

**BOARD OF FISHERIES
ARCTIC / YUKON / KUSKOKWIM FINFISH
JANUARY 12–16, 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)
