

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 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 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 WRSMA 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 AAC 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.

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)
