable boundary lines on the North Peninsula. Area M existing boundary lines are not worth the time for enforcement, because location of legal waters is not defined clearly.

**PROPOSED BY:** Lower Bristol Bay Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-C15-094)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 172 – 5 AAC 15.357. Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan.** Increase the passage of sockeye salmon above the Chignik River weir to provide additional subsistence fishing opportunity, as follows:

The following draft regulatory language was developed and approved by all five Tribal councils:

5 AAC 15.357. Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan is amended to read:

(b)

(3) from the end of the transition period, described in (2) of this subsection until September 14,

...  
(B) the department shall manage the commercial fishery to allow for the passage of at least 150,000 [50,000] sockeye salmon above the Chignik River weir, in addition to late-run sockeye salmon escapement needs, to provide an in river harvestable surplus above the Chignik River weir in August and September of at least [75,000] 25,000 fish in August and [75,000] [25,000] fish from September 1 through September 15;

Increasing the numbers of late-run sockeye salmon required to be passed through the weir will result in additional late season subsistence harvest opportunity.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** During the past four years, subsistence fishers of Chignik Bay, Chignik Lake, Chignik Lagoon, Perryville, and Port Heiden have experienced challenges when attempting to harvest late-run sockeye salmon returning to Chignik Lake and its tributaries. Many elders and high harvesting subsistence fishers indicate that sockeye salmon used to be available in the Chignik Lake watershed well into the winter months for as long as they can remember, until the recent four years. Historically, local subsistence fishers depended upon the availability of red fish well into January and February, but recently fishers are unable to locate fish in the traditional subsistence fishing areas of the Chignik Lake watershed as early as December.

The same issue was brought to the board before and action was taken to establish the existing in-river goals. Local subsistence fishers believe that the existing in river escapement goals are no longer satisfying the subsistence needs of residents in all five communities. The current escapement goals and management practices in August require modification in order to provide for traditional subsistence opportunities during the fall and winter months.

According to 5 AAC 15.357 (b)(3)(B), ADF&G managers must allow at least 50,000 sockeye salmon to pass through the Chignik Weir in addition to the late-run sockeye salmon escapement needs. This is to provide an in-river harvestable surplus above the Chignik River weir in August of at least 25,000 fish in August and an additional 25,000 fish from September 1 through September 15. The Chignik Lake late-run sockeye salmon escapement goal for the month of August for spawning purposes, as it is published in the ADF&G escapement objective schedule, is 40,000 to 53,000 sockeye salmon (not including the 50,000 fish for in river subsistence harvestable surplus). During August 2007–2014, the spawning escapement goal (not including the additional 25,000 sockeye salmon passing through the weir for subsistence in August) fell below once, exceeded six times and met twice. While escapement was not met only once during the past eight years, subsistence users are continually unable to harvest their late-run sockeye salmon.

The current escapement goals set for September 1–15 may be the reason that subsistence fishers are unable to get their fish. The ADF&G has only met the escapement goal for September 1–15 twice in the last eight years (2007–2014). During only two of those years were sockeye salmon passed through the weir for escapement needs above the in-river subsistence harvestable surplus goal.

Local subsistence fishers are concerned because the later arriving salmon normally have a commensurate later stream life and are the fish believed to be available to subsistence fishers during the winter months. Not managing the September 1–15 portion of the late sockeye run of the Chignik River to provide for the regulation required passage of subsistence fish is unacceptable. Modification of management practices and goals are necessary to provide for subsistence opportunities of sockeye salmon well into the winter months.

Five tribal councils have joined together to submit this proposal to the board requesting greater opportunity for subsistence fishers during their traditional harvesting months or December-March.

The five Tribal councils submitting this proposal request that the board increase the additional late-run escapement goal for August and September 1–15 to provide opportunity for subsistence fishers. The five Tribal councils recommend adding 50,000 sockeye salmon to the August goal and 50,000 sockeye to the September 1–15 goal above what is currently in regulation (currently there are 25,000 additional fish in August and 25,000 additional fish during Sept. 1–15).

Local community members and active fishers have been informed that the late-run has recently been managed for the lower end of the goal ranges with hopes of protecting feed for juvenile salmon and to therefore increase the size of the late-run. While this effort may scientifically be justifiable, the reduction of the goals and management to minimize late-run escapement has directly impacted or eliminated portions of the late season subsistence fisheries and action is required to provide greater subsistence opportunity. All of the reasons contributing to the decline of the late fall and winter sockeye salmon population may not be known (intercept fisheries, climate change, ocean conditions, etc.), the numbers of sockeye salmon passing through the weir is known and manageable. From 2007–2014, as little as 21,000 late-run sockeye salmon passed through the weir from August 1–September 15 to meet spawning needs not including the 50,000 sockeye salmon required for subsistence opportunity.

**PROPOSED BY:** The federally recognized tribes of Chignik Bay, Chignik Lagoon, Chignik Lake, Perryville & Port Heiden (EF-C15-131)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 173 – 5 AAC 15.350. Closed waters.** Reduce waters closed to commercial fishing for salmon in Kujulik, Portage, and Ivanof bays in the Chignik Area, as follows:

5 AAC 15.350 is amended to read:

5 AAC 15.350 Closed Waters. Salmon may not be taken in the following waters:

...

(9) Kujulik Bay: west of a line from 56 32.54' N. lat., 158 01.38' W. long. to 56 34.22 N. lat., 158 03.26' W. long.; and north of a line from 56 32.54' N. lat., 158 01.38' W. long. to 56 35.49' N. lat., 157 59.06' W. long.;

(10) Portage Bay: west of a line from 56 11.34' N. lat., 158 35.23' W. long. to 56 11.10' N. lat., 158 35.54' W. long.;

...

(13) Ivanof Bay: west of a line from 55 50.60' N. lat., 159 30.56' W. long. to 55 53.23' N. lat., 159 31.13' W. long.; and east of a line from 55 52.26' N. lat., 159 28.23' W. long. to 55 54.03' N. lat., 159 29.15' W. long.;

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Chignik pink and chum salmon runs are typically underutilized. It is estimated that conservatively an average of two million dollars are lost to the commercial fishery annually because of over escapement and too conservative management. To reduce these losses not only should some weekly fishing occur in Chignik inter-bays, as addressed in a companionship proposal, but several closed water areas in the Chignik Management Areas should be reduced to improve access to harvestable surpluses while still providing adequate sanctuary areas for escapement. It is understood that closed water line adjustments can be made inseason, but too characteristically nothing is done in time to avoid over escapement and fish quality problems with an abundance of water-marked and dark fish harvested that the processor discards (grinds).

The three closed waters areas proposed for size reductions are in bays where in the late 1970's some "creek robing" was occurring. This was when fish quality was not a major issue due to canning and at a time when shallow seines were common. As a consequence, the Department expanded many closed waters areas in the Chignik area. Now due to fish quality concerns, peer pressure, and better education, deeper draft boats and seines, and surveillance, the problem no longer exists. What we have now is an artifact of too much restriction.

Certainly the Department has the tools to move markers inseason, but the record indicates complacency, in part because of weather, aircraft availability, and unwillingness to timely survey and what some characterize as "tunnel vision" on sockeye salmon management. Chignik's pink and chum salmon runs need to be managed proactively, not managed from behind. In line with this, bays where current closed waters warrant an adjustment to improve access to local pink and chum salmon surpluses while still ensuring escapement protection include:

- a. Ivanof Bay (Area 275-40);
- b. Portage Bay (Area 273-84); and
- c. Kujulik Bay (Area 272-50).

**PROPOSED BY:** Chignik Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F15-034)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 174 – 5 AAC 15.357. Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan.** In July and August close Chignik Area commercial salmon fisheries between Castle Cape and Kupreanof Peninsula when the Southeastern District Mainland is closed to commercial salmon fishing with set gillnet gear, as follows:

When there is low escapement in the SEDM area and the set netters aren't able to fish, Chignik fishermen are shut down and are not able to harvest salmon from Castle Cape to Kupreanof Peninsula in Area L.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** During the months of July and August if there is insufficient escapement in the SEDM and the set net fishermen are shut

down and cannot fish then the fishermen in Area L, Chignik area should also be shut down so that escapement goals can be met in the SEDM area.

Chignik fishermen are intercepting salmon bound for streams in the SEDM.

**PROPOSED BY:** Jack R. Foster Jr, Amy M. Foster (EF-C15-072)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 2 – 5 AAC 28.540. Possession limits for Chignik Area.** Allow bycatch retention of Pacific cod in the Chignik Area salmon seine fishery, as follows (*This proposal will be heard at the Pacific cod meeting and heard and deliberated on at the Alaska Peninsula / Chignik / Aleutian Islands Finfish meeting.*):

Allow the taking of Pacific cod as a bycatch under a Chignik Area L salmon permit only during the salmon seining operations.

Cod must not be the target species and no more than XX% would be allowed of each delivery.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Bycatch of Pacific cod during the salmon seining season by seiners. The resources is being wasted and has lost potential revenue.

**PROPOSED BY:** Al Anderson (HQ-F15-073)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 175 – 5 AAC 15.3XX. Chignik Pink Salmon Management Plan.** Create a pink salmon management plan in the Chignik Area, as follows:

5 AAC 15.3XX. CHIGNIK PINK SALMON MANAGEMENT PLAN. (a)The goal of this plan is to ensure that Chignik’s pink and chum salmon runs are managed to assure timely harvest opportunity and good product quality and to achieve the Department’s biological escapement goals.

(b) The Department shall manage the terminal waters of the 11 Chignik Management Area bays as listed from 24 June through 31 August for local pink and chum salmon. Fishing time will be one 72-hour period per week. However, the commissioner may extend or reduce weekly fishing time by bay or bay aggregate depending on pink and chum salmon run strength and escapement requirements and/or evidence of sockeye salmon targeting when waters outside the bay(s) in the same district are closed. Because in some bays fish tend to leave designated closed water areas on minus tides, the commissioner may close or limit fishing within part or all of those bays to protect escapement when minus tides are slated to occur.

1. Agripina Bay (Area 272-96) all waters west of a line from 57 05.20 N. lat., 156 26.16 W. long. to 57 07.10 N lat., 156 24.58 W. long.;
2. Chighinagak Bay (Area 272-90) all waters north of a line from 56 55.52 N. lat., 156 47.50 W. long. to 56 59.33 N lat., 156 38.01 W. long.;

3. Nakalilok Bay (Area 272-80) all waters north of a line from 56 55.15 N. lat., 156 56.07 W. long. to 56 54.54 N lat., 156 50.53 W. long.;
4. Yantarni Bay (Area 272-72) all waters north of a line from 56 48.26 N. lat., 157 08.25 W. long. to 56 49.17 N lat., 157 05.21 W. long.;
5. Amber Bay (Area 272-70) all waters northwest of a line from 56 46.37 N. lat., 157 24.35 W. long. to 56 48.11 N lat., 157 17.23 W. long.;
6. Kujulik Bay (Area 272-50) all waters west of a line from 56 33.26 N. lat., 157 49.19 W. long. to 56 36.30 N lat., 157 40.45 W. long.;
7. Kuiukta Bay (Area 273-80) all waters north of a line from 56 01.11 N. lat., 158 38.28 W. long. to 56 02.15 N lat., 158 35.13 W. long.;
8. Fishrack Bay (Area 273-72) all waters north of a line from 55 59.27 N. lat., 158 46.50 W. long. to 55 59.21 N lat., 158 43.37 W. long.;
9. Ivan Bay (Area 273-72) all waters north of a line from 55 58.00 N. lat., 158 53.08 W. long. to 55 59.14 N lat., 158 48.12 W. long.;
10. Humpback Bay (Area 275-50) all waters north of a line from 55 49.52 N. lat., 159 24.29 W. long. to 55 49.56 N lat., 159 22.12 W. long.; and north of a line from 55 50.13 N. lat., 159 21.36 W. long. to 55 51.24 N lat., 159 18.57 W. long.;
11. Ivanof Bay (Area 275-40) all waters north of a line from 55 47.36 N. lat., 159 30.05 W. long. to 55 47.42 N lat., 159 26.16 W. long.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** While sockeye salmon are well managed in the Chignik Management Area (CMA), other species could use major attention. In the CMA, excluding the Chignik River system, the Department identifies 161 pink salmon spawning streams and 137 with chum salmon runs. For a variety of reasons the pink and chum returns to these streams are typically well underutilized/underexploited. A recent analysis by Chignik Regional Aquaculture Association estimates that conservatively, an average of two million dollars is being lost to the commercial fishery annually because of escapement excesses. Needed is discrete management of Chignik pink and chum salmon. Firmly believed is that Chignik pink and chum salmon management plan can be implemented by weekly bay fisheries from late June through August without compromising conservation or impacting management of other species.

We recognize that the Department has the ability to provide timely fishing opportunity on Chignik's healthy pink and chum salmon stocks. However, having that ability and effecting such has been problematic. The current standard is that near full escapement must be documented via aerial surveys first before an intra-bay fishery could be called. Another is that it has become rather standard policy that the fleet and/or industry must request a specific bay or bay aggregate fishery for such to be "considered." The problem is that this does not work for a multitude of reasons. Weather, aircraft availability, and willingness to survey typically result in flights and subsequent opening occurring too late, if at all, to ensure reasonable marketability of ensuing harvests and prevention of excessive escapements. Expecting the fleet and/or industry to prospect the CMA and then "plead" for a fishery opening is ineffective and not proactive fisheries management.

Excessive pink and chum escapements obviously provide no benefit, and unfortunately, as previously identified, this has become the Chignik norm. Requested is proactive not reactive

pink and chum salmon management. In accordance, we respectfully ask that the Board authorize directed weekly pink and chum salmon fisheries in selected Chignik bays when our local stocks begin entering in late June. This is important for both Chignik fishermen and our only Chignik-based processor, Trident Seafoods. No longer should economic and biological losses occur because of Chignik pink and chum salmon fisheries opening too late, over escapement, and water-marked and dark fish being harvested and then ground-up at the processing plant because of no market value.

Some would profess that status quo pink and chum management works. It does not for the multitude of reasons detailed previously. Others would say that a standard weekly opening would likely cause escapement shortfalls. That too is short on foundation. If fish abundance is low, fleet effort will be minimal even with 3 day/week openings. Four days of non-fishing per week combined with closed waters areas should provide ample escapement. Certainly weekly fishing time can be reduced or even suspended and closed waters areas increased by emergency order if an escapement issue occurs.

**PROPOSED BY:** Chignik Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F15-035)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 176 – 5 AAC 09.360. Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan.** Amend Southeastern District Mainland commercial salmon set gillnet fishery season opening times and fishing periods, as follows:

Reestablish the Southeastern District Mainland (SEDM) set net fishery beginning June 6, commercial fishing periods will begin at 6:00 a.m. and run 88 hours until 10:00 p.m. three days later; commercial fishing will then close for 32 hours and reopen at 6:00 a.m. two days later;

a) notwithstanding of this paragraph, the final commercial fishing period will end at 10:00 p.m. July 25.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Modify the Southeastern District Mainland Management Plan to establish fishing periods for the set net fleet from June 6 through July 25.

Reestablish the SEDM set net fishery to be 88 hours fishing and 32 hours off continuously starting June 6 at 6:00 a.m. until June 9 at 10:00 p.m. for 88 hours open and 32 hours closed then opened again June 11 at 6:00 a.m. for another 88 hours and closed 32 hours continuously this schedule until July 25th managed under its own system, for the set netters. Due to political pressures from outside the area the set net fleet has been squeezed out of fishing on the mainland onto less productive sites on the islands overcrowding and reducing catches to a point where viability is uncertain.

While Chignik fishermen realized historic returns in 2011 despite continuous fishing in the SEDM by the set net fleet only we realized moderate returns with no obvious effect on Chignik. 2014 we weren't able to fish on the SEDM while Chignik continued to harvest great catches of salmon.



Because of the recent high catches of salmon in the Chignik area and the less impressive SEDM catches there should be new valuable information to be calculated into the SEDM management plan. Considering this proposal only asks for what has been in place before in this area, fishing time this area originally had, it should not be too hard to simplify the plan into its own SEDM Management Plan, minus the political distractions. This proposal would be very similar to the reinstatement of the June Shumagin Island fishery.

If nothing is changed the local set net fishermen will continue to be denied access to historical fishery areas, which is affecting the viability of set netting in the area and continues to overcrowd in the islands. The value of the permits will diminish in value along with the viability of the set net fishery as the islands have a few good producing sites to be shared by too many.

No one will suffer if this proposal is passed. After the 2011 season which Chignik area realized massive returns and to this day yearly continue to have great catches and returns, the SEDM didn't see any spectacular fish runs in the area proving beyond a doubt the management plan for SEDM is seriously compromised and needs a serious overhaul in order for the once profitable historic fishery to be returned to the set net fishermen.

Other solutions I considered was asking the board to put an L on my permit card right alongside Area M, if we are going to be managed under Area L regulations then we should be able to also set net in Area L. My immediate goal is to have the board seriously consider my proposal more than a cursory examination and to take into account the fact that SEDM set netters have had undo hardships put upon us, from previous board decisions and have in effect been squeezed out of a historic and traditional fishery, which has resulted in the devaluation of the permits, our business and sites that we have fished for well over 60 years. It is our desire as set netters to once again realize and obtain the SEDM fishery that has been historically and traditionally fished by ourselves, our parents and our grandparents well before statehood with an ultimate goal to sustain a living and pass down this fishery to our children and grandchildren, our future generation of fishermen.

**PROPOSED BY:** Jack R. Foster Jr and Amy M. Foster (EF-C15-054)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 177 – 5 AAC 09.360. Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan.** Revise the Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan to allow commercial salmon fishing with set gillnet gear concurrent to the Chignik Area commercial sockeye salmon fishery, as follows:

Conduct concurrent fishing periods between Area L (Chignik) and Southeast District Mainland (SEDM).

- a) the elimination of the harvest of 300,000 red salmon in the Chignik area before set net fishermen in the SEDM can harvest salmon;
- b) to fish concurrently while Area L (Chignik) fishermen are fishing Area M set net fishermen are fishing in the SEDM area;

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The SEDM Salmon Management Plan guidelines are currently being based on a fictitious assumption that 20% of the fish caught in the SEDM are local stocks, while the other 80% are Chignik bound. This 80% figure needs to be eliminated from the SEDM Management Plan. SEDM set net fishermen are only allowed to harvest 7.6% of what Chignik fishermen harvest. Before any fishermen in the SEDM can harvest any fish Chignik fishermen have to harvest a minimum of 300,000 red salmon before we can begin to put our nets in the water and harvest our local stock of red salmon.

We rarely catch or come close to catching the 7.6 allocation, which is a low number for a historical fishery. We seldom fish on the SEDM because of the restrictions set forth upon the fishery. This allocation needs to be eliminated. 2014 fishermen in the SEDM weren;t allowed to harvest any salmon in the SEDM area and are being denied access to their historical fishery which is affecting the viability of set netting in the area. The harvest of 300,000 red salmon in the Chignik area before set netters on the SEDM can harvest salmon needs to be eliminated and done away with.

When Chignik area fishes, we as set netters would like to fish at the same time on SEDM District.

**PROPOSED BY:** Jack Foster Jr. & Amy M. Foster (EF-C15-070)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 178 – 5 AAC 09.360. Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan.** In the Southeastern District Mainland establish weekly fishing through July 10 for set gillnet gear and from July 11 through July 25 establish 48 hour open fishing periods and closures for set gillnet and purse seine gear, as follows:

Modify the Southeastern District Mainland (SEDM) Management Plan to establish weekly fishing periods from June 10 through July 10 for set gillnet gear and from July 11 through July 25 establish 48 hour openings followed by 48 hour closures for both set gillnet and seine gear.

From June 10 through July 10 the SEDM will be open for set gillnets four days followed by three days closed per week. From July 11 through July 25 will be open 48 hours followed by 48 hour closures for set gillnet and seine gear.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Lost fishing opportunities in the SEDM of Area M.

**PROPOSED BY:** John A. Foster (EF-C15-081)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 179 – 5 AAC 09.360. Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan.** Amend the Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan to establish that 40 percent of the sockeye salmon taken in the East Stepovak, Stepovak Flats, Southwest Stepovak, Balboa Bay, and Beaver Bay sections are considered to be of Chignik River origin, as follows:

5 AAC 09.360(f) is amended to read:

...

(f) The estimate of sockeye salmon destined for the Chignik River has been determined to be **40%** [80%] of the sockeye salmon harvested in the East Stepovak, Stepovak Flats, Southwest Stepovak, Balboa Bay, and Beaver Bay Sections, and before July 1 in the Northwest Stepovak Sections.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The Genetic Stock Assessment for the SEDM indicated the actual percentage of Chignik bound salmon caught in the SEDM is lower than 80%.

**PROPOSED BY:** John A. Foster (EF-C15-083)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 180 – 5 AAC 09.360. Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan.** Require all salmon harvested in the Southeastern District Mainland fishery to be landed within the Southeastern District, as follows:

All salmon harvested in the Southeastern District Mainland through July 25 must be landed in the Southeastern District Mainland. No vessel that has landed salmon under the Southeastern District Mainland may have salmon on board when more than one mile outside the Southeastern District Mainland with the following exceptions: (1) a vessel that has landed salmon in the Southeastern District Mainland may have on board up to 50 salmon for personal use, if the salmon have been headed and gutted; (2) a boat may transport salmon landed in the Southeastern District Mainland, not covered under exception (1) above, beyond the Southeastern District Mainland provided a fish ticket is completed in accordance with AS 16.05.671 provisions and before exiting the Southeastern District Mainland. The commissioner may waive the requirements of this section when necessary.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** An incentive to underreport sockeye salmon harvested in the Southeastern District Mainland fishery exists. With RSW standard equipment in the seine fleet, extra value paid for dock deliveries in Sand Point, knowledge that the SEDM fishery is regulated on the number of fish harvested, and concurrent fisheries taking place not limited by an allocation therein lies opportunity and an enticement to misreport.

The importance of accurate accounting of sockeye salmon harvested under the Southeastern District Mainland Management Plan is clear. The Southeastern District Mainland fishery is linked to the Chignik and the Cape Igyak fisheries. All three work under a joint allocation scheme, and therefore it is important that no one area or fishery take the liberty of not completely reporting harvest numbers. There is also importance in making certain that stock assignments are

as accurate and precise as possible for the purpose of run reconstruction which serves for forecasting and spawner–recruit analysis. Other advantages exist too. Tightening catch reporting standards in the Southeastern District Mainland is consistent with the Sustainable Salmon Fisheries Policy for the State of Alaska: 5 AAC 39.222, Section 3 *salmon management* (i)“*management should ..... incorporate procedures to assure effective monitoring, compliance, control, and enforcement.*”

In accordance, the Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan should be amended to provide a landing requirement on the salmon harvested in that fishery. While not expected, at times tender services in the SEDM may not always be available or may be inconvenient. Further, many seiners may prefer a Sand Point delivery because of the price incentive for a dock delivery. It is therefore reasonable that a landing requirement regulation provide a means for legal deliveries to be made outside SEDM waters. Such can be accomplished by AS 16.05.671 *Transportation and sale of certain fish by an agent of the fisherman who caught the fish*. Under this statute a fisherman could easily obtain blank fish tickets to transport SEDM harvested salmon outside the area including Sand Point.

**PROPOSED BY:** Chignik Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F15-036)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 181 – 5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan.** Repeal the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan, as follows:

5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Shumagin June Salmon Management Plan is amended to read:

Repealed

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Close commercial salmon intercept fishery, for conservation of Yukon Kuskokwim salmon.

AS 16.05.251 Regulations of the Board of Fisheries (a)(2).

**PROPOSED BY:** Jesse Foster (EF-C15-030)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 182 – 5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan.** Modify the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan to shift the opening date for the drift gillnet fishery to coincide with the set gillnet fishery opening date, as follows:

5 AAC 09.365(d) In the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands fisheries, the commissioner may establish, by emergency order, commercial fishing periods as follows:

(1) for set gillnet **and drift gillnet** gear, ...

(2) for seine [AND DRIFT GILLNET] gear, ...

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan establishes one fishing schedule for set gillnets and another for drift gillnets and purse seines. Set gillnets begin their fishing schedule on June 7 and drift gillnets and seines begin on June 10. The plan should be amended so that drift gillnets are on the same schedule as set gillnets. This will help reduce competition between drift gillnets and purse seines.

**PROPOSED BY:** Concerned Area M Fishermen (EF-C15-044)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 183 – 5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan.** Modify the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan to stagger opening days for the drift and purse seine fisheries, as follows:

5 AAC 09.365 is amended to read:

...

(d)

(2)

(A) Beginning June 9 drift gillnet gear commercial fishing periods will begin at 6:00 a.m. and run 88 hours until 10:00 p.m. Three days later, commercial fishing will then close for 32 hours and reopen 6:00 a.m. two days later. The final June fishing period for drift gillnetting in June will be June 27 at 10:00 p.m.

(B) Beginning June 10th opening for the seine fleet will begin at 6:00 a.m. and run 88 hours until 10:00 p.m. Three days later, commercial fishing for the seine fleet will close for 32 hours and reopen at 6:00 a.m. Two days later. The final fishing period will end at 10:00 p.m. on June 28th for the seine fleet.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** During the June South Unimak and Shumigan Islands Fishery, stagger the openings for the seine and drift gillnet fleets. Staggering the opening date by one day, for the seine and drift fleets would give at least one day per week without gear conflicts between the drift and seine fleets. The scheduled amount of days would remain the same; the opening day would just change.

**PROPOSED BY:** Sand Point Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-C15-087)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 184 – 5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan.** Repeal the current South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan and readopt the management plan in place during 2003-2004, as follows:

Revert to the regulation found in Register 166 of the Alaska Fish and Game Laws and Regulations 2003-2004 for 5 AAC 09.365 South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Fishing on stocks of concern when the harvest of discrete stocks are unknown.

**PROPOSED BY:** Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F15-080)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 185 – 5 AAC 09.200. Description of districts and sections; and 5 AAC 09.XXX Dolgoi Island Section Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.** Establish a Dolgoi Island Section and Dolgoi Island Section Management Plan, as follows:

5 AAC 09.XXX. Dolgoi Island Area Management Plan (a) In years when a harvestable surplus beyond escapement goals for the first and second runs of Chignik sockeye salmon is expected to be more than 600,000 fish and the department determines the runs are as strong as expected, the department shall manage the Dolgoi Island Area fishery through July 25 to where fishing in the Dolgoi Island Area (stat areas: 283-15 thru 283-26 and 284-36 thru 284-42) will close when fish ticket records first tabulate to more than a 120,000 sockeye harvest except that after July 9 Sections 283-23 and 283-25 may open for the harvest of local-stocks irrespective of the 120,000 sockeye restriction. Excluded are all designed terminal stock harvest areas as defined in regulation.

(b) In years when a harvestable surplus beyond escapement goals for the first and second runs of Chignik sockeye salmon is expected to be less than 600,000 there will be no commercial salmon fishery allowed in the Dolgoi Island Area until a harvest of 300,000 sockeye salmon in the Chignik Area is achieved.

After July 8, after at least 300,000 sockeye salmon have been harvested in the Chignik Management Area, and provided escapement goals are being met, the department shall manage the Dolgoi Island Area fishery through July 25 to where fishing will close when fish ticket records first tabulate to more than a 120,000 sockeye harvest except that after July 9 Sections 283-23 and 283-25 may open for the harvest of local-stocks irrespective of the 120,000 sockeye restriction and the Chignik Area minimum sockeye harvest requirements. Excluded are all designed terminal stock harvest areas as defined in regulation.

(c) In years when a harvestable surplus beyond escapement goals for the first and second runs of Chignik River sockeye salmon is expected to be at least 600,000 and the first nm fails to develop as predicted and it is determined that a total sockeye salmon harvest in the Chignik Area of 600,000 may not be achieved by July 25, commercial salmon fishing in the Dolgoi Island Area (stat. areas: 283-15 thru 283-26 and 284-36 thru 284-42) will be curtailed in order to allow a minimum harvest in the Chignik Area of at least 300,000 sockeye salmon. After July 8, after at least 300,000 sockeye salmon have been harvested in the Chignik Area, and provided escapement goals are being met, the department shall manage the Dolgoi Island Area fishery through July 25 so that the number of sockeye salmon harvested in the Chignik Area will be at least 600,000. Additionally, when fish ticket records through July 25 first tabulate to more than a 120,000 sockeye harvest the Dolgoi Island Area will close to commercial fishing except that after July 9 Sections 283-23 and 283-25 may open for the harvest of local-stocks irrespective of the 120,000 sockeye restriction and the Chignik Area minimum sockeye harvest requirements. Excluded are all designed terminal stock harvest areas as defined in regulation.

(d) All salmon harvested under the Dolgoi Island Area Salmon Management Plan must be landed in the Dolgoi Island Area (stat areas: 283-15 thru 283-26 and 284-36 thru 284-42). No

vessel that has landed salmon under the Dolgoi Island Area Management Plan may have salmon on board when more than one mile outside the Dolgoi Island Area with the following exceptions:

(1) a vessel that has landed salmon under the Dolgoi Island Area Salmon Management Plan may have on board up to 50 salmon for personal use, if the salmon have been headed and gutted; (2) a boat may transport salmon landed in the Dolgoi Island Area, not covered under exception (1) above, beyond the Dolgoi Island Area provided a fish ticket is completed in accordance with AS 16.05.671 provisions and before exiting the Dolgoi Island Area.

After July 9, Sections 283-23 and 283-25 are excluded from all landing requirements as defined in this section (d). The commissioner may waive the requirements of this section when necessary.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Amend the current management plan covering the Dolgoi Island Area (stat areas: 283-15 thru 283-26 and 284-36 thru 284-42) to provide fishing opportunity on local pink and chum salmon stocks while ensuring that the area is regulated to limit excessive pre July 26<sup>th</sup>, harvest of non-local fish, namely on Chignik bound sockeye salmon.

The Dolgoi Island Area supports a major June and post-June sockeye salmon interception fishery based on the three year WASSIP study (2006–08). Primarily intercepted are Chignik, East of Wassip (Kodiak/U. Cook Inlet), and Bristol Bay (BB) sockeye salmon. During the June fishery Chignik sockeye average 43% of the catch followed by East of Wassip sockeye at 27% and BB at 25%. In Post June, the catch is dominated by the Chignik sockeye at 51% and East of Wassip sockeye at 43%. South Peninsula sockeye stocks average less than 1% of the June and post June Dolgoi Island harvests.

Through July 25 the Dolgoi Island Area operates as targeted fishery on non-local sockeye salmon and, in many years, has had a major impact on Chignik-bound sockeye salmon. In the WASSIP years (2006- 08) the Dolgoi sockeye catch averaged 20% of the terminal harvest in the Chignik Area. In 2008, the Dolgoi Island Area fishery was open through July 25 when both the Igvak and SEDM fisheries were entirely shut down due to weak Chignik runs. 40% of the 2008 Dolgoi catch through July 25 in 2008 was Chignik-bound sockeye salmon.

A management plan is needed on Dolgoi Island Area fishery through July 25 that provides a reasonable harvest limit and accountability on the sockeye salmon catch. Such is justified because it is the only interception fishery where the dominant stock is Chignik-bound sockeye salmon that does not operate under a plan that recognizes annual variations in the strength of the two Chignik sockeye runs, Area L through July 25 harvest preferences, and the Igvak and Southeast Mainland District allocations.

Specifically we are calling for the Board of Fisheries to adopt a June through July 25 plan that sets an upper harvest limit on the Dolgoi Island Area fishery and a requirement that the fishery be managed to ensure a minimum harvest level in the Chignik Management Area as similarly

provided under the Cape Igvak and Southeastern District plans, but does not compromise terminal fishing on local pink and chum salmon. Lastly for accountability purposes, we ask that the BOF place a modest landing requirement on the Dolgoi Island Area through July 25.

**PROPOSED BY:** John Jones- Agent for United Chignik Salmon Fishermen (HQ-F15-001)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 186 – 5 AAC 09.200. Description of districts and sections; and 5 AAC 09.XXX Dolgoi Island Section June Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.** Establish a Dolgoi Island Section and Dolgoi Island Section June Management Plan, as follows:

**(1) Dolgoi Island Area June Management** (a) In years when a harvestable surplus beyond escapement goals for the first and second runs of Chignik Rivers system sockeye salmon is expected to be more than 600,000 fish and the early run develops to where in the Chignik Area at least 300,000 early run sockeye salmon are expected to be available for harvest and surplus to escapement goals, the commissioner may establish commercial fishing periods in the Dolgoi Island Area (stat. areas: 283-15 thru 283-26 and 284-36 thru 284-42) as follows:

(1) beginning on June 7 commercial fishing periods will begin at 6:00 a.m. and run 66 hours until midnight two days later and then close for 54 hours and reopen at 6:00 a.m. three days later;

(2) notwithstanding (1) of this paragraph, the final commercial fishing period will end at midnight on June 27.

(b) In years when a harvestable surplus beyond escapement goals for the first and second runs of Chignik River sockeye salmon is expected to be less than 600,000, no June commercial salmon fishing shall occur in the Dolgoi Island Area until a harvest of 300,000 sockeye salmon in the Chignik Area is achieved. If the 300,000 has been achieved the commissioner may establish commercial fishing periods in the Dolgoi Island Area as follows:

(1) beginning on June 7 commercial fishing periods will begin at 6:00 a.m. and run 66 hours until midnight two days later and then close for 54 hours and reopen at 6:00 a.m. three days later;

(2) notwithstanding (1) of this paragraph, the final commercial fishing period will end at midnight on June 27.

(c) All terminal harvest areas as specified in regulation are excluded from (a) and (b) sections.

**(2) Dolgoi Island Area July 6-25 Management** (a) In years when a harvestable surplus beyond escapement goals for the first and second runs of Chignik River sockeye salmon is expected to be less than 600,000 there will be no commercial salmon fishing in the Dolgoi Island Area (stat. areas: 283-15 thru 283-26 and 284-36 thru 284-42) until a harvest of 300,000 sockeye salmon in the Chignik Area, as described in 5 AAC 15.100, is achieved. After July 8, after at least 300,000 sockeye salmon have been harvested in the Chignik Area, and provided escapement goals are being met, the department shall manage the Dolgoi Island Area fishery through July 25 so the number of sockeye salmon harvested in the Chignik Area will be at least 600,000. Subject to the above, the commissioner may establish, by emergency order, commercial fishing periods as follows:



(1) the first fishing period will begin at 6:00 a.m. and run 25 hours until 7:00 a.m. the following day; commercial fishing will then close for 71 hours and re-open under (2) of this subsection;

(2) following the closure under (1) of this section, commercial fishing periods will begin at 6:00 a.m. and run for 27 hours until 9:00 a.m. of the following day; commercial fishing will then close for 69 hours and re-open at 6:00 a.m. three days later.

(b) In years when a harvestable surplus beyond escapement goals for the first and second runs of Chignik River sockeye salmon is expected to be at least 600,000 commercial salmon in the Chignik Area and the department determines the runs are as strong as expected, the commissioner may establish, by emergency order, commercial fishing periods in the Dolgoi Island Area (stat. areas: 283-15 thru 283-26 and 284-36 thru 284-42) as follows:

(1) the first fishing period will begin at 6:00 a.m. and run 25 hours until 7:00 a.m. the following day; commercial fishing will then close for 71 hours and then reopen under (2) of this subsection;

(2) following the closure under (1) of this section, commercial fishing periods will begin at 6:00 a.m. and run for 27 hours until at 9:00 a.m. of the following day; commercial fishing will then close for 69 hours and re-open at 6:00 a.m. three days later.

(c) In years when a harvestable surplus beyond escapement goals for the first and second runs of Chignik River sockeye salmon is expected to be at least 600,000 and the first run fails to develop as predicted and it is determined that a total sockeye salmon harvest in the Chignik Area of 600,000 may not be achieved by July 25, commercial salmon fishing in the Dolgoi Island Area (stat. areas: 283-15 thru 283-26 and 284-36 thru 284-42) will be curtailed in order to allow a minimum harvest in the Chignik Area of at least 300,000 sockeye salmon. After July 8, after at least 300,000 sockeye salmon have been harvested in the Chignik Area, and provided escapement goals are being met, the department shall manage the Dolgoi Island Area fishery through July 25 so the number of sockeye salmon harvested in the Chignik Area will be at least 600,000. Subject to the above, the commissioner may establish, by emergency order, commercial fishing periods as follows:

(1) the first fishing period will begin at 6:00 a.m. and run 25 hours until 7:00 a.m. the following day; commercial fishing will then close for 71 hours and then reopen under (2) of this subsection;

(2) following the closure under (1) of this section, commercial fishing periods will begin at 6:00 a.m. and run for 27 hours until at 9:00 a.m. of the following day; commercial fishing will then close for 69 hours and re-open at 6:00 a.m. three days later.

(d) All terminal harvest areas as specified in regulation are excluded from (a), (b), and (c) sections.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The Dolgoi Island Area supports a major June and post-June sockeye salmon interception fishery based on the three year WASSIP study (2006-08). Primarily intercepted are Chignik, East of Wassip (Kodiak/U. Cook Inlet), and Bristol Bay (BB) sockeye salmon. During the June fishery Chignik sockeye average 43% of the catch followed by East of WASSIP sockeye at 27% and BB at 25%. In Post June, the catch is dominated by Chignik sockeye at 51% and East of WASSIP sockeye at 43%. South Peninsula sockeye stocks average less than 1% of the June and post June Dolgoi Island catch.

The pre July 26<sup>th</sup> Dolgoi Island Area fishery is by no means insignificant. In the WASSIP years (2006-08) the sockeye catch averaged 20% of the terminal harvest in the Chignik Management Area. Further evidence is that the fishery operated in 2008, a year when both Igvak and SEDM fisheries were closed (June 1 through July 25) due to weak Chignik runs. Per the WASSIP study an estimated 40% of the pre-July 26<sup>th</sup> Dolgoi catch was Chignik bound sockeye salmon in that year. In 2014 while the SEDM and Igvak fisheries were closed due to failure of the Chignik early run and a weak Chignik late run, the Dolgoi Island Area was opened and a total of 280,000 sockeye salmon were harvested through July 25 of which more than 136,000 are estimated to be Chignik sockeye salmon. South Peninsula sockeye barely contributed at less than 3,000 fish.

A management plan for the Dolgoi Island Area that addresses non-local interception of sockeye salmon which comprise an estimated 99+ % of the catch and is dominated by Chignik-bound fish is warranted. A reasonable plan would be a modest reduction in fishing time starting in June and continuing through July 25, coupled with a limit on the fishery whenever Chignik sockeye numbers are weak to where a Dolgoi Island Area harvest would impact the BOF-assigned harvest threshold for Area L and/or cause Chignik escapement shortfalls. Such is well justified. The Dolgoi Island Area is the only area where in June and July the dominant stock is Chignik bound sockeye salmon that does not operate under a plan that recognizes annual variations in the strength of the two Chignik sockeye runs, Area L pre July 26<sup>th</sup> harvest preferences, and the Igvak and Southeast Mainland District allocations.

There is no justification to limit or reduce harvest opportunity on any local South Peninsula stocks including pink and chum salmon, and therefore no change in the terminal harvest areas or management thereof should occur nor is proposed.

**PROPOSED BY:** Chignik Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F15-033)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 187 – 5 AAC 09.366. Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula.** Modify the Post-June Salmon Management Plan for South Alaska Peninsula to provide the department authority to make openings for specific gear groups, as follows:

The Department of Fish and Game will have the authority to make openings for specific gear groups during the post June Management in Area M.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Missed fishing opportunities for the set gillnet fleet while local managers wait for full escapement levels in Area M to arrive.

**PROPOSED BY:** John A. Foster (EF-C15-090)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 188 – 5 AAC 12.320. Weekly fishing periods.** Establish open commercial salmon fishing periods in the Unalaska District that coincide with the last two open fishing periods in July in the Shumagin Islands Section, as follows:

5 AAC 12.320 is amended to read:

The Unalaska District will be opened for two 22-hour fishing periods. The first period begins on July 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 a.m. and remains open until July 27 at 6:00 p.m. The second period begins on July 30 at 6:00 a.m. and remains open until July 31 at 6:00 p.m.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** We would like the board to address the issue that evaluating pink salmon run strength to the Unalaska District solely by use of aircraft surveys, originating from the Sand Point Alaska Department of Fish and Game office, is not and should not be the only tool used to provide ADF&G with adequate information in which to open or not open the Unalaska District to commercial pink salmon fishing. Commercial salmon openings are another tool that can be used by ADF&G to judge run strength and can be used to good effect; especially in the far flung Unalaska District.

In 2013, ADF&G biologists made only one aerial survey to the Unalaska District in mid-July. For the rest of July and August, weather conditions between Sand Point and the Unalaska District did not allow ADF&G biologists the chance to fly a survey and therefore the entire fishing district remained closed to pink salmon fishing. Allowing minimal fishing time in the Unalaska during late July is another tool ADF&G could use to evaluate run strength and avoids the problem of flying aerial salmon surveys in notoriously poor weather fishing districts.

In order to provide the Alaska Department of Fish and Game biologist with early run strength information, other than that collected by sporadic or nonexistent aerial surveys, we recommend that commercial fishing in the Unalaska District should be opened to coincide with the last two July openings in the Shumagin Island Section.

These two openings have two advantages. One, they are scheduled far enough into July to coincide with the start of the Unalaska pink salmon run. Two, these late July openings are simultaneous with the two last week Shumagin Island Section openings and help spread fishing effort out and thus eliminating a mad rush to the Unalaska District.

**PROPOSED BY:** Mike Kurtz and John Mitchell (HQ-F15-088)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 189 – 5 AAC 09.332. Seine specifications and operations.** Allow for dual permit vessels and increased gear limits for dual permit vessels in the Alaska Peninsula Area commercial salmon purse seine fishery, as follows:

The maximum seine length is 250 fathoms, or 300 fathoms with a "lock 2" permit. Prior to the fishing season an individual with two permits locked together must register with ADF&G their intent to fish that season with a "lock 2" permit.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Too many latent permits being added to the Area M salmon fishery.

Allow seine salmon permit holders to operate additional gear under a dual permit lock together.

What we would like to call a "lock 2". Excessive activation of latent permits will result in too many fishing operations in the South Peninsula area to sustain reasonable livelihoods for the historic and current participants. In the past 10 years, an average of 49% of the available permits have been used in the fishery. We are asking for 20% gear increase in exchange for 100% of permit usage. With added permits to the current fishery we would be harmed by processor limits and loss in revenue to both the state and local economy tax base. Once the permits are locked together they cannot become unlocked or sold individually. Area M is currently in a rebuilding phase for salmon fishing. Our returns have been poor at best. This would also give relief to management, keeping track of less catcher vessels in the short seasons we have would be beneficial for rebuilding salmon stocks.

If nothing is done, more fishing operations will continue to be added to the current level and our escapement goals will continue to be low in local streams.

**PROPOSED BY:** Ray Koso and Don McCallum (EF-C15-093)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 190 – 5 AAC 09.332. Seine specifications and operations.** Change purse seine depth measurement standard from number of meshes deep to an equivalent depth measurement in feet and inches, as follows:

Prefer the department regulation to describe the seine depth in equivalent terms using feet and inches.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Current regulation describes the allowable depth of a purse seine for the South Alaska Peninsula salmon fishery as 350 each 3.5 inch meshes plus 25 each seven inch meshes. Fishermen who recently purchased nets that were built with Indian web have experienced shrinkage that traditional American web does not exhibit. These fishermen are not allowed to modify their nets to equal depths of other fishermen's nets by simply adding a strip of web, because the seine depth regulation is based on number of meshes. This regulation assumes all nets will retain same hanging depths over time, thereby disadvantaging fisherman who have purchased these new Indian web nets.

**PROPOSED BY:** King Cove Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F15-095)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 191 – 5 AAC 09.331. Gillnet specifications and operations.** Repeal minimum mesh size standards for drift gillnet gear, as follows:

5 AAC 09.331(a)(2) is amended to read:

(2) a drift gillnet has no minimum mesh size.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Driftnet mesh size. There is no minimum mesh size in any of the Area M Fisheries except in the post-June South Peninsula fishery in the Unimak District and a western portion of the SW District. This area is fished by

the entire fleet in June, without mesh size limits, which means that the drift gillnetters who fish in June have to purchase an additional net for Post-June. This imposes a substantial financial burden on drift netters, particularly local drifters that prefer fishing the South Peninsula over the North Peninsula in July. We also feel that it is a housekeeping proposal that would allow a more orderly driftnet fishery.

**PROPOSED BY:** King Cove Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F15-096)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 192 – 5 AAC 09.330. Gear.** Allow commercial fishing for salmon with set gillnets in the area between Popof Head and Dark Cliffs any time the area is closed to commercial salmon fishing with purse seine gear, as follows:

5 AAC 09.330 is amended to read:

5 AAC 09.330

...

(f) ...

(1) Salmon may be taken only with purse seines and hand purse seines in the area between Popof Head and Dark Cliffs (Popof Head) from June 1 through August 31 however, salmon may be taken by set gillnet gear during periods when the seine fishery is closed, and if by emergency order due to the presence of immature salmon.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** This proposal addresses that salmon may be taken only with purse seine and hand purse seine in the area between Popof Head and Dark Cliffs (Popof Head) from June 1 through August 31. However, salmon may be taken by set gillnet gear during periods when the seine fishery is closed by emergency order due to the presence of immature salmon. I would like to change the regulation so that the set net gear would be allowed to fish this area (Popof Head) when the seine fleet is not there and are closed to fishing this area whether it be due to immature salmon or that it is closed to seining while set net is open in the Shumigin Island section. If the regulation is not changed the set net fleet is losing an opportunity to utilize a portion of this open area.

**PROPOSED BY:** Jim Smith (EF-C15-097)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 193 – 5 AAC 09.301. Seaward boundary of districts.** Change the Southwestern and Unimak District seaward boundary, as follows:

5 AAC 09.301 is amended to read:

**5 AAC 09.301. Seaward boundary of districts.** For the purpose of managing the historical salmon net fishery in the vicinity of False Pass and Unimak Bight, the outer boundary of the Southwestern and Unimak Districts is a line drawn along 54° 22.5'N. lat. from 163° 01.2'W. long. near the western end of Sanak Island to 164° 27.1' W. long., south of Cape Lutke on Unimak Island [THREE MILES SEAWARD FROM A LINE COMMENCING AT 54° 26.70'

N. LAT., 162° 53.00' W. LONG.] The seaward boundary of all other districts is a line three miles seaward of the baseline, as described in 5 AAC 39.975(13).

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The 2012 amendment to the Federal Salmon Fishery Management Plan (FMP) redefined the plan's boundaries to exclude from its West Area three historical net fisheries managed by the State of Alaska, including the Alaska Peninsula fishery (50 C.F.R. 679.2, Definition of Salmon Management Area, Subsection (2)(iii)). The current seaward boundary of the state's Southwestern and Unimak Districts does not match up with the shoreward boundary of the federal FMP, leaving a gap of unregulated waters between the state and federal management areas. The state boundary should be revised so it is coterminous with the federal line, to avoid confusion and potential enforcement problems from having two different management boundaries.

**PROPOSED BY:** Concerned Area M Fishermen (EF-C15-043)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 194 – 5 AAC 28.650. Closed waters in the Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands Area.** Close all waters of Unalaska Bay to commercial fishing for groundfish with pelagic trawl gear, as follows (*This proposal will be heard at the Alaska Peninsula / Chignik / Aleutian Islands Finfish meeting, and be heard and deliberated on at the Statewide Finfish meeting*):

5 AAC 28.650. Closed waters in Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands Area

...

(b) The waters of Unalaska Bay are closed to groundfish fishing with pelagic trawl gear, [as follows:] **south of a line from Cape Kalekta at 54° 00.50' N. lat., 166° 22.50' W. long. to Cape Cheerful at 54° 01' N. lat., 166° 40' W. long.**

[(1) FROM JUNE 10 THROUGH AUGUST 31, SOUTH OF A LINE FROM CAPE KALEKTA AT 54°, 00.50' N. LAT., 166°, 22.50' W. LONG. TO CAPE CHEERFUL AT 54°, 01' N. LAT., 166°, 40' W. LONG.];]

[(2) BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 1 UNTIL THE CLOSURE OF THE PARALLEL BERING SEA WALLEYE POLLOCK 'B' SEASON, SOUTH OF A LINE FROM CAPE KALEKTA AT 54°, 00.50' N. LAT., 166°, 22.50' W. LONG. TO A POINT NEAR HOG ISLAND AT 53°, 55.42' N. LAT., 166°, 34.25' W. LONG. TO A POINT IN BROAD BAY AT 53°, 55.42' N. LAT., 166°, 38.80' W. LONG.; FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS PARAGRAPH, "PARALLEL BERING SEA WALLEYE POLLOCK 'B' SEASON" MEANS THE PARALLEL SEASON CONDUCTED FROM JUNE 10 THROUGH NOVEMBER 1]

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Since 2002 large-scale trawling in tiny Unalaska Bay has unacceptably impacted an area traditionally used by subsistence, sport, and smaller non-trawl commercial fishers and hunters. Trawlers have harvested approximately four million pounds annually of pollock from Unalaska Bay over the past ten plus years. The State of Alaska opens these waters to trawling from September 1 to November 1 as a parallel fishery to the eastern Bering Sea catcher vessel pollock fishery that is managed by NMFS. There is no cap on what amount of the B season pollock trawl quota can come out of Unalaska Bay and in 2004 nearly 12 million pounds was harvested. No research has

been done to understand the local pollock biomass, its abundance or what a sustainable harvest level may be. The huge trawl nets used to prosecute this fishery are putting excessive pressure on a sensitive area already fully utilized by local fishers and hunters. Based on observations made by local residents it appears fish and game are being scattered and or driven from the bay coincidentally as this trawl fishery is happening. It has become nearly impossible for local fishermen and hunters to feed their families and small commercial vessels are increasingly required to leave the safety of Unalaska Bay in order to make a living. The subsistence salmon, halibut, herring and crab fisheries and sea mammal hunting has been very poor in recent years and the local tanner crab fishery has remained closed since 2010. Most of the trawling occurs when other user groups are using the bay during the summer and fall dislocating the smaller boats out of the safety of the bay into the Bering Sea, endangering lives, in order to find fish and game and avoid gear conflicts (loss). Habitat destruction will occur where trawl gear touches the bottom. This proposal will allow fish and game to recover and return to areas closer to our community enabling us to be able to continue harvest and process our local resources. We considered limiting all commercial fishing vessels under 35 feet lengths, but so few of them bother fishing inside the bay and their impacts are not nearly that of the trawl vessels. Trawlers are large vessels that are built to handle the stormy weather of the Bering Sea. They did not historically fish in Unalaska Bay and restricting them from these waters would alleviate many problems.

**PROPOSED BY:** Unalaska Native Fisherman’s Association (EF-C15-128)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 195** – 5 AAC 28.640. Aleutian Islands District and Western District of the South Alaska Peninsula Area Sablefish Management Plan. Update logbook requirements for Aleutian Islands state-waters sablefish fishery, as follows:

5 AAC 28.640(g) is amended to read:

**(g) An operator of a vessel fishing for sablefish in the Aleutian Islands District and Western District of the South Alaskan Peninsula Area shall maintain an accurate logbook of all fishing operations for each type of gear used [EACH VESSEL OPERATOR SHALL OBTAIN AND COMPLETE A LOGBOOK PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT FOR ALL FISHING ACTIVITY IN THE WATERS OF ALASKA UNDER THIS SECTION. THE LOGBOOK MUST BE ON BOARD THE VESSEL AT ALL TIMES AND COPIES OF EACH LOGBOOK PAGE CORRESPONDING WITH AN ADF&G FISH TICKET FOR SABLEFISH MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT WITHIN SEVEN DAYS OF LANDING].**  
**The following requirements apply to a logbook under this subsection:**

**(1) a logbook must**

**(A) include the date, specific locations of harvest by latitude and longitude, type and number of gear, average depth, and hours fished for each set of gear;**

**(B) include, for the target species, the round weight of fish retained and discarded;**

**(C) be updated within 24 hours after midnight local time on the day of operation;**

**(D) be retained, with its original pages, for a period of two years by the owner or operator of the vessel;**

**(E) be kept on board the vessel while operating gear, during transits to or from a port of landing, and for 14 days after landing sablefish;**

**(F) be made available to a local representative of the department upon request;**

**(2) a copy of each logbook page described in this subsection corresponding with an ADF&G fish ticket must be submitted to the department within seven days of the landing;**

**(3) a person may not make a false entry in the logbook described in this section.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Existing sablefish fishery logbook regulations for the Aleutian Islands District of the Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands Area and Western District of the South Alaska Peninsula Area do not specify logbook entries must be true and accurate or logbook pages must be retained; this has caused enforcement difficulty. The proposed sablefish logbook requirements will improve the department's ability to accurately track fishery harvest.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F15-055)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 196 – 5 AAC 27.655. Dutch Harbor Food and Bait Herring Fishery Allocation Plan.** Change the date fishermen using purse seine gear may access the Dutch Harbor food and bait herring gillnet allocation from July 25 to July 20, as follows:

I would like the board to change the rollover date from July 25 to July 20. I suggest the board use the current language and just change the date from the 25 to the 20 of July. This would still give any one the opportunity to fish, but if there is no effort by the 20, the seiners could harvest the remaining quota.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** In 2001 the board allocated 7% of the Dutch Harbor food and bait herring quota to be harvested by gillnet only, and then increased that number in 2004 to 14%. The intent of this change from an all seine fishery was to give the small local Dutch Harbor fleet an opportunity to catch the herring. 2001 through 2005 there was effort and there were landings. Since 2005 there has been no effort or no landings by the gillnet fleet. The regulation now states that the uncaught gillnet quota does not roll over into the seine quota until the 25 of July. The fishery opens July 15. The seiners usually have their portion of the quota caught by the 20 of July and it does not make economic sense for the vessels, or the processors to wait until the 25 of July to catch the roll over gillnet quota. The result being in the last 10 years most of the gillnet portion of the quota has gone unharvested.

**PROPOSED BY:** Tom Evich (EF-C15-052)

\*\*\*\*\*



**PROPOSAL 197 – 5 AAC 01.410. Fishing seasons.** Clarify when commercial salmon fishing license holders may subsistence fish for salmon in the Alaska Peninsula Area, as follows:

5 AAC 01.410(a) is amended to read:

- (a) In the Alaska Peninsula Area, salmon may be taken at any time, except
  - (1) in those districts and sections open to commercial salmon fishing, **a commercial salmon fishing license holder may not subsistence fish for** salmon [MAY NOT BE TAKEN] during the 24 hours before and 12 hours following a commercial salmon fishing period; **a commercial salmon fishing license holder may subsistence fish for salmon during a commercial salmon fishing period;**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Current regulations restrict the general public from fishing during the 24 hours before and 12 hours following a commercial salmon fishing period. This restriction was likely intended to prevent the sale of subsistence salmon during commercial salmon fishing periods. Modification of this regulation would allow those members of the general public who do not possess a commercial salmon fishing license to subsistence fish for salmon during periods that commercial salmon fishing license holders are restricted. Additional language to this regulation will also provide clarity to commercial salmon fishing license holders as to when they may legally subsistence for salmon during commercial salmon fishing periods. Regulatory language from the Chignik Area (5 AAC 01.485) was used as precedence for the amended regulatory language provided.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F15-059)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 198 – 5 AAC 65.020. Bag limits, possession limits, annual limits, and size limits for Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Area; and 5 AAC 65.022. Special provisions for methods and means in the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Area.** Require non-retention of king salmon in the Sandy River, as follows:

Non-retention of sport caught king salmon in the Sandy River from origination to salt water, using only unbaited single-hook, artificial lure or artificial flies year round.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Retention of sport caught Chinook Salmon on the Sandy River. Increased sport fishing pressure and retention of unknown populations of Chinook salmon on the Sandy River could negatively impact the stock.

**PROPOSED BY:** Aleutian Pribilof Island Community Development Association & Nelson Lagoon Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F15-030)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 199 — 5 AAC 65.020. Bag limits, possession limits, annual limits, and size limits for Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Area.** Amend the freshwater bag limit provisions for salmon species other than king salmon, as follows:

5 AAC 65.020(a)(2) is amended to read:

(2) other salmon, **20 inches or greater in length**, 5 per day, **10** [5] in possession; **less than 20 inches in length, 10 per day; 10 in possession**.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** General regulations for bag and possession limits of any-sized salmon other than king salmon in the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Area (APAIA) are unnecessarily restrictive and inconsistent with general sport regulations in the adjacent Kodiak Remote Zone (Kodiak Area). Overall angler effort levels in APAIA are among the lowest in the state and currently there is no conservation concern due to sport fishing for stocks where general bag and possession limits apply. Most APAIA fishing locations are remotely located. Increasing the possession limit from 5 to 10 fish for salmon 20 inches or greater in length other than king salmon will allow anglers at remote locations to retain two bag limits prior to processing their catch. Establishing a freshwater bag limit of 10 salmon less than 20 inches in length will increase opportunity for anglers to harvest male ‘jack’ salmon, from both natural and enhanced populations of landlocked salmon. Increasing the possession limit to 10 salmon and establishing a bag limit of 10 fish less than 20 inches in length will also align general regulations for APAIA with those currently in place for the remainder of the Kodiak Area.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F15-044)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 200 — 5 AAC 65.051. Waters closed to sport fishing in the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Area.** Close Swanson Lagoon and its tributaries to sport fishing for sockeye salmon, as follows:

5 AAC 65.051(5) is amended to read:

(5) Swanson Lagoon and its tributaries are closed to sport fishing for **sockeye** salmon.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** In 2013, the Swanson Lagoon sockeye salmon run was designated a ‘Stock of Concern’ by the department and the Alaska Board of Fisheries under provisions of the *Policy for the Management of Sustainable Salmon Fisheries* (5 AAC 39.222.). Other salmon stocks present in the Swanson Lagoon drainage are currently considered sustainable by department. This proposal would limit the closure of the sport fishery to sockeye salmon only, and allow anglers to target other salmon species that may be present.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F15-045)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 201 – 5 AAC 65.020. Bag limits, possession limits, annual limits, and size limits for Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Area.** Reduce the possession limit for coho salmon in Illiuliuk Creek, as follows:

5 AAC 65.020(c) is amended to read:

(c) In the salt waters and all freshwater drainages of Unalaska Bay, [EXCLUDING THE ILLIULIUK RIVER DRAINAGE,] the bag and possession limit for salmon, other than king salmon, is five fish per day, five in possession, of which no more than two fish may be coho salmon and two fish may be sockeye salmon.

5 AAC 65.020(f) is repealed:

(f) **Repealed** / / [IN ILLIULIUK CREEK (ALSO KNOWN AS TOWN OR UNALASKA CREEK), DOWNSTREAM FROM ADF&G REGULATORY MARKERS LOCATED AT THE CHURCH HOLE, THE BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT FOR COHO SALMON IS TWO PER DAY, FOUR IN POSSESSION].

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** This proposal would align the regulations within the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutians Islands Area for Unalaska Bay salmon fisheries. The above amended provisions would clarify and standardize the other salmon bag and possession limits within the Unalaska Bay fresh and salt waters. All current regulations applicable within Unalaska Bay would remain in effect under this proposal except the possession limit for Illiuliuk Creek drainage coho salmon which would be reduced from 4 to 2 in possession.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F15-046)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**Alaska Board of Fisheries**  
**STATEWIDE FINFISH AND SUPPLEMENTAL ISSUES**  
**March 8–12, 2016**

**PROPOSAL INDEX**

**Following is a list of proposals that will be considered at the above meeting sorted by general topic. A board committee roadmap will be developed and distributed prior to the meeting.**

**PROPOSAL NUMBER (21 Proposals)    SUBJECT**

**Method and Means/Gear (1 proposal)**

202                      Prohibit the use of felt bottom boots in all waters, while fishing.

**Sport (6 proposals)**

***Special Harvest Area Management (1 proposal)***

203                      Expand emergency order authority to close sport fishing in special harvest areas if hatchery cost recovery goals may not be met.

***Methods and Means, Bag Limits (5 proposals)***

204                      Modify the definition of an artificial fly to include the use of a bare single hook.

205                      Clarify that a bead not attached to a hook is an attractor, and not a lure or fly.

206                      Revise definition of “closely attended” as it applies to coho salmon fishing.

207                      Allow a bang stick to be used to dispatch sport-caught fish.

208                      Establish bag limits by port of call.

**Commercial (14 proposals)**

***Forage Fish (3 proposals)***

209                      Designate Pacific herring as a forage fish.

210                      Prohibit directed fisheries on forage fish species, for the purpose of fish meal production.

211                      Prohibit the production of fish meal from whole forage fish.

***Identification of Gear (2 proposal) (This set of proposals will be heard at the Bristol Bay Finfish meeting, and heard and deliberated on at the Statewide Finfish meeting.)***

27                      Require that a CFEC permit holder's name displayed on a set gillnet site marking sign complies with the same character size marking requirements for permit numbers.

28                      Change the character size requirements for set gillnet marking signs.

***Salmon (1 proposal)***

212 Repeal or modify the requirement to designate a single salmon net registration area.

***Groundfish (7 proposals)***

213 Clarify possession and landing requirements for Pacific cod and walleye pollock.

214 Specify that bycatch in excess of the allowable amount will be surrendered to the state and donated to charity and establish fines for bycatch in excess of the allowable amount.

215 Establish a 58' overall length limit for vessels participating in South Alaska Peninsula parallel walleye pollock fishery using trawl gear.

194 Close all waters of Unalaska Bay to commercial fishing for groundfish with pelagic trawl gear. *(This proposal will be heard at the Alaska Peninsula / Chignik / Aleutian Islands Finfish meeting, and be heard and deliberated on at the Statewide Finfish meeting)*

216 Establish a state waters walleye pollock purse seine fishery in Southeast Alaska.

217 Establish fishing season for walleye pollock that does not conflict with salmon season.

218 Establish state-waters walleye pollock jig fishery management plans with guideline harvest levels deducted from total allowable catch (TAC) for the Eastern Gulf of Alaska, Prince William Sound, Cook Inlet, Kodiak, Chignik, South Alaska Peninsula and Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands.

***Herring (1 proposal)***

126-2014-2015 Establish a commercial open pound herring spawn on kelp fishery in Sitka Sound.

**BOARD OF FISHERIES  
STATEWIDE FINFISH AND SUPPLEMENTAL ISSUES  
MARCH 8-12, 2016**

**PROPOSAL 202 – 5 AAC 01.010. Methods, means, and general provisions; 5 AAC 39.105. Types of legal gear; 5 AAC 75.020. Sport fishing gear; 5 AAC 75.022. Freshwater sport fishing; and 5 AAC 77.010. Methods, means, and general restrictions.** Prohibit the use of felt bottom boots in all waters, while fishing, as follows:

To prevent the spread of diseases and foreign viruses, felt bottom boots are not permitted on Alaska streams or tidewater, anywhere at any time.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The State of Alaska should make the use of boots with felt soles illegal.

There is much confusion regarding this issue, so much so that they are still being sold. The general public does not know the laws about when or where these soles are legal. Eventually if they are available, they will find their way into the freshwater stream. Does the State of Alaska want to risk its fishery on such a risky option?

Let's just make it simple for everyone, let's make the felt bottoms illegal every day, everywhere at every location.

**PROPOSED BY:** Luke Nelson (EF-C15-013)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 203 – 5 AAC 75.003. Emergency order authority.** Expand emergency authority to close sport fishing in special harvest areas if hatchery cost recovery goals may not be met, as follows:

5 AAC 75.003 is amended to read:

**(5) The commissioner or an authorized designee may close a hatchery special harvest area, or a portion of a hatchery special harvest area, to sport fishing for hatchery produced fish by emergency order when**

**(A) the special harvest area is closed to commercial common property fishery harvest of hatchery-produced fish; and**

**(B) the total escapement of hatchery-produced fish through existing fisheries into the special harvest area is projected to be less than the hatchery escapement goal for that species, which includes broodstock, cost recovery, and any natural spawning requirements as listed in hatchery annual management plans that have been approved by the department; the intent of this subparagraph is to assure hatchery broodstock, cost-recovery, and natural spawning requirements are met.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** There are nonprofit hatchery programs throughout Alaska providing harvest opportunities for sport and commercial fisheries. To support these programs, hatcheries must have access to: 1) broodstock to supply

gametes (eggs and sperm) to perpetuate hatchery releases; and 2) the financial resources generated from cost recovery harvests to operate the hatchery facilities and associated programs. On occasion, a hatchery return after passing through common property fisheries into a hatchery special harvest area is insufficient to meet hatchery escapement goals (broodstock and cost recovery harvest) and also support sport and commercial harvests within the hatchery special harvest area. This proposal provides authority for Alaska Department of Fish and Game to close by emergency order a special harvest area or a portion of a special harvest area to sport fishing when commercial harvest within that special harvest area has been closed to achieve hatchery escapement goals. The proposal also recognizes natural spawning requirements. By ensuring natural spawning, hatchery broodstock, and cost recovery requirements are met, future harvest opportunities are maintained for all users.

**PROPOSED BY:** Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association, Douglas Island Pink and Chum, Inc., Kodiak Regional Aquaculture Association, Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation, Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association, and Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (EF-C15-067)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 204 – 5 AAC 75.995. Definitions.** Modify the definition of an artificial fly to include the use of a bare single hook, as follows:

5 AAC 75.995(a)(1) is amended to read:

(1) “artificial fly” means a fly that is constructed by common methods known as fly tying, including a dry fly, wet fly, and nymph, **or a bare single hook**, and that is free of bait as defined in (36) of this section; materials and chemicals designed and produced primarily to cause flies to float or sink may be used on artificial flies.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Current sport fishing regulations for waters where only artificial flies may be used are not clear regarding the use of bare hooks. This proposal would broaden the definition of an artificial fly to include a bare hook. This would clarify the regulation and allow it to be more easily understood by anglers and more easily enforced by law enforcement.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F15-047)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 205 – 5 AAC 75.020. Sport fishing gear.** Clarify that a bead not attached to a hook is an attractor, and not a lure or fly, as follows:

5 AAC 75.020(b) is amended to read:

(b) An attractor (bead), when used with a fly, lure, or bare hook, must be either fixed within two inches of the bare hook, fly, or lure, or be free sliding on the line or leader. For the purposes of this subsection, a bead not attached to the hook is an attractor **and may be used in waters where gear is limited to artificial lures or artificial flies** [, NOT A FLY].

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The allowable uses of a bead when sport fishing are defined in sport fishing regulations. The current regulations state that a bead not attached to a hook is an attractor and not a fly. This has been incorrectly interpreted that when a bead is fished and not attached to an artificial fly it is then a artificial lure. This has also caused confusion in waters where only artificial flies may be used, since some anglers do use a bead with a fly as permitted in regulation. The proposed addition clarifies the use of a bead with a artificial fly or a artificial lure, clarifies the regulation, and allows it to be more easily understood by all anglers.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F15-048)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 206 – 5 AAC 75.995 Definitions. (a)(40).** Revise definition of “closely attended” as it applies to coho salmon fishing, as follows:

Solution: I propose that fall fishing for coho’s "attentive" be changed as follows:

1. If a person is more than an arm’s length from their fishing rod, the rod must have an audible devise attached to it (i.e. bell).
2. The fisherman must be attentive to their rod and not more than seven (7) rod lengths from his or her pole while in a rod holder. (Most people can cover the distance of seven rod lengths in 5–7 seconds, which should be an allowable response time).
3. If a person is farther than 7 rod lengths from their fishing rod (i.e. going after a runaway child), a second person must be a designated observer to assist in rod attendance (attentiveness).

If this regulation is not changed: (I am sure that ADFG wants Alaskans to go fishing and does not want to regulate the fun and safety out of fall fishing.)

1. Citizens will continue to fish outside the regulation requirements. They are breaking the law. This also includes fisherman fishing from inside the cabins of their boats as well.
2. If the ranger does his job and cites all the Alaskans that are farther than an arm’s length from their fishing rod, there will be a lot of very unhappy citizens.
3. Families have a need to be warm while out in the Alaskan elements (i.e. by a fire, shelter), so this rule either encourages them to build a fire closer to the river (not in a designated safe fire pit), and/or risk the effects of cold exposure longer than they are able to safely endure.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** I was informed by a park ranger on the Kenai River in September that a person fishing must be attending to their rod within arm’s length when bank fishing. I was informed that I would be given a citation if I was not within arm’s length of my fishing pole in a rod holder on the bank. I am having a difficult time finding this rule in the regulations although I am sure that it is there and the ranger is right, and within his duty to cite all fisherman that are more than one arm’s length of their fishing rods. I took a tally of about 30 fishermen fishing for coho at a park on the Kenai a day after I was warned. The majority of the fishermen were sitting, standing, visiting up the bank from their rods. Of the thirty or so, I counted a half dozen within arm’s length of their rods, and those were baiting up or working with their poles for some other reason.



Fall is cold, often rainy, windy and below freezing temperatures. It is unreasonable to expect us Alaskan folks to not be able to stand by a fire, sit in a vehicle (or cabin of their boat) while they enjoy an outing fishing with friends and family.

This regulation should be changed so that a reasonable and prudent person can enjoy fishing without a ranger watching them to be sure they are no more than an arm's length from their fishing pole. This also applies to children.

**PROPOSED BY:** John Hoback (EF-C15-003)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 207 – 5 AAC 75.027. Use of explosives or toxicants.** Allow a bang stick to be used to dispatch sport-caught fish, as follows:

Options:

1. The use of a shaft tipped with an explosive charge, commonly known as a bang stick or power head is prohibited in all waters Fresh and Salt for the taking of fish. (Taking fish means to catch, not dispatch)
2. The use of a shaft tipped with an explosive charge, commonly known as a bang stick or power head is prohibited in all waters as a means of taking fish. (Again, taking fish means catch, not dispatch.)
3. The use of a shaft tipped with an explosive charge, commonly known as a bang stick or power head, may be used in the dispatching of a fish that was harvested in salt water on hook and line.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Adjust wording to delete (salt water) from the regulation in paragraph 2.

Bang sticks are a safe and humane method for dispatching halibut that are caught with hook and line. The use of a bang stick is also safer than other forms and methods of dispatching halibut due to the way they function.

**PROPOSED BY:** Jody Mason (EF-C15-061)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 208 – 5 AAC 75.010 Possession of sport-caught fish.** Establish bag limits by port of call, as follows:

1. One shall not retain any fish from a management area with a bag limit larger than that of Port of Call.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Limits for bag and possession should be from the port of call. One should not be able to retain fish from a management area with a bag limit larger than that of the port of call.

**PROPOSED BY:** Jody Mason (EF-C15-060)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 209 – 5 AAC 39.212. Forage Fish Management Plan.** Designate Pacific herring as a forage fish, as follows:

5 AAC 39.212. Forage Fish Management Plan is amended to read:

...

(f) For the purposes of this section, "forage fish" means the following species of fish:

...

**(10)Family Clupidae (Pacific herring).**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Herring (*Clupea pallasii*) fill the exact ecological niche described in the Forage Fish Management Plan. Herring feed on zoo- and phytoplankton and, in turn, are food for seabirds, salmon, and marine mammals. Herring, especially juvenile herring, are of particular importance to salmon and have been shown to constitute up to 62% of the diets of Chinook salmon (Canada Department of Oceans and Fisheries, 2013).

Ecologically, herring are indisputably forage fish. Pretending, by omission, that they are not is a scientific and legal absurdity. Herring are classified as forage fish by most government agencies, including the United States Geological Survey, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the U.S. federal government, and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (Alaska Research Fisheries Bulletin, 2002). Those agencies acknowledge herring to be critical to the Alaskan food web. In recognition of this, the fishing of herring in federal waters is prohibited and they cannot not be retained as bycatch (Magnuson Stevens Act, 1976).

By contrast, the State of Alaska does not classify herring as a forage fish. Adding herring to the Forage Fish Management Plan would not change or close existing fisheries, but it would bring the State of Alaska in line with scientific evidence, federal policy, practical experience, and official designation.

**PROPOSED BY:** Floyd Tomkins (EF-C15-069)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 210 – 5 AAC 39.212 Forage Fish Management Plan.** Prohibit directed fisheries on forage fish species, for the purpose of fish meal production, as follows:

5 AAC 39.212 is amended to read:

...

**(f) Directed forage fish fisheries on species listed or exempt from this plan, for the purpose of fish meal production, are prohibited.**

(g)[(f)] For the purposes of this section, "forage fish" means the following species of fish:

...

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Demand for fish meal in the last 10–15 years from expanding agriculture and aquaculture production has tripled prices of fish meal. This increase in demand has significant potential to lead to creation of direct fish meal

fisheries on Alaska's forage fish. Allowing these types of fisheries to be established would; (1) negatively affect Alaska salmon prices, other fisheries that depend on herring, sand lance and smelt as a prey species, and the ecosystem as a whole and (2) be contradictory to Alaska's position on farmed salmon.

**PROPOSED BY:** Sitka Tribe of Alaska (EF-C15-105)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 211 – 5 AAC 39.212. Forage Fish Management Plan.** Prohibit the production of fish meal from whole forage fish, as follows:

5 AAC 39.212. Forage Fish Management Plan is amended to read:

...  
**(f) The production of fish meal from whole forage fish, listed or exempt from this plan, is prohibited.**

**(g)[(f)]** For the purposes of this section, "forage fish" means the following species of fish:

...  
**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Demand for fish meal in the last 10–15 years from expanding agriculture and aquaculture production has tripled prices of fish meal. This increase in demand has significant potential to lead to creation of direct fish meal fisheries on Alaska's forage fish. Allowing these types of fisheries to be established would; (1) negatively affect Alaska salmon prices, other fisheries that depend on herring, sand lance and smelt as a prey species, and the ecosystem as a whole and (2) be contradictory to Alaska's position on farmed salmon.

**PROPOSED BY:** Sitka Tribe of Alaska (EF-C15-106)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 27 – 5 AAC 39.280. Identification of stationary fishing gear.** Require that a CFEC permit holder's name displayed on a set gillnet site marking sign complies with the same character size marking requirements for permit numbers, as follows (*This proposal will be heard at the Bristol Bay Finfish meeting, and heard and deliberated on at the Statewide Finfish meeting.*):

Setnet markings signs shall include the name of the permit holder in letters at least 6" high and 1" wide, the same as the vessel name for drift vessels. The permit holder may include a phone number for contact.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Currently drift boats and set net skiffs are required to have their Alaska Department of Fish and Game numbers displayed with 12" letters, drift vessels are required to have the vessel name in 6" letters. Normally a vessel or skiff can be contacted by physically approaching or by VHF using the vessel name. The regulations require the name of the fishermen operating a set gillnet to display the name of the fisherman operating it but there are no requirements for the size of the display of the fisherman's name. They could legally be 1" or less high and marking pen size thin. Set net identification

signs can be a great distance, especially at low tide. In an emergency or other concern, the fisherman's name allows other to contact the fisherman by phone, VHF, or other means, and do so directly, especially when resources to track by Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission are closed. Require the set net fisherman's name to be in letters at least 6" high and at least 1" wide.

**PROPOSED BY:** Dan Barr (EF-C15-084)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 28 – 5 AAC 39.280. Identification of stationary fishing gear.** Change the character size requirements for set gillnet marking signs, as follows (*This proposal will be heard at the Bristol Bay Finfish meeting, and heard and deliberated on at the Statewide Finfish meeting.*):

Insert "twelve inches" where now says "six inches" and add "with lines at least one inch wide."

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Currently drift boats and setnet skiffs are required to have their Alaska Department of Fish and Game numbers displayed with 12" letters, but shore side set net markings are only required to be six inches. With 20/20 vision, the maximum readable distance is only 200'. Regulations are now inconsistent, and whereas driftnet vessels and set net skiffs can be easily approached for identification, a set net sign for contacting the permit holder for safety or resource issues can be at a distance of up to 1,200'.

**PROPOSED BY:** Dan Barr (EF-C15-086)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 212 – 5 AAC 39.115. Designation of salmon net registration area.** Repeal or modify the requirement to designate a single salmon net registration area, as follows:

Option: Repeal regulation - 5 AAC 39.115 Designation of salmon net registration area.

Additional reasoning: Individuals with two salmon net permits would still be required to have two salmon vessels under 5 AAC 39.120 (c)

Secondary option: Amend the regulation eliminating the registration for individuals with drift gillnet permits. The regulation would be amended to read as noted in bold:

5 AAC 39.115 Designation of salmon net registration area. A person who holds a salmon net gear permits for more than one area listed in 5 AAC 39.120

(d) shall designate upon a form provided by the commercial fisheries entry commission the single area in which he/she desires to salmon net fish in that year. The area so designated must be an area in which the person holds a valid permit. **If a person holds multiple drift gillnet permits, the individual may designate more than one salmon net registration area, but may not participate in more than one salmon net registration area in the same calendar day.**

Reasoning: There are roughly 1,836 Bristol Bay permits, 473 Southeast gillnet permits, and 536 Prince William Sound Permits, 569 Cook Inlet gillnet permits, and 162 False Pass gillnet permits. The effect on the total number of permits owned by two individuals would likely be negligible, but provide some data to warrant opening full repeal in coming years for other net fisheries.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Currently, permit holders within the net fisheries are allowed to own more than one permit in more than one salmon registration area. The current regulation, 5 AAC 39.115, prohibits an individual from participating in more than one area regardless of the number of permits or the areas in which the permits are owned.

This prohibition only applies to net fisheries of like kind. An individual, who owns a Bristol Bay permit cannot gillnet in Bristol Bay if the same individual owns a permit and gillnets in Prince William Sound. The aforementioned regulation does not apply to other net fisheries however. An individual who owns a Bristol Bay gillnet permit is allowed to seine in Prince William Sound. Why are individuals penalized if they would like to fish in the same type fishery in more than one registration area? The regulation is outdated, inconsistent, and should be repealed.

Secondly, 5 AAC 39.120 (b) requires that a commercial fishing vessel fishing for salmon must be registered in a salmon net registration area. Thus commercial vessels used for salmon would still be restricted to one salmon registration area as required under the vessel registration regulation.

Therefore, if the regulation requiring an individual to register for only one net salmon registration area were repealed, then a second vessel would be required to prosecute a second salmon fishery in another area. The practice of participating in two salmon net fisheries already exists to some degree as family members often use their direct children to hold permits in second salmon net fisheries. By repealing the existing requirement for an individual, the state levels the playing field for all fishermen regardless of the number of children produced.

The regulation (5 AAC 39.115 Designation of Salmon Net Registration Area) was leftover in dealing with an issue prior to Limited Entry, whereas fleets of boats traveled from one area of the state to another. Under Limited Entry, there is a limitation on the number of permits in each fishery; therefore, no new entrants are allowed into any one fishery without the transfer of an existing permit. In other words, there would be no increase in the number of permits nor existing fishermen.

Why would we prohibit individuals from fishing in another area if they have permits in both areas?

Upon purchase of another net permit in a second area, CFEC notifies the individual that the owner must choose one area over another. With the unpredictable nature of the commercial fisheries, any sound business model should allow for some level of differentiation particularly within the commercial salmon fisheries.

Everyone wins by removing the existing regulation. Without the existing regulation, an individual who lives in Cordova could fish in Bristol Bay, while removing his/her participation from the Prince William Sound (PWS) gillnet fishery. There is an additional benefit to having one permit not participating in PWS, which leaves more opportunity for those fishermen still fishing in Prince William Sound. Likewise, when the two-fishery individual returns, people still fishing in Bristol Bay have the added benefit of one less competitor.

Importantly, an individual fishing in multiple areas would be required to have access to two different boats for two different salmon net registration areas. The two boat requirement would spread wealth and businesses over multiple geographical areas while also allowing an individual to insulate himself from the unrelenting fluctuation of any one salmon fishery. Good business requires some level of diversification and repealing the existing regulation opens up additional opportunities with zero harm to the existing salmon net fisheries and the fishermen. In fact, repealing the regulation likely will create more opportunity for fishermen who decide not to participate in a second salmon net fishery.

**PROPOSED BY:** Chris Knight and Cheyne Blough (EF-C15-075)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 213 – 5 AAC 28.070. Groundfish possession and landing requirements.** Clarify possession and landing requirements for Pacific cod and walleye pollock, as follows:

5 AAC 28.070(e) is amended to read:

- (e) A CFEC permit holder operating a vessel fishing for [GROUND FISH SHALL RETAIN]
  - (1) **Pacific cod shall retain** all [POLLOCK AND] Pacific cod taken when a directed fishery for [POLLOCK OR] Pacific cod is open; [OR]
  - (2) **walleye pollock shall retain all walleye pollock taken when a directed fishery for walleye pollock is open; or**
  - (3) **groundfish shall retain** the maximum retainable bycatch of **walleye** pollock and Pacific cod taken when a directed fishery for **walleye** pollock or Pacific cod is closed.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The existing groundfish possession and landings requirement regulation for walleye pollock and Pacific cod is not clearly written and has been interpreted to mean a vessel participating in the Pacific cod fishery can retain walleye pollock caught above the bycatch allowance, and similarly a vessel participating in the walleye pollock fishery can retain Pacific cod caught above the bycatch allowance.

Full retention of Pacific cod and walleye pollock only applies to the directed fishery a vessel participates in (i.e., a vessel must retain all Pacific cod when the vessel is directed fishing for Pacific cod, and the same for pollock). The intent was not to provide opportunity for a vessel to retain all walleye pollock when the walleye pollock season is closed, and the same for Pacific cod.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F15-058)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 214 – 5 AAC 39.010. Retention of fish taken in a commercial fishery.** Specify that bycatch in excess of the allowable amount will be surrendered to the state and donated to charity and establish fines for bycatch in excess of the allowable amount, as follows:

All commercial bycatch over the amount allowed shall be surrendered to the state to be given to charity. The permit holder shall be fined, per pound, fair market value of each species of bycatch they exceeded.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** I would like to address the commercial bycatch problem because there is too much wastage.

**PROPOSED BY:** Steve Smith (EF-C15-007)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 215 – 5 AAC 28.XXX. South Alaska Peninsula Area Pollock Management Plan and 5 AAC.XXX.** Establish a 58' overall length limit for vessels participating in South Alaska Peninsula parallel walleye pollock fishery using trawl as follows:

Modify the current State Waters Pacific Cod Management Plan to extend the current vessel size limit for pollock as well as Pacific cod to apply year round.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The Peninsula Fishermen's Coalition is composed of trawl vessels under 58' in overall length. These vessels participate in the federal Pollock and Pacific cod trawl fisheries both inside and outside state waters. Recent changes in federal regulations have capped salmon bycatch and reduced halibut bycatch caps. It is imperative that the vessels work together to insure that bycatch of both species is minimized.

Our vessels based in King Cove and Sand Point believe that restricting access to state waters by larger vessels will assist in keeping bycatch to a minimum. Our vessels have shown that we can work closely with each other to prevent the majority of bycatch.

**PROPOSED BY:** Peninsula Fishermen's Coalition (EF-C15-063)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 194 – 5 AAC 28.650. Closed waters in the Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands Area.** Close all waters of Unalaska Bay to commercial fishing for groundfish with pelagic trawl gear, as follows (*This proposal will be heard at the Alaska Peninsula / Chignik / Aleutian Islands Finfish meeting, and be heard and deliberated on at the Statewide Finfish meeting*):

5 AAC 28.650. Closed waters in Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands Area

...

(b) The waters of Unalaska Bay are closed to groundfish fishing with pelagic trawl gear, [as follows:] **south of a line from Cape Kalekta at 54° 00.50' N. lat., 166° 22.50' W. long. to Cape Cheerful at 54° 01' N. lat., 166° 40' W. long.**

[ (1) FROM JUNE 10 THROUGH AUGUST 31, SOUTH OF A LINE FROM CAPE KALEKTA AT 54°, 00.50' N. LAT., 166°, 22.50' W. LONG. TO CAPE CHEERFUL AT 54°, 01' N. LAT., 166°, 40' W. LONG.; ]

[(2) BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 1 UNTIL THE CLOSURE OF THE PARALLEL BERING SEA WALLEYE POLLOCK 'B' SEASON, SOUTH OF A LINE FROM CAPE KALEKTA AT 54°, 00.50' N. LAT., 166°, 22.50' W. LONG. TO A POINT NEAR HOG ISLAND AT 53°, 55.42' N. LAT., 166°, 34.25' W. LONG. TO A POINT IN BROAD BAY AT 53°, 55.42' N. LAT., 166°, 38.80' W. LONG.; FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS PARAGRAPH, "PARALLEL BERING SEA WALLEYE POLLOCK 'B' SEASON" MEANS THE PARALLEL SEASON CONDUCTED FROM JUNE 10 THROUGH NOVEMBER 1]

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Since 2002 large-scale trawling in tiny Unalaska Bay has unacceptably impacted an area traditionally used by subsistence, sport, and smaller non-trawl commercial fishers and hunters. Trawlers have harvested approximately four million pounds annually of pollock from Unalaska Bay over the past ten plus years. The State of Alaska opens these waters to trawling from September 1 to November 1 as a parallel fishery to the eastern Bering Sea catcher vessel pollock fishery that is managed by NMFS. There is no cap on what amount of the B season pollock trawl quota can come out of Unalaska Bay and in 2004 nearly 12 million pounds was harvested. No research has been done to understand the local pollock biomass, its abundance or what a sustainable harvest level may be. The huge trawl nets used to prosecute this fishery are putting excessive pressure on a sensitive area already fully utilized by local fishers and hunters. Based on observations made by local residents it appears fish and game are being scattered and or driven from the bay coincidentally as this trawl fishery is happening. It has become nearly impossible for local fishermen and hunters to feed their families and small commercial vessels are increasingly required to leave the safety of Unalaska Bay in order to make a living. The subsistence salmon, halibut, herring and crab fisheries and sea mammal hunting has been very poor in recent years and the local tanner crab fishery has remained closed since 2010. Most of the trawling occurs when other user groups are using the bay during the summer and fall dislocating the smaller boats out of the safety of the bay into the Bering Sea, endangering lives, in order to find fish and game and avoid gear conflicts (loss). Habitat destruction will occur where trawl gear touches the bottom. This proposal will allow fish and game to recover and return to areas closer to our community enabling us to be able to continue harvest and process our local resources. We considered limiting all commercial fishing vessels under 35 feet lengths, but so few of them bother fishing inside the bay and their impacts are not nearly that of the trawl vessels. Trawlers are large vessels that are built to handle the stormy weather of the Bering Sea. They did not historically fish in Unalaska Bay and restricting them from these waters would alleviate many problems.

**PROPOSED BY:** Unalaska Native Fisherman’s Association (EF-C15-128)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 216 – 5 AAC 28.1XX. Southeast Alaska Area Walleye Pollock Management Plan.** Establish a state waters walleye pollock purse seine fishery in Southeast Alaska as follows.

Establish a pollock seine fishery from mid-October to March in southeast Alaska state waters for vessels up to 58' in length. Limit landings to 200,000 pounds. Observer coverage would be



determined by results of commissioner's permit, but could be up to 100% using observer or combination of observer and video monitoring. Observer costs to be covered by harvest vessels. Trawl gear to remain illegal.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** According to the 2014 NMFS report: *Assessment of Alaska walleye pollock in the Gulf of Alaska*, pollock are abundant in southeast Alaska state waters. Because trawling is band east of longitude 144 there is no state or federal directed fishery on pollock. This underutilized resource could and should be developed to benefit fishermen, communities, and the State of Alaska. Therefore, we request that the Board of Fisheries create a State of Alaska pollock seine fishery encompassing state waters of southeast Alaska from Dixon Entrance to Cape Spencer. Initially use National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) survey estimates of biomass to set guideline harvest levels or acceptable biological catch (ABC) at 20% of the stock biomass (point estimate for 2015 is 56,111 tons). The biomass of pollock in southeast Alaska is likely much higher considering the NMFS trawl surveys are based on catches at Dixon Entrance and outside waters and do not include sampling the 350 miles of inside waters.

**PROPOSED BY:** Troy Denkinger (EF-C15-137)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 217 - 5 AAC 28.410 Fishing seasons for Kodiak Area.** Establish fishing season for walleye pollock that does not conflict with salmon season, as follows.

Change opening of Pollock season.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Change the opening of the pollock season until the salmon season is over. Why: salmon can only be fished between June and October pollock can be fished year around and it would be easy to do this. All the canneries in Kodiak have stopped buying salmon as of August 31, 2015 and there are a large number of salmon still catchable.

**PROPOSED BY:** Hugh Wisner (EF-C15-138)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 218 - 5 AAC 28.XXX State-Waters Walleye Pollock Management Plans.** Establish state-waters walleye pollock jig fishery management plans with guideline harvest levels deducted from total allowable catch (TAC) for the Eastern Gulf of Alaska, Prince William Sound, Cook Inlet, Kodiak, Chignik, South Alaska Peninsula and Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands areas as follows.

Creation of state-water walleye pollock jig fishery: jig fishing for walleye pollock shall be allowed within state water boundaries of the Eastern Gulf of Alaska, Prince William Sound, Cook Inlet, Kodiak, Chignik, and South Alaska Peninsula areas, and the Bering Sea/Aleutian Island districts. State water jig harvests will be deducted from Federal TAC in corresponding Federal areas up to an amount deemed reasonable by the Board of Fisheries. Jig vessels will be limited to a five mechanical jig machines, with a maximum of 30 hooks per machine.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Currently, jig fishers throughout the state are unable to harvest pollock when the Federal pollock seasons are closed. Jig fishers operating within state waters need a dedicated state water pollock fishery to satisfy niche and bait markets when Federal pollock seasons are closed. If no action is taken, jig fishers will continue to lose economic opportunity— and niche/bait markets will continue to lose potential of procuring fresh pollock from local jig fleets.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Jig Association (HQ-F15-109)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 126-2014-2015 - 5 AAC 27.XXX. New Section.** Establish a commercial open pound herring spawn on kelp fishery in Sitka Sound, as follows: (*Proposal 126 from the 2015/2016 Meeting Cycle was tabled by the board for continued deliberations at the March 2017 Statewide Finfish meeting.*)

The change in regulation language would allow herring seine permit holders in Sitka to use open platforms to harvest herring roe on kelp. Many ideas were given to the department and board during previous board meetings.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** In 1998 and 1999 an experimental open pound herring roe on kelp fishery was conducted in Sitka Sound. This project identified open pounds as a viable alternative to the sac roe fishery and produced published studies, data, and video which demonstrate the positive results of this alternative harvest method. The proposal for open pounding in Sitka Sound was first presented to the Board of Fisheries in 1996. Nineteen years is a long time ago and the environment surrounding the sac roe fishery has changed. Perhaps it is time for the board to consider this concept again. Open pound herring roe on kelp as an alternative harvest method promotes conservation and would increase the value of the herring fishery in Sitka Sound.

**PROPOSED BY:** Darrell Kapp (EF-C14-091)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 219 – 5 AAC 06.368. Nushagak River Coho Salmon Management Plan.**  
Address allocation impacts that may come from potential changes in escapement goals and trigger points in the Nushagak River Coho Salmon Management Plan, as follows:

The Nushagak AC is aware that ADFG has submitted a proposal to change the trigger points and escapement goals from point estimates to ranges to be consistent with their current salmon management policies. While the Department's proposal seeks to remain neutral with regard to allocation, the changes may have allocative implications. In addition, with current escapement levels observed for Nushagak coho and pink salmon, portions of Section C 1 may warrant changes. It is the desire of the Nushagak AC with this proposal, to make all user groups aware of the potential for change. The original plan was the result of many hours of work of a large committee representing all user groups. The Nushagak AC did not have the time to assemble a similar committee. Out of respect for the original work, the AC was reluctant to make specific recommendations on short notice and without sufficient consultation.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Address the potential allocative impacts to the Nushagak Coho Salmon Management Plan precipitated by the new escapement goal ranges for Nushagak coho and pink salmon recently recommended by ADFG. Specifically, section C 1 of the Plan is complicated and portions may be rendered moot or difficult to implement with the new escapement goal ranges. Additionally Nushagak coho runs seem to have increased from the levels recorded when the Plan was originally adopted. The very high pink salmon goals established in the original plan were adopted to assure adequate coho salmon escapement.

**PROPOSED BY:** Nushagak Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F15-070)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 220 - 5 AAC 06.XXX. Vessel specifications and operations.** Prohibit net barges, floating processors, tenders, and hard fixed buoys in waters of the Egegik District during open drift gillnet fishing periods, as follows:

All net barges, floating processors, tenders and hard fixed buoys to be removed in open water fishing for the drift fleet, 30 min before the opener to 1 hour after high water.

All net barges, floating processors, tenders and hard fixed buoys to be anchored outside the west line. Only to come into the district if the Egegik district is closed to the drift fleet.

Any fixed net barges or not-in-rotation tenders being used on standby outside the Egegik district. To ease the constriction of the Egegik district.

The area behind Goose Point will be the new Tender Alley, or the area for tenders and net barges. This area typically over the years is not a heavily fished area and is also protected during bad weather.

As in the Naknek district all tenders and net barges are anchored outside the district. Egegik needs to follow suit to allow more fishing grounds, so as to ease the tensions of a constricted fishing area and for safety concerns to crew and vessels that get wrapped around the buoys and anchored vessels while the district is open for drift fisherman.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Tenders and net barges anchored in/on the open fishing grounds of the Egegik district from inside Coffee Point or around Coffee Point to the outside west line of district. (known as Tender Alley) There should not be fixed or fully anchored buoys (net barges, processors and derelict vessels) or vessels anchored in open fishing waters during drift net district openers.

It is a dangerous situation of wrapping nets and gear around anchor buoys, tenders and non-useable floating hazards.

**PROPOSED BY:** Marc Vance

(EF-C15-019)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 221 - 5 AAC 06.341. Vessel specifications and operations.** Prohibit tenders, fish buyers, and fish transport vessels from anchoring within 1,500 feet of set gillnet sites, as follows:

Additional subparagraph in 5 AAC 06.341 Vessel Specs and Operation to address tender to set net distance.

**5 AAC 06.341 Vessel specifications and operations.**

....

**(c) No tender, buyer or fish transport vessel shall willfully or intentionally interfere with commercial fishing operations, sites and gear. No tender, buyer or fish transport vessel shall not take mooring, anchor or remain stationary for an extended period within 1,500 feet of an operational set net site.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The issue is tenders encroaching upon set net sites to impede drifters from drifting legal distances from set net sites. In Togiak there is a tender owner that also operates multiple set net sites and he uses his tender to block drifters from fishing legally outside of his sites.

Alaska Statue Sec. 16.10.055 Interference with commercial fishing gear. A person who willfully or with reckless disregard of the consequences, interferes with or damages the commercial fishing gear of another person is guilty of a misdemeanor. For the purposes of this section “interference” means the physical disturbance of gear which results in economic loss of fishing time, the “reckless disregard of consequences” means a lack of consideration for the consequences of one’s acts in a manner that is reasonably likely to damage the property of another.

**PROPOSED BY:** Togiak Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-C15-056)  
\*\*\*\*\*