

**ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES
PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND FINFISH
DECEMBER 1-5, 2017 | VALDEZ, ALASKA
PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND 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.

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PROPOSAL 2

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PROPOSAL 30

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PROPOSAL 33

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Open commercial salmon fishing with drift gillnet gear in the Copper River District on the Monday or Thursday closest to May 1.

PROPOSAL 36

Open the Copper River District commercial salmon fishery for a minimum of two twelve-hour periods per week.

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Prince William Sound Commercial Salmon (12 Proposals)

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PROPOSAL 39

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Specify that operation of each set gillnet or drift gillnet must be performed or assisted by a Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission permit holder in the Prince William Sound Area commercial salmon fishery.

PROPOSAL 45

Limit each Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission permit holder to no more than four set gillnet sites deployed with lines and buoys in the Prince William Sound Area commercial set gillnet fishery.

PROPOSAL 46

Change boundary description of the Main Bay Subdistrict.

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Include the value of all enhanced salmon produced in the Prince William Sound Area in the *Prince William Sound Management and Salmon Enhancement Allocation Plan*.

PROPOSAL 48

Allow commercial fishing for salmon in the Armin F. Koernig Hatchery Terminal and Special Harvest Areas prior to July 18.

PROPOSAL 49

Reduce harvest of sockeye salmon in the directed chum salmon fishery prior to July 18 in the Armin F. Koernig Hatchery Terminal and Special Harvest Areas.

Prince William Sound/Copper River Commercial Salmon Area Definitions (3 Proposals)

PROPOSAL 50

Define Copper and Bering River District seaward boundaries with geographic coordinates.

PROPOSAL 51

Amend district and subdistrict boundaries to match Alaska Department of Fish and Game statistical area boundaries within the Prince William Sound Management Area.

PROPOSAL 52

Amend Prince William Sound Area description to specify lines of longitude for the eastern and western boundaries.

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PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND PROPOSALS**

PROPOSAL 1

5 AAC 55.022. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits and methods and means for the Prince William Sound area.

Reduce the bag and possession limits for lingcod in the Prince William Sound Area, as follows:

Reduce the daily bag and possession limit for lingcod in Prince William Sound (PWS).

(a)(8) lingcod: may be taken only from July 1 – December 31; bag limit of **one** [TWO] fish; possession limit of **two** [FOUR] fish; must be 35 inches or greater in length including the head, or 28 inches or greater in length with the head removed.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Increased harvest trends in the PWS sport/charter lingcod fishery in recent years, as well as the complexity in regulation enforcement between the North Gulf Coast and PWS.

As charter boat operators, we have witnessed the decline in lingcod numbers over the past several years, most precipitously in the very recent past. This is a very slow maturing species that is susceptible to overfishing, as the current regulations reflect. Unfortunately, there is no formal stock assessment of lingcod in PWS to provide concrete data on population health. However, data provided in Fishery Management Report No. 14-44 on Recreational Fisheries in the PWS Management Area, 2011- 2013 by Mike Thalhauser published November 2014, provides evidence to support our observations and concerns about declining lingcod numbers since 2010. Although the management of lingcod by ADFG is described as using “conservative” regulations by limiting daily limits to two fish, possession limits to four fish, and restricting the length of the fish and the season, these regulations are failing to prevent overfishing and population decline. More conservative regulations are needed to protect the resource, especially with the increased targeting of lingcod by charter operators as restrictions on halibut fishing are expanded. If nothing is changed, our concern is that lingcod numbers will continue to decline to the point that the population may not recover.

Bringing the bag and possession limits in alignment between the North Gulf Coast and PWS would reduce the complexity in regulation enforcement as many vessels from Seward fish in PWS, but land their fish in Seward.

Other options considered were re-defining the season opening date, reducing possession limits to one lingcod, and increasing the size of the fish retained. Each of these options was disregarded as they did not fit with the spirit of the portion of the proposal which seeks to align the bag and possession limits of the North Gulf Coast with Prince William Sound.

PROPOSAL 2

5 AAC 55.022. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Prince William Sound Area.

Reduce the bag and possession limits for lingcod in a portion of the Prince William Sound Area, as follows:

(8) Season July 1 – December 31

One [TWO] per day, Two [FOUR] in possession, minimum 35 inches long with the head attached, or 28 inches or greater in length with the head removed, except, the area south and east of 46 degrees 0 minutes latitude, 147 degrees 0 minutes longitude 2 per day, 2 in possession, minimum 35 inches long with the head attached, or 28 inches or greater in length with head removed.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Steady decline in sport caught ling cod. A more restrictive regulation now may make the fishery sustainable preventing even more restrictive regulations in the future.

Although the total amount of days sport fishermen fished in Prince William / Gulf Coast has remained fairly constant from 2010 – 2015, observations and harvest indicate the stock is declining. Additionally, the more restrictive halibut regulations for charter boat clients has increased pressure on ling cod.

Harvests since 2010:

2010 – 14,013; 2011 - 11,8976; 2012 – 10,728; 2013 – 9,785; 2014 – 9447
2015 – 9,034

PROPOSAL 3

5 AAC 55.022. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Prince William Sound Area.

Modify and align bag and possession limits for rockfish in the Prince William Sound Area, as follows:

5 AAC 55.022(9) is amended to read:

(9) rockfish:

(A) may be taken from **January 1 – December 31** [MAY 1 – SEPTEMBER 15]; bag limit of four fish; possession limit of eight fish, of which only **one** [TWO] per day and in possession may be nonpelagic rockfish **as defined in 5 AAC 75.995**; the first [TWO] nonpelagic rockfish

caught must be retained and become part of the bag limit of the person originally hooking the fish; no size limit;

(B) **Repealed / /2018;** [MAY BE TAKEN FROM SEPTEMBER 16 – APRIL 30; BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT OF EIGHT FISH, OF WHICH ONLY TWO PER DAY AND IN POSSESSION MAY BE NONPELAGIC ROCKFISH; THE FIRST TWO NONPELAGIC ROCKFISH CAUGHT MUST BE RETAINED AND BECOME PART OF THE BAG LIMIT OF THE PERSON ORIGINALLY HOOKING THE FISH; NO SIZE LIMIT.]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In Prince William Sound there are two separate bag and possession limits for rockfish depending on the time of the year. From May 1 through September 15 the bag limit is four fish, with a possession limit of eight fish, of which only two in possession may be nonpelagic. The remainder of the year (September 16 through April 30) the bag and possession limit is eight fish, of which only two per day and in possession may be nonpelagic rockfish. Available information indicates few people take advantage of the higher winter bag limit. The seasonal difference in bag limits creates unnecessary complexity in the regulations. The two fish bag limit for nonpelagic rockfish was implemented in 2006 to reduce waste of nonpelagic rockfish caught incidentally. A one fish bag limit is needed for sustainable management of long-lived nonpelagic species, and mandatory retention of the first nonpelagic

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F17-123)

PROPOSAL 4

5 AAC 28.265. Prince William Sound Rockfish Management Plan.

Establish a pelagic rockfish jig fishery with a separate guideline harvest level in the Outside District of the Prince William Sound Area, as follows:

Establish a targeted pelagic rockfish jig fishery with its own guideline harvest level (GHL) in the Eastern and Western outside districts of Area E. The fishery could be established in a fashion similar to the existing pelagic jig fisheries in neighboring Area H or Kodiak.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Request that the total rockfish GHL of Area E be adjusted to allow for a directed fishery for pelagic rockfish in the area. The current total GHL of rockfish in Area E cannot exceed 150,000 pounds of rockfish in all fisheries. There are currently no directed rockfish fisheries in Prince William Sound; all rockfish are caught as bycatch in other fisheries. The current rockfish bycatch consists of very little pelagic rockfish and it would be beneficial to establish a separate GHL for only pelagic rockfish.

PROPOSED BY: Cordova District Fishermen United Board of Directors (HQ-F17-039)

PROPOSAL 5

5 AAC 28.210. Fishing seasons for Prince William Sound Area.

Specify that bycatch allowance of lingcod in the Prince William Sound Area is measured as round weight, as follows:

Amend subsection (c)(2) to read:

(c) Lingcod may be taken only from July 1 through December 31, unless closed earlier by emergency order,

(1) in a directed fishery; and

(2) as bycatch up to 20 percent by **round** weight of the directed finfish species on board a vessel, unless the commissioner closes the season and opens another season in which the bycatch is prohibited or further limited[; BYCATCH TAKEN UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH IS COUNTED AS PART OF ANY BYCATCH LIMIT ESTABLISHED UNDER 5 AAC 28.070(b)].

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Prior to 2014, bycatch in Prince William Sound Area (PWS) groundfish fisheries was managed to an overall bycatch cap of 20 percent for all bycatch species combined. This bycatch limit was a department management objective and not in regulation. Beginning in 2014, and in accordance with 5 AAC 28.070 (b), allowable bycatch levels in PWS for each species or species group, where a bycatch allowance is not already specified in regulation, have been established by emergency order as percentages by round weight of bycatch to round weight of target species. There is no longer an overall bycatch cap and each bycatch allowance by species or species group is assessed separately based on harvest of target species. The language proposed to be removed from the regulation is not accurate based on current management of bycatch and is confusing for the public. Additionally, bycatch allowances are based on round weight, which is specified in the proposal language.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F17-101)

PROPOSAL 6

5 AAC 28.267. Prince William Sound Pacific Cod Management Plan.

Allow vessels fishing for halibut in the Prince William Sound Area to retain all Pacific cod bycatch when directed Pacific cod fisheries are closed due to reaching the federal halibut bycatch allowance, as follows:

When the P cod fishery is closed due to excessive halibut bycatch; vessels targeting halibut (and in possession of a miscellaneous finfish permit) shall be allowed to retain all P cod.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Vessels engaged in halibut fishing are forced to discard P cod, even though P cod TACs have not been reached. P cod fishing has been closed due to excessive halibut bycatch so vessels fishing P cod are forced to shuck halibut and vessels fishing halibut are forced to shuck P cod. This is an extremely wasteful practice forced upon fishermen by the regulatory bodies.

PROPOSED BY: Robert A. Smith (HQ-F17-062)

PROPOSAL 7

5 AAC 28.230. Lawful gear for Prince William Sound Area.

Clarify lawful gear requirements for Prince William Sound Area groundfish fisheries, as follows:

Add two new subsections (j) and (k) to read:

(j) Except as provided in (k) of this section, in a groundfish fishery for which more than one type of gear is legal gear, a person may have only one type of gear on board the vessel.

(k) In a groundfish fishery, mechanical jigging machines and hand troll gear may be used at the same time and either or both constitute jig gear. If mechanical jigging machines and hand troll gear are being used under this subsection, only that gear may be on board the vessel.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Prince William Sound Area (PWS) groundfish fisheries are typically managed with different requirements depending on the gear type used, including for example harvest allocations for Pacific cod during the state-waters season. CFEC permit cards are issued for a specific gear type and it is required that harvest on fish tickets must be reported by gear type. Area registrations and logbooks are issued for a specific gear type. Estimates of catch per unit effort are calculated based on parameters that apply to a single gear type. In current PWS regulations, it is not specified that only one gear type may be on board a vessel. The one exception is jig gear which is comprised of two gear types, mechanical jigging machines and hand troll gear, which may be on board the vessel and used at the same time. There is language in the *PWS Pacific Cod Management Plan 28.267(e)(3)(C)* that specifies participants in a state-waters season for Pacific cod may not be simultaneously registered to fish with more than one gear type, except for mechanical jigging machines and hand troll gear. However, it is not specified that more than one gear type may not be onboard the vessel. This proposal would clarify that for all PWS groundfish fisheries only one gear type may be onboard the vessel, with the exception of jig gear. There are similar regulations as these proposed, for the Cook Inlet Area under Lawful gear for Cook Inlet Area, 5 AAC 28.330.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F17-098)

PROPOSAL 8

5 AAC 28.206. Prince William Sound Area registration.

Add specific registration requirements for Prince William Sound Area groundfish fisheries, as follows:

Add a new subsection (d) to read:

(d) In the Prince William Sound Area, prior to operating a vessel in a directed fishery for lingcod or Pacific cod during a parallel season, or Pacific cod during a state-waters season as described in 5 AAC 28.267, the vessel operator or authorized agent must obtain a fishery-specific registration for that vessel.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Some requirements of area registration are described under statewide regulation 5 AAC 28.020, including that a registration must be obtained before a vessel operates gear within a registration area and specifies the conditions that invalidate a registration. In the Prince William Sound Registration Area (PWS), there are fishery-specific registration requirements listed for walleye pollock and sablefish under 5 AAC 28.206, as

these two fisheries have registration deadlines. However, aside from describing exclusivity for gear types in the Pacific cod state-waters season, there are no clear requirements for registration in the Pacific cod and lingcod fisheries described under 5 AAC 28.206. This has caused some confusion for PWS fishermen registered in a nonexclusive parallel Pacific cod season to consider themselves also registered for the nonexclusive directed lingcod fishery. Although the *PWS Pacific Cod Management Plan*, 5 AAC 28.267, states that registration is required for the state-waters season, specifying registration requirements for each PWS groundfish fishery and identifying these registration requirements in regulations pertaining to PWS registration would provide clarity.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F17-100)

PROPOSAL 9

5 AAC 28.272. Sablefish harvest, possession, and landing requirements for Prince William Sound Area.

Clarify procedures for obtaining, completing, and submitting log sheets for the Prince William Sound Area sablefish fishery, as follows:

5 AAC 28.272 (f) is amended to read:

(f) **An operator of a vessel participating in the Prince William Sound Area sablefish fishery shall obtain sablefish log [LOG] sheets [FOR THE LONGLINE SABLEFISH FISHERY WILL BE ISSUED AT THE TIME OF REGISTRATION] provided by the department. The vessel operator must have the log sheets on board the vessel at all times and must submit to the department no later than seven days following delivery completed log sheets that correspond with each ADF&G sablefish fish ticket. [LOG SHEETS MUST BE COMPLETED, SIGNED, AND RECEIVED BY THE DEPARTMENT’S CORDOVA OFFICE, AT THE ADDRESS OR FACSIMILE NUMBER SPECIFIED ON THE LOG SHEET, WITHIN 10 DAYS AFTER EACH LANDING OF SABLEFISH.]**

(1) A log sheet under this section must:

(A) include the date, the specific location of harvest by latitude and longitude, the number of hooks fished or the number of pots fished, the average depth, and the time gear is deployed and hauled, for each set;

(B) include for the target species, and for each bycatch species, the number of fish retained and discarded for each set;

(C) be updated not later than 11:59 p.m. local time on the day after the day of operation; and

(D) be made available to a local representative of the department upon request.

(2) A person may not make a false entry in a log sheet described in this section.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Although the current regulation requires submission of completed log sheets, it does not outline the specific expectations of the vessel operator regarding completion of log sheets or the information required to be reported. Additionally, the proposed deadline for submission of log sheets will align with the deadline for submission of fish

tickets. Log sheets are to be completed for each fishing trip and therefore correspond with a fish ticket(s). In December 2016, new regulations were adopted by the board regarding the submission of log sheets from the Cook Inlet Area sablefish fishery (5 AAC 28.360 (b)) and the submission deadline was aligned with the fish ticket deadline. Amending Prince William Sound Area (PWS) sablefish regulations would provide consistency between areas in Central Region. Fish tickets are due within seven days after delivery of fish and fishermen delivering to a processor will often submit log sheet(s) to industry staff when completing the fish ticket and the buyer will submit the log sheet with the corresponding fish ticket(s) to the department. This practice works well for timely receipt of log sheets, which is necessary for corroboration of harvest and effort data, and monitoring the fishery inseason. It is specified in regulation that fish tickets are due to the department within seven days of landing (5 AAC 39.130 (c)). However, it is still the fisherman's responsibility to submit the log sheet and, for those fishermen that do not submit their log sheets to a buyer, the deadline for submission of log sheets to the department needs to be specified in regulation. Additionally, management of PWS groundfish fisheries is now occurring from the Homer office and specifying the office location is unnecessary and could be inaccurate; contact information is provided to fishermen at the time of registration.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F17-099)

PROPOSAL 10

5 AAC 24.360. Copper River District Salmon Management Plan.

Set an optimal escapement goal for Copper River sockeye salmon, as follows:

Set an OEG of 700,000-1,200,000 for Copper River Sockeye matching the late run Kenai Sockeye OEG. The Copper River is a much longer drainage with more spawning and rearing habitat than the Kenai. The current SEG of 360,000-750,000 is artificially low but is cited by the commercial fish managers as the primary justification for continuing to exploit King Salmon. Over escapement of sockeye has never been a true biological concern on the Copper River and should not be cited as an excuse to harvest Kings.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Having no OEG for Sockeye causes managers to exploit Kings under the excuse of trying to avoid exceeding the sockeye SEG.

PROPOSED BY: Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F17-045)

PROPOSAL 11

5 AAC 01.647. Copper River Subsistence Salmon Fisheries Management Plans.

Remove the requirement to open the Batzulnetas subsistence fishery by emergency order, as follows:

5 AAC 01.647(i)(5) is amended to read:

(5) salmon may be taken only from June 1 through September 1 or until the season is closed by emergency order; fishing periods are **from 12:00 noon Friday through 12:00 noon Sunday from June 1 through June 30 and from 12:00 noon Friday through 11:59 p.m. Monday from July 1**

through September 1 [TO BE ESTABLISHED BY EMERGENCY ORDER AND ARE TWO DAYS PER WEEK DURING THE MONTH OF JUNE AND 3.5 DAYS PER WEEK FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE SEASON];

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? When this regulation was originally adopted the department was concerned that the Tanada Creek sockeye salmon return could be overexploited by a targeted subsistence fishery in this area. However, no more than five permits (either federal or state) have been issued in a single year since this fishery was established. The fishery is dual managed under state and federal subsistence regulations. Under federal regulations the fishery is open 24 hours per day, seven days per week from May 15 through September 30. No state subsistence permits have been issued since 2002. The federal fishery had a maximum harvest of 867 sockeye salmon in 2013 with an average harvest of 219 sockeye salmon from 2011–2015. Average passage at a fish weir on Tanada Creek operated by the National Park Service was 23,736 sockeye salmon from 2011–2015.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F17-129)

PROPOSAL 12

5 AAC 01.620. Lawful gear and gear specifications.

Require operators of fish wheels without live boxes to be present when fishing in the Glennallen Subdistrict subsistence fishery, as follows:

(c) All fishwheels are to have a live box so that the king salmon can be put back in to the river to spawn. I know of people who don't like Kings and don't have a live box so they just throw the dead Kings back into the river. Also some people claim the fish should die quickly and not suffer as in a live box. So I'm proposing everyone who doesn't have a live box will have to have someone at the fishwheel at all times from the start of the season until the middle of July when the main run of King Salmon go through so they can throw the Kings back into the river.

It will greatly improve the resource as their numbers of spanning King would increase.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Declining numbers of king salmon in the Copper River Basin.

What will happen if this problem is not solved? The numbers of King Salmon will keep declining and they are already at a dangerous low level.

Everyone who likes King Salmon would benefit. The only people who would likely suffer would be the ones who are too lazy to build a live box and that's why I mentioned someone right at the fishwheel to throw the Kings back into the river.

PROPOSED BY: James Marchini (HQ-F17-008)

PROPOSAL 13

5 AAC 01.620. Lawful gear and gear specifications.

Prohibit using a dip net from a boat to harvest salmon in the Glennallen Subdistrict, as follows:

(b)(5) It is unlawful to harvest salmon using a dip net from a boat in the Glennallen Subdistrict.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Harvesting salmon with a dip from a boat in the Glennallen Subdistrict, individuals are dip netting from a boat targeting schools of salmon. When they find a school of fish they take their limit within a short limit of time, not allowing for escapement. Subsistence fishermen are catching salmon away from the shoreline of the Copper River, salmon rest in holes away from the shoreline in high water and are susceptible to being easily caught in dip nets from boats using electronics. Once a holding hole is located, a boat with electronics makes multiple passes until the fish are cleaned out. When the water drops, there are no fish left to continue to the spawning beds. The Copper River Red Salmon escapement goal return was not at its' normal return, it was below the normal run. King Salmon spawning escapement in 2016 was only 50% of the sustainable escapement goal. If this keeps up, our Chinook stocks will be depleted in a very short time. Fishing from a boat with dip nets may be the reason for low return of Reds and King Salmon.

Fishing from a boat is not a customary and traditional method and means to harvest fish. This new method is causing unintended overharvest and allocation issues that must be addressed. In 2015 the subsistence dip net gear type caught more kings than fish wheel gear type. This is primarily an increase in efficiency using boats as a dip net platform to increase efficiency with growing non-historical participation using this gear type. Fish wheels, ice fishing, and dip nets with platforms are customary and traditional methods of harvesting fish. Ahtna People did not use boats to fish from, they fished for salmon with a dip net while standing on a platform. Boats were used to travel from one place to another place.

PROPOSED BY: Ahtna Tene Nene' Customary and Traditional Use Committee (HQ-F17-022)

PROPOSAL 14

5 AAC 24.361. Copper River King Salmon Management Plan.

Modify the season dates for the Glennallen Subdistrict subsistence salmon fishery based on the preseason king salmon harvest projection, as follows:

(e) In the Glennallen Subdistrict subsistence salmon fishery, **if the department preseason forecast of the Copper River king salmon run estimates a maximum harvest by all fisheries to be less than 10,000 king salmon, then the commissioner shall, by emergency order, delay the start of the season by one week, to be from June 8 through September 30.** If [if] the commissioner determines that additional conservation measures are necessary to achieve the escapement goals, the commissioner may, by emergency order, close the Glennallen Subdistrict subsistence salmon fishery season and immediately reopen a season during which any one or a combination of the following restrictions may be implemented to reduce king salmon harvest in the Glennallen Subdistrict subsistence salmon fishery, in the following priority order:

- (1) a bag limit is established for king salmon taken by fish wheel;
- (2) the bag limit for king salmon taken by fish wheel and dip net is reduced;
- (3) the retention of king salmon taken by fish wheel and dip net is prohibited;
- (4) modify methods and means for fish wheels and dip nets.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Recent declines in the Copper River Chinook salmon run have occurred in which the sustainable escapement goal (SEG) has not been consistently met (including years 2010, 2014, and 2016). Existing regulations and salmon management plans for Copper River Chinook salmon could be improved to provide more specific guidance to State managers for their decisions on management actions which may assist with achieving the established SEG.

As an example of management planning for a low return year, for 2017 the State released a preliminary forecast of the Copper River Chinook salmon run to be 29,000 fish. The established SEG is 24,000 Chinook salmon; this left a forecast harvestable surplus of only 5,000 Chinook salmon for all combined fisheries. Included in the State forecast was a maximum projected commercial harvest of 3,500 Chinook salmon. This commercial harvest projection implies an apparent management plan of providing only 1,500 Chinook salmon available for harvest in all other fisheries; when in recent years, the average up river subsistence harvest alone is roughly 2,500. To assure the long term health of Copper River Chinook salmon stocks, prudent management of all combined fisheries affecting this run should attempt to keep the harvest within the limit which is forecast to be surplus to the SEG, at least until inseason run strength indicators may suggest otherwise.

In the Upper Copper River subsistence fisheries, the ratio of Chinook salmon to sockeye salmon in the harvest is higher in the early season than in the latter part of the season. Delaying the start date of the season would allow additional Chinook salmon to migrate to their spawning grounds at times when a conservation concern exists. This proposal is intended to be a management tool for stocks of concern and provides clear direction to the State for this management action in the subsistence fishery of the Glennallen Subdistrict.

PROPOSED BY: Wrangell-St.Elias National Park Service Subsistence Resource Commission
(EF-F17-050)

PROPOSAL 15

5 AAC 01.620. Lawful gear and gear specifications and 5 AAC 77.591. Copper River Personal Use Dip Net Salmon Fishery Management Plan.

Prohibit the use of monofilament or gillnet mesh in dip nets, as follows:

Prohibit the use of monofilament or gill net mesh material in dip nets used in the subsistence and personal use fisheries of the Upper Copper River District.

Subsistence Finfish Fishery.

5 AAC 01.620. Lawful gear and gear specifications.

- (1) In the Glennallen Subdistrict by fish wheel or dip nets;

...

(7) the use of dip nets constructed of monofilament or gill net mesh material is prohibited.

Personal Use Fishery.

5 AAC 77.591. Copper River Personal Use Dip Net Salmon Fishery Management Plan.

...

(c) Salmon may be taken only by dip nets. The use of dip nets constructed of monofilament or gill net mesh material is prohibited.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The use of monofilament or gill net mesh material in dip nets entangles the fish, makes it more difficult to release, and causes an increased level of harm to Chinook salmon intended for release. Being able to release Chinook salmon unharmed is particularly a concern when Chinook salmon abundance is low.

PROPOSED BY: Wrangell-St.Elias National Park Subsistence Resource Commission

(EF-F17-051)

PROPOSAL 16

5 AAC 01.xxx. New Section and 5 AAC 77.xxx. New Section.

Require log books for all charters operating in personal use and subsistence fisheries, as follows:

A vessel for hire should keep a logbook recording the number of customers, the methods by which they fished, and the total number of each species caught.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Alaska Department of Fish & Game (department) is unable to accurately track trends and catch rates when charter boats are hired to assist individuals engaging in subsistence and personal use fisheries. Much like the history of sport charter operations and the department’s response via logbook requirements in fresh and saltwater areas, this recent commercialization of subsistence and personal use fisheries must be fully and accurately documented.

PROPOSED BY: Cordova District Fishermen United Board of Directors

(HQ-F17-033)

PROPOSAL 17

5 AAC 77.591. Copper River Personal Use Dip Net Salmon Fishery Management Plan.

Extend the lower boundary of the Chitina Subdistrict downstream to the Uranatina River, as follows:

(h) For the purposes of this section, the Chitina Subdistrict consists of all waters of the mainstream Copper River from the downstream edge of the Chitina- McCarthy Bridge downstream to an north/south line beginning at the mouth of the Uranatina River and crossing the Copper River as designated by ADF&G regulatory markers.

[TO AN EAST-WEST LINE CROSSING THE COPPER RIVER AS DESIGNATED BY ADF&G REGULATORY MARKERS LOCATED APPROXIMATELY 200 YDS UPSTREAM OF HALEY CREEK]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently in regulation the CPUDF boundary consists of all mainstream waters of the Copper River from the downstream edge of the Chitina McCarthy Bridge downstream to an east west line crossing the Copper River approximately 200yds upstream of Haley Creek a length of about 8.1 miles. Extending the lower boundary to the Uranatina River Mouth would add about nine miles to the length of the CPUDF. This added stretch of river is a braided area below the confined turbulent waters of Woods Canyon and would offer an area safer for dipnetting, help spread out the users of the fishery, and open up a stretch of river that would be more conducive to dipnetting out of a boat which has increased in recent years. All users of the fishery would still have to return to O'Brien Creek or the McCarthy Bridge boat launch as they do now thus not increasing the burden on F&G enforcement.

PROPOSED BY: The Chitina Dipnetters Association (EF-F17-019)

PROPOSAL 18

5 AAC 77.591. Copper River Personal Use Dip Net Salmon Fishery Management Plan.

Repeal the reduction in maximum harvest level in the Chitina Subdistrict Personal Use fishery when the Copper River commercial fishery is closed 13 or more consecutive days, as follows:

(f) The maximum harvest level for the Chitina Subdistrict personal use salmon fishery is 100,000 - 150,000 salmon, not including any salmon in excess of the in-river goal or salmon taken after August 31. [IF THE COPPER RIVER DISTRICT COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHERY IS CLOSED FOR 13 OR MORE CONSECUTIVE DAYS, THE MAXIMUM HARVEST LEVEL IN THE CHITINA SUB DISTRICT IS REDUCED TO 50,000 SALMON]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Repeal the language in 5 AAC 77.591 (f) “ If the Copper River District commercial salmon fishery is closed for 13 or more consecutive days, the maximum harvest level in the Chitina Subdistrict is reduced to 50,000 salmon for the remainder of the season.”

The Chitina Personal Use Dip Net Salmon Fishery (CPUDF) has fishing periods determined by a pre-season schedule established by the commissioner using projected daily counts of salmon passing the Miles Lake sonar counter. This schedule is meant to distribute the harvest throughout the season. Adjustments shall be made to the pre-season schedule based on actual sonar counts compared to projected counts. If the actual sonar count at Miles Lake is more than the projected sonar count, the commissioner shall close, by emergency order, the se ason and immediately reopen it during which additional fishing times will be allowed. If the actual sonar count at Miles Lake is less than the projected sonar count, the commissioner shall close, by emergency order, the

season and immediately reopen it during which fishing times will be reduced by a corresponding amount of time.

As stated above, if the salmon run numbers are low triggering closures in the commercial fishery, this will also be reflected in the salmon sonar counts at Miles Lake and the commissioner will also by emergency order, close or reduce dipnetting openings.

The CPUDF has an allocation of 100,000- 150,000 salmon. There is no justification to reduce the dipnet fishery allocation to 50,000 because of commercial fishery closures especially when the reduction would be for the rest of the dipnet season even though salmon numbers may within a week or so rebound. This is especially true now that commercial fishing openers will be restricted in the first half of the Copper River commercial fishing season because of recent years low king salmon numbers returning to the Copper River, increasing the likelihood of triggering a CPUDF allocation reduction and severely reducing the harvest of sockeye salmon in the dip net fishery.

PROPOSED BY: The Chitina Dipnetters Association and Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-F17-020)

PROPOSAL 19

5 AAC 01.610. Fishing seasons.

Allow salmon to be taken for subsistence purposes at any time between May 1 and November 30 in the Copper River District, as follows:

(g) Salmon may be taken in the districts described in 5 AAC 01.605(b), [ONLY] from May **01** [15] through [OCTOBER 31] **November 30 at any time, independent of any area closures imposed upon the Copper River Area E Drift Gillnet commercial salmon fishery.** [, DURING FISHING PERIODS AS FOLLOWS:

- (1) FROM MAY 15 UNTIL TWO DAYS BEFORE THE COMMERCIAL OPENING OF THAT SALMON DISTRICT, SEVEN DAYS PER WEEK;
- (2) DURING THE COMMERCIAL SALMON SEASON, ONLY DURING OPEN COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHING PERIODS IN THAT DISTRICT;
- (3) FROM TWO DAYS FOLLOWING THE CLOSURE OF THE COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHING SEASON IN THAT DISTRICT THROUGH OCTOBER 31, SEVEN DAYS A WEEK.]
- (3) FROM TWO DAYS FOLLOWING THE CLOSURE OF THE COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHING SEASON IN THAT DISTRICT THROUGH OCTOBER 31, SEVEN DAYS A WEEK.]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Copper River District drift gillnet subsistence fishery is challenging to access for reasons both inherent to the fishery, and imposed by regulation. The fishery is inherently difficult to access because it occurs in the Gulf of Alaska, a great distance away from Cordova through narrow channels that are not always well marked. Thus, a user must own, or have access to, a boat that can not only safely navigate to the Gulf of Alaska, but then fish in the open ocean running through bar entrances, breaking waves, and heavy seas to do so. The expense of owning such a vessel can be staggering, and a complete

barrier to those on a limited budget, such as elders and youth who are all but cut off from the resource whose purpose is to provide wild, traditional food without incurring great expense. While little can be done but meet the challenges inherent to fishing on this remote coastline, the challenges unnecessarily imposed by regulation can easily be swept away with the acceptance of this proposal without any negative impact on the resource, only a benefit to its users.

Challenges imposed by regulation surround the unnecessary requirement that subsistence opportunity occur only when and where Commercial Fishing openers are announced. With inside closures being the norm during these openers, the fishery is conducted outside the protection of barrier islands increasing risk, danger, and cost. Imposing these restrictions on when and where a subsistence user can access the resource makes no sense when the fishery is already catch-limited.

Subsistence users in the Glennallen Subdistrict harvesting the same resource can access the resource at any time during the season, and enjoy limits ranging from 2x-13x greater for individuals to 2x-8x greater for households of two or more compared to users in the Copper River District drift gillnet subsistence fishery. While this has some merit due to the gillnet fishery resource being harvested prior to being counted at Miles Lake (sockeye) or Baird Canyon (Chinook) for management purposes, the burden of these more conservative limits is unnecessarily compounded by the unique requirement that the subsistence fishery occur only during commercial fishing periods.

Managing the commercial fishery by discreet open and closed fishing periods throughout the season is due to this fleet's unique ability to legally harvest an unlimited number of salmon during open periods. Closed periods allow salmon to pass through the fishery and enter the river. Mirroring this management in the subsistence fishery, which is already operating under the most restrictive subsistence catch limits on the river is not necessary to manage the resource, and increases the time, cost and danger of participation, without a benefit to the resource. In other words, imposing a time restriction intended to manage the fish taken in an unlimited commercial fishery upon a catch-limited subsistence fishery does not provide the same resource benefit in both fisheries, and it is totally unnecessary for the catch-limited subsistence fishery, and is in direct conflict with the Board of Fish's requirement that subsistence allocations be prioritized. **These two fisheries must be managed independently from one another.**

This has been proposed previously, and the Board of Fish has largely determined that Cordova is harvesting their allocation of subsistence salmon and so no change to the regulation was needed. However, this determination can only be reached if commercial fishing "Home-Pack" is improperly counted as subsistence fish, rather than commercial fish. Home-pack fish can be, and are, legally taken by individuals not eligible to participate in the subsistence fishery, and harvested with gear that is illegal in the subsistence fishery. According to a recent ADFG subsistence report, Home-Pack represents 43% of the salmon used in Cordova and the vast majority of sockeye salmon harvest (Fall & Zimpelman 2016). If Home-Pack is not recorded as subsistence (it should be recorded as commercial harvest because it is taken by commercial fishing permit holders without a residence requirement using commercial gear) then harvest data suddenly show a very different story for the year-round Cordovans who are simply consuming less salmon, the report found that use of salmon is at its lowest level since data began being recorded in 1985, and shifting fishing pressure away from abundant, prime quality Copper River sockeye stocks to less desirable

coho salmon on smaller systems less able to sustain the fishing pressure. This report further identified:

Numerous Cordova residents expressed the need for additional subsistence salmon fishing opportunity because under the current regulatory framework community households may not have any opportunity to subsistence salmon fish. In addition to the problems related to the timing of subsistence and commercial fishing openings, survey respondents noted that many community households cannot go subsistence salmon fishing because of a lack of appropriate motorized transportation, the need to work at the time of fishery openings (which during the 2014 study year occurred almost exclusively on weekdays), or because of the increasing costs of gas and boat maintenance. Furthermore, survey respondents pointed out that when planning their marine water subsistence salmon fishing, they also need to take into consideration the weather and tides; if these are not conducive for fishing at a time when all the other factors are positively lined up, they are not be [sic] able to go subsistence salmon fishing. Because of the reasons described above, the overall sentiment in the community is that current fishing regulations are not working and that more subsistence opportunity, separate from the commercial opportunity, is needed. (Fall & Zimpelman, 2016)

The separation of commercial and subsistence fisheries should be done in such a way that subsistence users in the Copper River District drift gillnet fishery may access the resource at any time within the season, and because specific Chinook salmon harvest limits are imposed, without restriction upon fishing location within the regulatory area, allowing subsistence users fish “inside” (behind the protection of the barrier islands) regardless of commercial fishery restrictions intended to reduce Chinook salmon harvest in the unlimited commercial fishery.

To resolve this issue, the Copper River District drift gillnet subsistence fishery should be managed independently of the commercial fishery by regulation, with the harvest limit alone constraining users as to time and location of access to the fishery, within the larger season and regulatory area: a Copper River District a user may take their limit of subsistence salmon at any place and time that salmon are available without any further restriction. Furthermore, the season should be expanded to include any times where these salmon are present.

Works Cited

Fall, J. A. and G. Zimpelman, editors. 2016. Update on the Status of Subsistence Uses in Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Area Communities, 2014. Alaska Department of Fish and Game Division of Subsistence, Technical Paper No. 412. Anchorage.

PROPOSED BY: John C. Whissel, Native Village of Eyak (EF-F17-100)

PROPOSAL 20

5 AAC 01.610. Fishing seasons.

Open all waters of the Copper River District to subsistence fishing for salmon from April 20 through October 15, as follows:

(g) The subsistence harvest of salmon on the Copper River shall commence April 20 and continue until October 15. All traditional waters of the Copper River shall remain open for this fishery.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Harvest of early run Copper River salmon is a critical part of the tradition of Cordova and other residents of Prince William Sound. Recent harvest of fish under educational permits do not provide adequate numbers of fish to meet the needs of local residents. Consistently earlier thaws and fish taken under educational permits indicate salmon may be migrating upstream prior to the installation of sonar counters.

PROPOSED BY: Robert A. Smith (HQ-F17-060)

PROPOSAL 21

5 AAC 01.620. Lawful gear and gear specifications; 5 AAC 01.630. Subsistence fishing permits; and 5 AAC 01.645. Subsistence bag, possession, and size limits; annual limits.

Close the Prince William Sound Area subsistence herring fishery, limit gear to 60 feet in length, and monitor the number of permits and area fished, as follows:

1. Stop subsistence herring fishing for some years
2. Change length of gear to 60 feet
3. Monitor how many permits and area fished

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Herring stock in Prince William Sound depletion.

PROPOSED BY: David Totemoff (HQ-F17-040)

PROPOSAL 22

5 AAC 77.5xx. Personal use herring fishery and 5 AAC 77.570. Waters closed to personal use fishing.

Allow Pacific herring to be taken for personal use in the Prince William Sound Area, as follows:

Allowing for dip netting, set or drift netting in the sound for personal use of Herring. Using A 4' dip net with herring mesh and or Set or herring mesh drift net no longer than 25' long and 10' deep.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? To allow personal use dip netting, set netting or drifting with a herring gill net for herring in Prince William Sound in all areas.

PROPOSED BY: Ronald Jordan (EF-F17-028)

PROPOSAL 23

5 AAC 52.022. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Upper Copper River and Upper Susitna River Area.

Prohibit catch-and-release sport fishing in the Upper Copper River and Upper Susitna River drainages, as follows:

(a)(15) In the Upper Copper River and Susitna River drainages, it is unlawful under sports fisheries to catch and release fresh water finfish.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In the Upper Copper River and Susitna River drainages, it is unlawful under sport fisheries regulations to catch and release fresh water finfish. Salmon, trout, and other fresh water finfish are fatally harmed when caught and released into water bodies.

Releasing freshwater finfish into water bodies necessitates rough handling of fish when releasing it into rivers, streams, etc. Fish are struggled with to get fish hooks out of its mouth, grabbing and man handling fish harms it. Finfish are injured when fish hooks are hooked into its mouth or incidentally snagged into its body, then released into waters. Wounds in the mouth increase susceptibility to infection, disease and delayed death. Disease started by a catch and release wound can infect a whole population of returning and rearing salmon stocks. Wounds in the gills result in a more rapid fatality. Continuously catching and releasing finfish eventually kills it as well.

Research studies on the Kenai River by ADFG has confirmed that salmon are harmed when caught and released into water bodies. The report states that, “chinook salmon that was gilled had a significantly reduced chance of surviving compared to a salmon that was not gilled”. We also know that the larger salmon are also more susceptible to handling injuries due to increased body mass and greater force on internal organs, delicate circulatory connections with the gills and skeletal and nervous system structures when handled out of the water.

It is not customary and traditional to catch and release fish. Catch and release is considered to be Engii by the Ahtna people and will make salmon not return to you. Ahtna traditional laws, state that when fish is deliberately harmed, or played with, it is Engii, and will eventually disappear or “not come back” if it is not properly and respectfully cared for. This is what we are seeing with the King Salmon not returning in recent years. They have not been respected. We will see more of this if we don’t change the way we respect the salmon. Not allowing catch and release is a way to start doing this in a small way.

PROPOSED BY: Ahtna Tene Nene’ (HQ-F17-020)

PROPOSAL 24

5 AAC 52.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Upper Copper River and Upper Susitna River Area.

Amend sockeye salmon regulations in the Gulkana River drainage, as follows:

5 AAC 52.023(9)(D), (18)(A) and (B), and (20)(A) and (B) are amended to read:

(9) in the Gulkana River drainage,

(D) in all flowing waters from 100 yards upstream from the narrows at the Paxson Lake outlet downstream to the confluence with the Middle Fork,

(i) sport fishing for [KING] salmon is closed; [KING] salmon may not be taken or possessed;

[(ii) SALMON, OTHER THAN KING SALMON, MAY BE TAKEN ONLY FROM SEPTEMBER 10 - DECEMBER 31;]

(18) in Paxson Lake,

(A) ~~repealed~~ / / . [IN THE WATERS 100 YARDS UPSTREAM FROM THE NARROWS AT THE LAKE OUTLET TO WITHIN A 100-YARD RADIUS OF THE MOUTH OF THE EAST FORK OF THE GULKANA RIVER AT THE NORTH END OF PAXSON LAKE,

(i) SPORT FISHING FOR KING SALMON IS CLOSED; KING SALMON MAY NOT BE TAKEN OR POSSESSED;

(ii) SALMON, OTHER THAN KING SALMON, MAY BE TAKEN ONLY FROM JULY 20 — DECEMBER 31;

(iii) RAINBOW/STEELHEAD TROUT MAY NOT BE RETAINED OR POSSESSED; ALL RAINBOW/STEELHEAD TROUT CAUGHT MUST BE RELEASED IMMEDIATELY AND RETURNED TO THE WATER UNHARMED;

(iv) THE BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT FOR ARCTIC GRAYLING IS FIVE FISH, OF WHICH ONLY ONE MAY BE 14 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

(v) THE BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT FOR LAKE TROUT IS ONE FISH, WITH NO SIZE LIMIT;]

(B) ~~repealed~~ / / . [IN THE REMAINDER OF PAXSON LAKE, NOT SPECIFIED IN

(A) OF THIS PARAGRAPH,

(i) SPORT FISHING FOR SALMON IS CLOSED; SALMON MAY NOT BE TAKEN OR POSSESSED;

(ii) RAINBOW/STEELHEAD TROUT MAY NOT BE RETAINED OR POSSESSED; ALL RAINBOW/STEELHEAD TROUT CAUGHT MUST BE RELEASED IMMEDIATELY AND RETURNED TO THE WATER UNHARMED;

(iii) THE BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT FOR ARCTIC GRAYLING IS FIVE FISH, OF WHICH ONLY ONE MAY BE 14 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

(iv) THE BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT FOR LAKE TROUT IS ONE FISH, WITH NO SIZE LIMIT;]

(C) sport fishing for salmon is closed; salmon may not be taken or possessed

(D) rainbow/steelhead trout may not be retained or possessed; all rainbow/steelhead trout caught must be released immediately and returned to the water unharmed;

(E) the bag and possession limit for Arctic grayling is five fish, of which only one may be 14 inches or greater in length;

(F) the bag and possession limit for lake trout is one fish, with no size limit

(20) in the Summit Lake drainage,

(A) ~~repealed~~ / / . [IN SUMMIT LAKE FROM ITS OUTLET TO WITHIN A 100-YARD RADIUS OF THE MOUTH OF GUNN CREEK,]

(i) SPORT FISHING FOR KING SALMON IS CLOSED; KING SALMON MAY NOT BE TAKEN OR POSSESSED;

(ii) SALMON, OTHER THAN KING SALMON, MAY BE TAKEN ONLY FROM JULY 20 — DECEMBER 31, WITH A BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT OF THREE FISH GREATER THAN 16 INCHES IN LENGTH, AND A BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT OF 10 FISH 16 INCHES OR LESS IN LENGTH;

(iii) RAINBOW/STEELHEAD TROUT MAY NOT BE RETAINED OR POSSESSED; ALL RAINBOW/STEELHEAD TROUT CAUGHT MUST BE RELEASED IMMEDIATELY AND RETURNED TO THE WATER UNHARMED;

(iv) THE BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT FOR BURBOT IS TWO FISH, WITH NO SIZE LIMIT;

(v) THE BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT FOR ARCTIC GRAYLING IS TWO FISH, OF WHICH ONLY ONE MAY BE 14 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

(vi) THE BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT FOR LAKE TROUT IS ONE FISH, WITH NO SIZE LIMIT;]

(B) repealed / / / . [IN ALL WATERS OF THE GUNN CREEK DRAINAGE AND ALL WATERS WITHIN A 100-YARD RADIUS OF THE MOUTH OF GUNN CREEK AT SUMMIT LAKE,

(i) SPORT FISHING FOR KING SALMON IS CLOSED; KING SALMON MAY NOT BE TAKEN OR POSSESSED;

(ii) SALMON, OTHER THAN KING SALMON, MAY BE TAKEN ONLY FROM AUGUST 1 — DECEMBER 31, WITH A BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT OF THREE FISH GREATER THAN 16 INCHES IN LENGTH, AND A BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT OF 10 FISH 16 INCHES OR LESS IN LENGTH;

(iii) RAINBOW/STEELHEAD TROUT MAY NOT BE RETAINED OR POSSESSED; ALL RAINBOW/STEELHEAD TROUT CAUGHT MUST BE RELEASED IMMEDIATELY AND RETURNED TO THE WATER UNHARMED;

(iv) THE BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT FOR BURBOT IS TWO FISH, WITH NO SIZE LIMIT;

(v) THE BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT FOR ARCTIC GRAYLING IS TWO FISH, OF WHICH ONLY ONE MAY BE 14 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

(vi) THE BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT FOR LAKE TROUT IS ONE FISH, WITH NO SIZE LIMIT;]

(C) sport fishing for salmon is closed; salmon may not be taken or possessed;

(D) rainbow/steelhead trout may not be retained or possessed; all rainbow/steelhead trout caught must be released immediately and returned to the water unharmed;

(E) the bag and possession limit for burbot is two fish, with no size limit;

(F) the bag and possession limit for Arctic grayling is two fish, of which only one may be 14 inches or greater in length;

(G) the bag and possession limit for lake trout is one fish, with no size limit;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Seasonal closures for sockeye salmon in the Gulkana River drainage were established to protect specific sockeye salmon stocks within the drainage. However, complete closure of these fisheries is a better protection for these stocks and greatly simplifies area sport fish regulations, reducing confusion by the sport anglers.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F17-122)

PROPOSAL 25

5 AAC 52.022. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Upper Copper River and Upper Susitna River Area.

Remove the unbaited, single-hook artificial lure restriction in flowing waters of the Upper Susitna River drainage, as follows:

5 AAC 52.022(a)(1) is amended to read:

(1) in all flowing waters **of the Upper Copper River drainage and Tyone River drainage**, only unbaited, single-hook, artificial lures may be used;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The bait and hook restriction was originally implemented to protect rainbow trout populations in the Upper Copper River drainage, but were implemented throughout the entire region, unduly complicating sport fishing regulations and restricting fishing opportunity in upper Susitna River drainage. During the open water period (April 16 – October 31) only unbaited, single-hook, artificial lures may be used in Lake Louise, Susitna, and Tyone lakes (Tyone River drainage) for lake trout and burbot conservation; including the Tyone River drainage will align tributary regulations with those in the lakes.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F17-124)

PROPOSAL 26

5 AAC 55.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Prince William Sound Area.

Allow bow fishing for pink and coho salmon in the Valdez terminal harvest area, as follows:

In saltwater, open to snagging, the use of bow and arrow with line attached to arrow, may be used to take pink and silver salmon.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Bow fishing for salmon (pink, silver) in the Valdez terminal harvest area.

PROPOSED BY: Charles Upicksoun

(EF-F17-055)

PROPOSAL 27

5 AAC 55.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Prince William Sound Area.

Remove a closed water provision for Clear Creek, as follows:

(1)(A) in all freshwater drainages crossed by the Copper River Highway from and including Eyak River to the Million Dollar Bridge, including Clear Creek at mile 42 [DOWNSTREAM OF THE CARBON MOUNTAIN ROAD BRIDGE], the bag and possession limit is three fish; a coho salmon removed from the water shall be retained and becomes part of the bag limit of the person originally hooking it; a person may not remove a coho salmon from the water before releasing the fish;

...

(8)(A) [CLEAR CREEK UPSTREAM OF THE CARBON MOUNTAIN ROAD BRIDGE LOCATED AT MILE 42 OF THE COPPER RIVER HIGHWAY];

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Removal of the restriction prohibiting salmon fishing year-round upstream of the Carbon Mountain Road Bridge on Clear Creek. I believe the restriction was put in place as a proactive measure to protect a portion of Clear Creek from projected increased use resulting from construction of the Carbon Mountain Road. The Carbon Mountain Road was not built and there are no current plans for its construction. Additionally, use of and access to Clear Creek has been substantially reduced due to the washout, and no plans for its repair, of the Copper River Highway at Bridge 339. In years past Clear Creek was clear upstream and downstream of the location of the Carbon Mountain Road Bridge. Clear Creek is now heavily silt laden and unfishable from about the 1st of June through early part of October from a point 1/2 mile upstream of the Carbon Mountain Road Bridge down the rest of its length. This is due to a tributary of the Copper River flowing into Clear Creek a half mile upstream of the Carbon Mountain Road Bridge.

PROPOSED BY: Lucas Borer (EF-F17-070)

PROPOSAL 28

5 AAC 24.361. Copper River King Salmon Management Plan.

Repeal mandatory inside waters commercial salmon fishery closures in the *Copper River King Salmon Management Plan*, as follows:

(b) Repeal mandatory inside waters closure in the *Copper River King Salmon Management Plan*. Repeal mandatory inside commercial closures for any statistical week from regulation.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG) has the authority to manage fisheries and has demonstrated its ability to do so effectively; therefore, mandatory closures are unnecessary. ADFG has opposed mandatory closures on sport fisheries as these closures are mandated even when the circumstances of a current year’s run strength and timing do not require them. This proposal does not suggest eliminating the inside closure tool as it is warranted, but rather suggests the elimination of this mandatory language.

PROPOSED BY: Cordova District Fishermen United, Gillnet Division (HQ-F17-034)

PROPOSAL 29

5 AAC 24.350. Closed waters.

Extend inside closure area to 1/4 mile off the southern shores of all barrier islands in the Copper River commercial drift gillnet salmon fishery, as follows:

- (1) Extend the inside closure area to 1/4 mile off the southern shores of all barrier islands.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Rolling up Kings in gillnets close to the barrier islands. Incidental commercial harvest of Kings in 2016 and 2017 has eliminated all opportunity for upriver users and plunged Kings into stock of concern status.

Inside closures have proven only mildly effective at reducing incidental King harvest. Gillnetters continue to target Kings by placing nets in shallow water close to the island shore and dragging their nets across the bottom, catching large Kings by rolling them up in the small mesh.

In 2017, the Department has closed all upriver sport and P/U harvest opportunity, but has announced a goal not to exceed 3,5000 harvest in the commercial fishery. They will never achieve this goal and have proven unable or unwilling to use tools already in their toolbox to reduce or eliminate incidental harvest of Kings. The Board needs to impose meaningful restrictions, and the department will agree that dragging gillnets across the ocean floor within 1/4 mile of the barrier islands is an effective method of harvesting Kings in the Copper River Flats.

PROPOSED BY: Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F17-043)

PROPOSAL 30

5 AAC 24.350. Closed waters.

Repeal certain closed waters provisions in the Copper River District commercial drift gillnet salmon fishery, as follows:

The gillnet fishery of the Copper River shall take place from the Grass banks of the Copper River Delta to the seaward boundary.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Traditional inside water fishing grounds which gillnetters have fished for decades have been virtually eliminated. Gillnetters have been increasingly forced into an ocean fishery. A fishery which increases the risks of interception of stocks not bound for the Copper River. Additionally the expenses and dangers associated with an ocean fishery are far higher. In order to ensure that interception of non-Copper River stocks be reduced, the fishery should take place up to the grass banks of the Copper River Delta.

PROPOSED BY: Warren Chappell (HQ-F17-084)

PROPOSAL 31

5 AAC 24.331. Gillnet specifications and operations.

Reduce the maximum depth of drift gill nets in the Copper River District commercial drift gillnet salmon fishery to 29 meshes through the start of Statistical Week 24, as follows:

Reduce the maximum depth of gill nets fished through the start of Week 24 (end of May) to 29 meshes.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Deep nets harvest too many Kings in the May Gillnet fishery.

The board has to look to the commercial King harvest in May of 2014, 2016, and 2017 to understand the reason why the escapement goal was not met. It needs to do something (or many things) to restrict the King Harvest in the May sockeye fishery. The area biologists may have the tools in their toolbox, but they refuse to use them to affect any meaningful conservation of Kings. This proposal was written before the 2017 season, but how many Kings were harvested in Cordova by 500 gillnetters in the combined commercial harvest, educational, and subsistence fisheries? How many Kings did 15,000 dipnetters and sport fishers upriver get to harvest? Was the escapement goal met? Did the department come anywhere close to its goal of restriction the commercial harvest to 3,500?

These answers are predictable before the season even starts. Dipnetters and sport anglers will not even get to fish, and the escapement goal will not be met, and the department will have failed miserably to keep the commercial harvest below its 3,500 goal.

Business as usual in Cordova has driven Copper River Kings to stock of concern status, and the board needs to do something that has been proven to reduce King Harvest in a sockeye fishery, reduce the depth of the nets during the May fishery, if you must prosecute a May fishery at all.

PROPOSED BY: Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F17-042)

PROPOSAL 32

5 AAC 24.361. Copper River King Salmon Management Plan.

Prohibit commercial salmon fishing in the Copper River District, during the month of May, if the preseason forecast for Copper River king salmon is below the 20-year average, or 35,000 king salmon, as follows:

If the preseason run forecast is below the 20-year average (or 35,000 Kings if a firm number is preferred), no commercial salmon fishing will occur in May (through start of Week 24). Commercial fishing may not open until Week 25 (first week of June).

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Conservation of King Salmon when projected run is below 20-year average.

King Salmon, particularly the most vulnerable upper river stocks, are heavily exploited in May, often before a single fish is counted in river. Historically the May fishery opens during statistical week 20. In 2017, that falls on May 14. A large number of Kings will be caught that week despite the expected closure inside the barrier islands.

By the time the Board reviews this proposal it will have 2017 harvest and escapement numbers. Those numbers will almost certainly show that more than 3,500 Kings were harvested in May (exceeding the maximum preseason commercial harvest only three weeks into the season). No Kings will have been harvested in the sport or p/u fishery, despite those fisheries being "equal" on the allocation scale with the commercial fishery. The escapement goal will very likely not have been met three of the past five years, plunging the Copper River King into stock of concern status.

This is all very predictable and inevitable based on current commercial management philosophy which is to fish at least twice a week in May, no matter what, to ensure valuable sockeye do not escape. In 2016, we learned that inside closures are not enough to protect a weak King run. The commercial fleet in Cordova harvested 13,075 Kings, killed 83 Kings in educational fisheries, and likely harvested hundreds more Kings with subsistence gillnets between openers.

Upriver sport and P/U users were subject to total closures, and upriver subsistence fishers had to release Kings caught in closely attended wheels.

If the 2017 season is business as usual in Cordova, the board will have to take strong action to protect this new stock of concern because local managers have proven incapable of doing so. In 2016, knowing Kings were in trouble, the commercial fish managers approved 24 and 48 hour openers in the middle of May, harvesting more Kings in the first two weeks of 2016 than they predict harvesting in all of 2017. May restrictions will have the most positive effect on conserving Kings while not unnecessarily restricting Sockeye harvest in June and July when Sockeye are most abundant.

If the preseason forecast is below the 20-year average, there is no biological justification for the inevitable incidental harvest of thousands of Kings in May.

PROPOSED BY: Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F17-044)

PROPOSAL 33

5 AAC 24.361. Copper River King Salmon Management Plan.

Prohibit sale of commercially caught king salmon in the Copper River District if restrictions on Copper River drainage subsistence fisheries have been implemented, as follows:

Prohibit the sale of commercially caught king salmon if there are any subsistence restrictions on the stock, as follows:

Despite inside closures and other efforts to restrict King Salmon harvest in 2016, the commercial fleet managed to kill 13,005 Kings. More than the spawning escapement of 12,831. But for the

incidental commercial harvest, the escapement goal would have been met in 2016. We believe that when Kings are worth more than \$5 a pound, it will be impossible for managers to keep incidental King harvest in 2017 to their goal of less than 3,500 and that 2017 will once again fail to meet the escapement, plunging Copper River Kings into stock of concern status.

The Board should adopt regulations prohibiting the sale of commercially caught Kings if there are any subsistence restrictions on the fish stock, as it did on the Yukon years ago. With no economic incentive to target a stock of concern, the commercial fleet would seek to avoid Kings and the incidental catch could be donated to upriver users, as occurred on the Yukon, when the upriver users were denied any harvest opportunity.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Remove the economic incentive to harvest Kings in the Sockeye fishery.

PROPOSED BY: Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F17-046)

PROPOSAL 34

5 AAC 24.310. Fishing seasons.

Prohibit commercial salmon fishing in the Copper River District until a salmon is recorded at the Copper River sonar, as follows:

Amend 5 AAC 24.310(a) to add " ... the first commercial salmon opening of any year may only be announced after the department has verified by sonar that a single salmon has escaped into the river."

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

Kings in the Copper River have been the subject of numerous upriver harvest restrictions in recent years. Escapement goals (even lowered goals) have not been consistently met. Genetic studies have identified three runs of kings. The upper river stocks enter the mouth in May, and these stocks have been subject to the most restrictions including complete restrictions on harvest in the Gulkana River, and significantly restricted harvests in the Chitina fishery. Although the commercial fleet has recently been fishing outside the barrier islands more than regulations require, they are still harvesting thousands of kings from this imperiled upriver stock. In 2016, the department opened the first three fishing periods for 12, 24, and then 48 hours, eventually killing more Kings (13,075) than the escapement (12,831). When runs were healthy, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game always announced the first mid-May opener several days or weeks in advance, historically declaring a 12-hour opening inside the barrier islands. While advance notice is helpful for the fishers and processors to plan, it can be devastating to the early kings, especially when there is a late spring and the Copper River is full of ice and low water, preventing the kings from entering the river and causing them to mill longer in the mouth, where they are easily harvested by getting rolled up in loose hanging mesh dragging along the bottom of the river channels, or outside the islands in the same loosely hung mesh. If the sonar is not deployed by May 17 it is because the river is full of ice and the fish are not there anyway.

With the decimated king runs in the upper Copper River, especially the Gulkana, it is biologically indefensible to allow such a high rate of exploitation on these early returning fish by having commercial opener(s) before even a single fish has been counted inriver.

PROPOSED BY: Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F17-047)

PROPOSAL 35

5 AAC 24.310. Fishing seasons.

Open commercial salmon fishing with drift gillnet gear in the Copper River District on the Monday or Thursday closest to May 1, as follows:

Commercial gillnet fishing shall be open on the Copper River on the Monday or Thursday which is closest to May 1st.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Consistently warmer spring thaws, harvest of fish under educational permits and reports of early harvests at fish wheels indicate that fish may be migrating upstream prior to the installation of the sonar counter. The commercial fleet over time is the most reliable indicator of run strength. The ADFG is currently unable to assess this indicator to assess early run strength.

PROPOSED BY: Robert A. Smith (HQ-F17-063)

PROPOSAL 36

5 AAC 24.320. Weekly fishing periods.

Open the Copper River District commercial salmon fishery for a minimum of two twelve-hour periods per week, as follows:

(a) From the commencement of the fishing season the Copper River shall be open for a minimum of two twelve hour openers per week.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Escapement goals have consistently been met or greatly exceeded on the Copper River for the last 30 years. Extended closures of the gillnet fisheries are extremely deleterious to local economies. There are 168 hours in a week. Two twelve hour openers would still allow 144 hours in a week or 85% of total time for escapement. A fishery which allows 85% of time for escapement cannot damage fish stocks over the long term.

PROPOSED BY: Robert A. Smith (HQ-F17-061)

PROPOSAL 37

5 AAC 24.350. Closed waters.

Repeal commercial salmon fishery closed waters near Kayak Island and allow commercial salmon fishing with drift gillnet gear near Kayak Island with the same boundaries in effect in 1980, as follows:

(2)(B)

The Kayak Island fishery waters will be reinstated to 1980 boundaries.
Strike section 2B of 5 AAC 24.50

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Commercial fishermen on the Copper River have over decades experienced large reductions in traditional fishing areas. At the same time that the AREA E fishing fleet has lost inside waters, the ocean fishing off of Kayak Island has also been eliminated. Based upon inconclusive evidence that the Kayak Island fishery was intercepting fish bound for the Situk River, the Kayak Island fishery was closed to Copper River fishermen in the mid 1980's'. As inside waters closures become lengthier year after year, and escapement goals are being exceeded consistently the fleet is left with smaller and smaller areas to fish.

PROPOSED BY: Warren Chappell

(HQ-F17-083)

PROPOSAL 38

5 AAC 24.332. Seine specifications and operations.

Modify purse seine gear length in the Prince William Sound Area, as follows:

(a) Except for the first 5 fathoms in length of the purse seine, a purse seine may not be less than 200 meshes or more than 335 meshes in depth, or less than 125 fathoms or more than 225 fathoms [150 fathoms] in length, hung measure, or with mesh size greater than four inches stretch measure, except that the first 25 meshes immediately above or below the leadline may be a chafing strip with a mesh size no larger than seven and one-half inches stretch measure. Leads deeper than the seine or exceeding 75 fathoms in length, or leads with a mesh size less than six and one-quarter inches may not be used, except as specified in 5AAC 39.260 ***ADD*** The aggregate of seine and lead may not be more than 225 fathoms in length.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The current regulation requiring the use of a lead to achieve the legal gear length is outdated. As it is, most fishermen fish with a sewn on lead, ultimately turning the net into a single piece of gear which can be fished with either end on the beach versus with a "loose lead" that is virtually always on the beach end. Fishing a lead requires two different types of netting, lead web can be difficult to get, sometimes taking several months to receive. It would be much more convenient to use standard seine web for the entirety of the net which means standard mending twine, carrying standard sized patch web. Simple as a drive to your local net supplier. Additionally the larger mesh size in the lead can be detrimental in late season clean up fisheries when salmon lose their fear of barriers, plungers etc. At this late stage in the return, pink salmon will often swim right through the large lead mesh hindering clean up of excess fish and contributing to the build up of dark fish. This proposal would not require the use of seine web for the full length of the net but would allow for the option. Some comparisons of seine specifications from other fisheries are as follows. This proposal if adopted would be the same as the Chignik specifications for length.

	PWS	Chignik	Area M	Kodiak	Southeast	LCI
Seine	150	225	250	200	250	250
lead	75	75	150	50	75	0
total	225	225	400	250	325	250

It should be noted some areas restrict the use of the lead to only be deployed on the bunt end of the seine. Since these areas already provide for an effective length of seine the additional lead allowance is often used sparingly

PROPOSED BY: Rob Nelson (EF-F17-009)

PROPOSAL 39

5 AAC 24.332. Seine specifications and operations.

Allow permit stacking and increase the amount of purse seine gear that may be operated from a vessel with two limited entry purse seine permit holders onboard in the Prince William Sound Area commercial salmon fishery, as follows:

In the seine specifications and operations section (a) " a purse seine can not be more than 150 fathoms in length, **leads deeper than the seine or exceeding 75 fathoms in length, or leads with mesh size less than six and one quarter inches may not be used,**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I propose to allow the 75 fathom lead to be equal to the mesh size in the 150 fathom seine if a vessel has two PWS purse seine permits onboard and is registered with CFEC as a vessel with two seine permits on board.

Currently legal gear is 150 fathoms of salmon seine not more than 4 inches stretched measure and 75 fathoms of lead not less than 6 and one quarter stretched mesh size.

I would like the BOF to amend the regulation to allow permit stacking for the PWS purse seine fleet that would allow any vessel with two PWS purse seine permits onboard to use 225 fathoms of net with a mesh size of not more than 4 inches stretched measure. This would encourage less vessels to fish each year in PWS.

BB drift gillnet, Cook inlet drift gillnet and SE purse seine fishermen have all recognized the need to reduce their fleets. BB and Cook Inlet Drift fleets accomplished this through permit stacking and SE purse seine accomplished fleet reduction through a permit buy back program.

PROPOSED BY: Leroy L Cabana (EF-F17-017)

PROPOSAL 40

5 AAC 24.335. Minimum distance between units of gear.

Establish minimum operation depth for drift gillnet gear fished within 90 fathoms of a set gillnet in the Crafton Island Subdistrict, as follows:

(a) No part of a set gillnet may be set or operated within 100 fathoms of any part of another set gillnet, except in the Main Bay Subdistrict as provided in 5 AAC 24.367(c)(4).

(b) In the Crafton Island Subdistrict,

(1) no part of a drift gillnet may be operated within 60 fathoms of a set gillnet, except in the zone outside of the offshore end of the set gillnet

(2) the shoreward end of a drift gillnet may not be operated in water less than four fathoms at any tide within 90 fathoms of the shoreward end of a set gillnet.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Certain drifters are going in front of a setnet site the legal distance a driftnet must be from a setnet, 60 fathoms, and intentionally putting out a sufficient amount of gillnet in the shallow water to act as an anchor then extending the rest of their drift gillnet out from the shore. They will proceed to fish the driftnet for extended periods of time, even for the entire opener, in that fixed location. The issue is that when the net is placed that close to a setnet, the tide pushing the driftnet will cause the driftnet to be operated within 60 fathoms of the setnet resulting in conflicts between setnetters and drifters. It is difficult to prevent these conflicts because illegally operating drift gillnet fisherman have too much opportunity to pull their net away from the setnet before enforcement personnel can arrive, and photos taken from the air or enforcement vessels can be inconclusive. An updated regulation is needed in the Crafton Island Subdistrict to establish a setback from setnets that allows the natural movement of a driftnet by the tide to not result in the driftnet being pushed closer than 60 fathoms to the setnet.

The conflict that arises from drifters fishing in the manner describe above is that a setnetter's productivity is adversely impacted by a driftnet fished that close to a setnet as the setnetter is trying to fish a state-issued commercial setnet permit in a legal manner. Past attempts to stop drifters fixing nets in shallow water have failed. For example state regulation 5 AAC 39.105, (3) states a drift gillnet is a drifting gillnet that has not been **intentionally** staked, anchored, or otherwise fixed. The word "intentionally" left a loop-hole for drifters to say, "I didn't intend to fix my net". At a past Board of Fish meeting, 5 AAC 24.331. (c) for the Prince William Sound area was modified to remove the ambiguous word **intentionally**. 5 AAC 24.331. (c) now states: Notwithstanding 5 AAC 39.105(d)(3), for the purpose of this section, a gillnet shall be considered to be a drift gillnet unless the gillnet has been set, staked, anchored or otherwise fixed. Yet the drifter's practice of fixing driftnets near setnets and the conflict it causes remains.

Myself and many other setnetters have had gear cut. In 2016 a setnetter lost an entire set resulting in a large financial lost. The natural conflict between different gears types will continue to intensify if the current situation is not changed.

Here is the logic behind the proposed regulation change.

State regulation 5 ACC 24.331(b)(G) states: *in the Crafton Island Subdistrict, the the shoreward end of a set gillnet or set gillnet lead may not be operated in water deeper than four fathoms at low tide.*

This regulation was enacted in response to setnetters making deep water sets in the 1980's. Therefore, there is a precedence for setnetters "owning" the water up to 4 fathoms deep, and drifters should be required to honor that precedence when close to setnets. The distance of 90 fathoms is used because it allows the natural movement of a driftnet by the tide to not result in the driftnet being closer than 60 fathoms to the setnet. This change in **5 ACC 24.335** would not hinder drifters who are actually drifting from being able to fish within 60 fathoms of a setnet since they need to be in deeper water. Neither would it effect those who are fixing their nets 91 fathoms or more from a setnet. Only those drifters currently fixing their nets so close to a setnet that the tide is pushing their net closer then 60 fathoms to a setnet would be required to move their net further away from the setnet.

PROPOSED BY: Michael Brown

(EF-F17-069)

PROPOSAL 41

5 AAC 24.335. Minimum distance between units of gear.

Prohibit operation of commercial salmon drift gillnet gear within 60 fathoms of the shoreward of a set gillnet in the Crafton Island Subdistrict, as follows:

In the Crafton Island Subdistrict, no part of a drift gillnet may be operated within 60 fathoms of a set gillnet, except in the zone outside of the offshore end Or shore end (as long as all other regulations are adhered) of the set gillnet.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? "In the Crafton Island Subdistrict, no part of a drift gillnet may be operated within 60 fathoms of a set gillnet, except in the zone outside of the offshore end of the set gillnet." In the Eshamy District there are many set gillnets affixed to pinnacles. This regulation only allows for a drift gillnet to fish the offshore end and does not allow for a drift gillnet to fish the shore end, even if there are viable waters to fish directly off the opposite end (shore end).

PROPOSED BY: Shawna Williams

(EF-F17-117)

PROPOSAL 42

5 AAC 24.367. Main Bay Salmon Hatchery Harvest Management Plan.

Repeal maximum length for set gillnet gear in the *Main Bay Salmon Hatchery Harvest Management Plan* and prohibit operation of a drift gillnet within 20 fathoms of a set gillnet, as follows:

(c)

(1) No portion of a drift gillnet may be operated within 20 fathoms of a set gillnet. [NO SET GILLNET MAY EXCEED 50 FATHOMS IN LENGTH]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Lack of access to traditional beach drifts for the gillnet fleet inside Main Bay. The board changed the regulation for set net separation inside the Main Bay Subdistrict to allow set net operations additional sites. This has

been compounded by the inundation of the shoreline with lines and buoys throughout recent seasons. This reduction in legal distance is one method to make room for all participants.

PROPOSED BY: Cordova District Fishermen United, Gillnet Division (HQ-F17-035)

PROPOSAL 43

5 AAC 24.367. Main Bay Salmon Hatchery Harvest Management Plan.

Clarify provisions for operation of drift gillnet and set gillnet gear in the Main Bay Subdistrict, as follows:

(c)

(6) Notwithstanding pre-existing regulations, a drift operation cannot be deemed illegal upon deployment of a set net. The drift operation must have time to retrieve its gear and/or navigate to legal waters.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Lack of clarification on access to sockeye build ups in Main Bay. The Board of Fisheries intentions to maintain access for the drift fleet has slowly been eroded as enforcement does not focus efforts to keep set net crews from operating and deploying gear during openers. A drift operation needs to be able to retrieve its gear if it is deployed before a set net is deployed. This has kept the drift fleet from historic and allocated access to these buildups. The failure to recognize that a drift operation cannot be made illegal immediately by deployment of a set gillnet causes grief for all participants as well as ADFG enforcement personnel.

PROPOSED BY: Cordova District Fishermen United, Gillnet Division (HQ-F17-036)

PROPOSAL 44

5 AAC 24.331. Gillnet specifications and operations.

Specify that operation of each set gillnet or drift gillnet must be performed or assisted by a Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission permit holder in the Prince William Sound Area commercial salmon fishery, as follows:

(b)(3) The operation of each **set or drift** gillnet shall be performed or assisted by the fishermen who holds the valid interim use or entry permit card for that respective gear;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Lack of enforcement of Section G that requires a permit holder to be present to perform or assist. This has allowed the set net fleet to set all three sites at once and have crew work the gear illegally without a permit holder performing or assisting.

PROPOSED BY: Cordova District Fishermen United, Gillnet Division (HQ-F17-037)

PROPOSAL 45

5 AAC 24.331 Gillnet specifications and operations.

Limit each Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission permit holder to no more than four set gillnet sites deployed with lines and buoys in the Prince William Sound Area commercial set gillnet fishery, as follows:

(E) No set gillnet permit holder shall have more than four set net sites deployed with lines and buoys during an announced opener.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The marked increase in unused set net sites throughout the Crafton Island Subdistrict and Main Bay Subdistrict. The buoys and lines deployed at these sites occupy legal fishing area and preclude the drift fleet from historic beach area. By limiting sites that are ready to set to four total sites, this issue would be alleviated while not precluding a set net operations ability to have additional sites with anchors and sunken lines set up. This would allow the area to be used by the drift fleet in a historic and efficient fashion.

PROPOSED BY: Cordova District Fishermen United, Gillnet Division (HQ-F17-038)

PROPOSAL 46

5 AAC 24.200. Fishing districts and subdistricts.

Change boundary description of the Main Bay Subdistrict, as follows:

5 AAC 24.200. Fishing districts and subdistricts

(h) Eshamy District: waters east of...

(1) Main Bay Subdistrict: waters of Main Bay west of a line from 60_ 33.36' N. lat., 148_ 02.35' W. long. to **60_ 32.81' N. lat., 148_ 2.118' W. long.;**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Main Bay Subdistrict recently changed coordinates and this has affected mine and my families set-net operation. We have been second on the line since the fisheries inception and have fished every single year in PWS since the 1960's. With the recent coordinate changes, the new family in front of us has squeezed in another net and registers the shore fishery lease so that we are now third on the line as well as many more drift gil-netters setting in front of us.

Historically, this Main Bay Subdistrict has always been fished with the same traditional markers and everyone respecting those (setnet and drift alike). With the current change the other family has now registered this "new" line and squeezed another net in front of us permanently. I believe the line should respect where it stood historically for over 30 years; at the mouth of bay coming off the rockpile on the southside (the northside comes off of a rockpile and always has).

It should be converted back to the historical line, using the rockpile on the southside of the bay as the natural marker and line. You can view this natural rockpile easiest using the BING HYBRID map on the state's map assisting tool.

PROPOSED BY: David Fleming

(EF-F17-116)

PROPOSAL 47

5 AAC 24.370. Prince William Sound Management and Salmon Enhancement Allocation Plan.

Include the value of all enhanced salmon produced in the Prince William Sound Area in the *Prince William Sound Management and Salmon Enhancement Allocation Plan*, as follows:

Remove the language under [(J) IN THIS SECTION, “ENHANCED SALMON STOCKS” MEANS SALMON PRODUCED BY THE PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND AQUACULTURE CORPORATION].

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? 5 AAC 24.370 Prince William Sound Management and Salmon Enhancement Allocation Plan. The plan should include the value of all enhanced salmon produced in the Prince William Sound (PWS) region. The value of enhanced salmon production from Valdez Fisheries Development Association’s (VFDA) Solomon Gulch Hatchery is not included in the management plan. The construction of the Solomon Gulch Hatchery is financed by funds from the State of Alaska and continues to use state financing. The original hatchery operation permit included chum production intended for the drift gillnet fleet which never was accomplished.

5 AAC 33.364 *Southeastern Alaska Area Enhanced Salmon Allocation Management Plan* includes the value of all enhanced salmon produced in the Southeastern Alaska region. Both 5 AAC 24.370 and 5 AAC 33.364 stated goals are to provide a fair and reasonable allocation of the harvest of enhanced salmon among the commercial fisheries.

How can there be a fair and reasonable enhanced salmon allocation when a large percentage of the enhanced salmon resource is not included in the plan? What is the difference between a hatchery built by the State of Alaska, Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation (PWSAC) or VFDA? They all used public funds for their construction and startup operations. Both PWSAC and VFDA continue to use public funds for improvements and increased production. But VFDA increases in production only benefit one commercial fishery. Why is the PWS seine fleet allowed exclusive benefit to VFDA’s publicly financed enhanced salmon production? The best solution is to include the value of Solomon Gulch Hatchery production into 5 AAC 24.370.

If all of the enhanced salmon value produced in PWS is not included in the PWS Enhanced Salmon Allocation Plan, then seine fishery will continue to receive a disproportionate and increasing share of the enhanced salmon value.

This proposal does not propose to reallocate VFDA enhanced salmon to the other commercial users, but to only include the value of all enhanced salmon into the regional plan so all PWS common property fisheries can benefit from the value of VFDA enhanced salmon production.

PROPOSED BY: Michael Bowen

(HQ-F17-031)

PROPOSAL 48

5 AAC 24.370. Prince William Sound Management and Salmon Enhancement Allocation Plan.

Allow commercial fishing for salmon in the Armin F. Koernig Hatchery Terminal and Special Harvest Areas prior to July 18, as follows:

I propose the regulation should be changed to say " **except in the AFK THA and SHA**" in the SW district, the district is closed to salmon fishing before July 18.

The harvest of AFK chums has occurred from 1999 through 2016 at AFK inside the THA and SHA

The current fishery targeting AFK chums begins aprox June 1 each year inside the THA and SHA at the AFK hatchery and continues until the pink returns are large enough to begin cost recovery which is usually in the last week of July.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? According to the PWS Management and Allocation Plan (2) South Western District: (A) "The district is closed to salmon fishing before July 18".

At the AFK hatchery, PWSAC has been releasing chum salmon fry since 1997 for the seine fleet to target. This fishery takes place inside the THA and SHA. The purpose of the chum program was to provide the seine fleet with some species diversity and early fishing opportunity. The restriction of not fishing before July 18 in the SW district was overlooked during the permitting process. In the last few years a few folks have pointed out the restriction to ADF&G and complained the chum fishery was out of regulation.

PROPOSED BY: Leroy L Cabana (EF-F17-016)

PROPOSAL 49

5 AAC 24.370. Prince William Sound Management and Enhancement Allocation Plan.

Reduce harvest of sockeye salmon in the directed chum salmon fishery prior to July 18 in the Armin F. Koernig Hatchery Terminal and Special Harvest Areas, as follows:

(e)(2)(A)(B)

Even if Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation (PWSAC) chooses to change the production back to late time pink salmon there will be early chum salmon returning for several years.

Option 1: Instruct Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADFG) and PWSAC to follow the regulation and eliminate the common property seine fishery prior to July 18 and have the fishery return to a cost recover fishery like it was prior to 2004.

Option 2: Develop a management plan for this fishery that meaningfully addresses sockeye interception using the management tools available of time and area. This is a terminal harvest enhanced salmon fishery and at no time should it be open 144 hours a week. Three short openers per week would be adequate to harvest the small chum salmon return at this site. The Armin F. Koernig (AFK) Hatchery Terminal Harvest Area (THA) district is too large an area. The AFK Special Harvest Area (SHA) district is more than adequate to conduct this fishery. Moving the fishery inside the SHA should help the residents of Chenega Bay at the same time as well.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Interception of fully allocated sockeye salmon in the early chum salmon remote release fishery at AFK Hatchery in Southwest District, and the problems associated with the interception including: low sockeye escapement at Coghill River; reallocation of fully allocated stocks; and reduced time and area by the net and drift fleet due to weak wild stock escapement.

5 AAC 24.370 Prince William Sound Management and Salmon Enhancement Allocation Plan

(e) The department shall manage the PWS commercial salmon fisheries as follows

(2) Southwestern District:

(A) the district is closed to salmon fishing before July 18;

(B) on or after July 18, based on the strength of pink salmon stocks, purse seine fishing periods may be opened by emergency order;

When the regulation clearly states that the PWS Southwest District is closed before July 18, why is there a fishery that is in obvious violation of that regulation? This has been in effect since 1991(?). The regulation was developed to protect early run timed enhanced and wild salmon stocks that are intended for the drift and set net fleets in the Northwest Districts. So far, ADFG and PWSAC have only offered excuses as to why the fishery is not in violation of the regulation. They have not offered a plan to correct the error or a meaningful plan to reduce interception of salmon bound for other districts.

PWSAC Board Administrative Policies – Allocation Policy states that “enhanced salmon allocations will be based upon the “PWS Management and Salmon Enhancement Allocation Plan (5AAC 24.370).

ADFG went so far to blame the Board of Fisheries (board) for the fishery being in violation of the management plan.

“The board’s adoption of the management plan closing salmon fishing in the district prior to July 18 predated ADFG’s approval of the release of enhanced chum salmon that return to the AFHSHA. The commissioner has emergency order authority under AS 16.05.060 to open or close seasons or areas “when circumstances require”, which includes authority to open or close seasons or areas notwithstanding a management plan when ADFG has new information, that was not considered by the board, showing that action by emergency order is required. In this instance, ADFG has new information not considered by the board that requires the opening of the SHA. Namely, when the board adopted the management plan, the board did not consider the release of enhanced salmon returning to the SHA that will not be harvested unless the SHA is opened prior to July 18.”

So, ADFG is implying that when the board adopted the management plan in 1990 (with tremendous input from all stakeholders), it was the Board's fault for not considering that PWSAC would start and ADFG approve an early chum salmon remote release seine fishery in the Southwest District in 2004. The "new information" is that ADFG failed to read the management plan when remote release was proposed as a seine fishery.

Only the Board has authority to reallocate salmon resources, not PWSAC or ADFG.

PROPOSED BY: Michael Bowen (HQ-F17-032)

PROPOSAL 50

5 AAC 24.301. Seaward boundary of districts.

Define Copper and Bering River District seaward boundaries with geographic coordinates, as follows:

5 AAC 24.301 is amended to read:

For the purpose of managing the historical salmon net fishery in the vicinity of the Copper River and Bering River, the outer boundary of the Copper River and Bering River Districts is a line **from 60° 01.16' N. lat., 144° 00.00' W. long., to 59° 57.98' N. lat., 144° 00.00' W. long. to 59° 44.29' N. lat., 144° 36.12' W. long. to 60° 17.13' N. lat., 146° 15.02' W. long. to Hook Point at 60° 20.11' N. lat., 146° 15.02' W. long.** [THREE MILES DUE SOUTH FROM A LINE FROM CAPE SUCKLING (144° W. LONG.) TO THE SOUTHERNMOST TIP OF PINNACLE ROCK TO AN ADF&G REGULATORY MARKER LOCATED AT THE TIP OF HOOK POINT ON HINCHINBROOK ISLAND AT APPROXIMATELY 60° 20.02' N. LAT., 146° 15.12' W. LONG.]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The seaward boundaries of the Copper River and Bearing River district, as described in regulation, have proven confusing and difficult to interpret. The current regulatory language defines a line three miles due south of a line defined by a combination of two onshore geographic coordinates and an ambiguous headland. The department proposes to simplify this district boundary description by defining a point to point line with coordinates for each of the vertices.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F17-095)

PROPOSAL 51

5 AAC 24.200. Fishing districts and subdistricts.

Amend district and subdistrict boundaries to match Alaska Department of Fish and Game statistical area boundaries within the Prince William Sound Management Area, as follows:

5 AAC 24.200 is amended to read:

(a) Copper River District: waters surrounding Hinchinbrook Island between the tip of Hook Point **at 60° 20.11' N. lat., 146° 15.02' W. long.** and Boswell Rock **at 60° 24.76' N. lat., 146°**

06.28' W. long., including Boswell Bay waters south of a line from Boswell Rock at 60° 24.76' N. lat., 146° 06.28' W. long. to 60° 28.02' N. lat., 145° 57.57' W. long. [THE RADIO TOWER AT WHITSHED VILLAGE], and waters between 60° 28.02' N. lat., 145° 57.57' W. long. [WHITSHED VILLAGE] and west of a line from a point on the mainland at 60° 10.32' N. lat., 144° 35.49' W. long. [60° 10.21' N. LAT., 144° 35.57' W. LONG.] to the northernmost tip of Fox Island at 60° 10.13' N. lat., 144° 36.01' W. long. and then extending south from Fox Island along 144° 36.12' W. long.

(b) Bering River District: waters west of [THE LONGITUDE OF CAPE SUCKLING (] 144° W. long [)] and east of a line from a point on the mainland at 60° 10.32' N. lat., 144° 35.49' W. long. [60° 10.21' N. LAT., 144° 35.57' W. LONG.] to the northernmost tip of Fox Island at 60° 10.13' N. lat., 144° 36.01' W. long. and then extending south from Fox Island along 144° 36.12' W. long.

(c) Eastern District: waters north and east of a line from Shepard Point to Salmo Point and along shore to a point at 60° 35.95' N. lat., 145° 47.67' W. long. to 60° 36.87' N. lat., 146° 58.73' W. long. to Point Freemantle at 60° 55.76' N. lat., 145° 58.73' W. long. [OF THE EASTERN MAINLAND SHORE FROM THE RADIO TOWER AT WHITSHED VILLAGE TO POINT FREEMANTLE, INCLUDING BLIGH ISLAND, GOOSE ISLAND, AND OTHER ADJACENT ISLANDS.]

(1) Valdez Narrows Subdistrict: waters of Port Valdez enclosed by a line from Potato Point at 61° 03.37' N. lat., 146° 41.81' W. long. to Entrance Point at 60° 03.79' N. lat., 146° 39.73' W. long.:

(d) Northern District: waters north and west of a line from Point Freemantle at 60° 55.76' N. lat., 145° 58.73' W. long. to 60° 36.87' N. lat., 146° 58.73' W. long. [OF THE NORTHERN MAINLAND SHORE FROM POINT FREEMANTLE TO A POINT AT THE SOUTHERN ENTRANCE OF ESTHER PASSAGE AT 60° 49.33' N. LAT., 147° 51.12' W. LONG., AND WATERS OUTSIDE THE COGHILL DISTRICT AND ALONG THE EASTERN SHORE OF CULROSS ISLAND AND EAST OF A LINE FROM A POINT ON THE SOUTHERN SHORE OF CULROSS ISLAND AT 60° 38.31' N. LAT., 148° 08.62' W. LONG. TO A POINT APPROXIMATELY 1.5 MILES WEST OF NELLIE JUAN LIGHT AT 60° 34.86' N. LAT., 148° 08.62' W. LONG.] to the northern tip of the Eshamy District at 60° 36.87' N. lat., 148° 06.13' W. long. to the eastern shore of Culross Island at 60° 38.88' N. lat., 148° 06.56' W. long., excluding waters of the Northwestern, Coghill, and Unakwik districts. [BOUNDARY AT NELLIE JUAN LIGHT, INCLUDING GLACIER ISLAND, FAIRMOUNT ISLAND, PERRY ISLAND, ADJACENT ISLANDS, AND THE NAKED ISLAND GROUP, EXCEPT WATERS OF UNAKWIK INLET NORTH OF 61° 00.97' N. LAT.]

(1) Perry Island Subdistrict: waters of the Northern District west of a line from the western entrance to Eaglek Bay at 60° 49.68' N. lat., 147° 44.95' W. long. [60° 49.66' N. LAT., 147° 44.92' W. LONG.] to the northernmost tip of Axel Lind Island at 60° 48.03' N. lat., 147° 42.65' W. long. and from the southernmost tip of Axel Lind Island at 60° 47.08' N. lat., 147° 43.00' W. long. to the northern tip of Lone Island at 60° 41.88' N. lat., 147° 45.03' W. long., and from the southern tip of Lone Island at 60° 39.62' N. lat., 147° 46.31' W. long.

due south to the border of the Southwestern District at 60° 36.87' N. lat.; [TO THE NORTHERN TIP OF THE ESHAMY DISTRICT;]

(2) Cannery Creek Subdistrict: waters of the Northern District in Unakwik Inlet south of 61° 00.97' N. lat., and north of the latitude of Unakwik Point **at 60° 53.61' N. lat.;**...

(f) Coghill District: waters north and east of a line from Point Pigot at 60° 48.21' N. lat., 148° 20.90' W. long. **to a point on the mainland shore at 60° 45.85' N. lat., 148° 13.73' W. long.** to a point west of Point Culross at **60° 45.61' N. lat., 148° 11.75' W. long.** [60° 45.45' N. LAT., 148° 11.07' W. LONG.] **continuing along shore to** [AND FROM] Point Culross at **60° 45.44' N. lat., 148° 08.81' W. long.** [60° 45.58' N. LAT., 148° 08.74' W. LONG.] to a point west of Culross Light at **60° 45.06' N. lat., 148° 08.04' W. long.** [60° 45.16' N. LAT., 148° 07.87' W. LONG.] to Point Perry at **60° 45.02' N. lat., 147° 57.69' W. long.** [60° 45.05' N. LAT., 147° 57.62' W. LONG.] to the west island of the Bald Head Chris Islands at **60° 47.90' N. lat., 147° 47.90' W. long.** [60° 47.97' N. LAT., 147° 51.62' W. LONG.] to a point on the mainland at **60° 49.27' N. lat.,** [60° 49.26' N. LAT.,] 147° 51.20' W. long.

(1) Esther Subdistrict: waters of the Coghill District south and east of a line from a point on the western shore of Esther Island at 60° 48.08' N. lat., 148° 08.54' W. long. to Esther Rock at 60° 48.08' N. lat., **148° 10.75' W. long.** [148° 10.67' W. LONG.] to Point Culross at **60° 45.44' N. lat., 148° 08.81' W. long.** [60° 45.58' N. LAT., 148° 08.74' W. LONG.] to a point west of Culross Light at **60° 45.06' N. lat., 148° 08.04' W. long.** [60° 45.16' N. LAT., 148° 07.87' W. LONG.], and south of a line crossing Esther Passage from **60° 49.53' N. lat., 147° 52.69' W. long. to 60° 49.53' N. lat., 147° 54.87' W. long.** [60° 49.51' N. LAT., 147° 52.62' W. LONG. TO 60° 49.51' N. LAT., 147° 54.82' W. LONG.];

(2) Granite Bay Subdistrict: waters of Port Wells east of a line from Esther Rock at 60° 48 08' N. lat., **148° 10.75' W. long.** [148° 10.67' W. LONG.] to a point at 60° 51.68' N. lat., 148° 09.84' W. long. and to a point at 60° 55.81' N. lat., 148° 05.89' W. long., including all waters of Esther Passage north of a line at **60° 49.53' N. lat.** [60° 49.51' N. LAT.];

(3) Bettles Bay Subdistrict: waters west of a line from Point Pigot at 60° 48.21' N. lat., 148° 20.90' W. long. **to 60° 48.03' N. lat., 148° 20.26' W. long.** to Point Pakenham at **61° 00.36' N. lat., 148° 05.45' W. long.** [61° 00.45' N. LAT., 148° 04.85' W. LONG.];

(g) Northwestern District: waters south and west of a line from Point Pigot at 60° 48.21' N. lat., 148° 20.90' W. long. **to a point on the mainland shore at 60° 45.85' N. lat., 148° 13.73' W. long.** to a point west of Point Culross at **60° 45.61' N. lat., 148° 11.75' W. long.** [60° 45.45' N. LAT., 148° 11.07' W. LONG.] and from Point Culross at **60° 45.44' N. lat., 148° 08.81' W. long.** [60° 45.58' N. LAT., 148° 08.74' W. LONG.] to a point west of Culross Light at **60° 45.06' N. lat., 148° 08.04' W. long.** [60° 45.16' N. LAT., 148° 07.87' W. LONG.] and from a point on the **eastern shore of Culross Island at 60° 38.88' N. lat., 148° 06.56' W. long. to the northern tip of the Eshamy District at 60° 36.87' N. lat., 148° 06.13' W. long.,** [SOUTHERN END OF CULROSS ISLAND AT THE 60° 38.31' N. LAT., 148° 08.62' W. LONG. TO A POINT APPROXIMATELY 1.5 MILES WEST OF PORT NELLIE JUAN LIGHT AT 60° 34.86' N. LAT., 148° 08.62' W. LONG. TO THE ESHAMY DISTRICT BOUNDARY AT THE LIGHT ON THE SOUTH SHORE OF THE

ENTRANCE TO PORT NELLIE JUAN LIGHT,] including Culross Passage and waters of Culross Bay....

(2) Culross Island Subdistrict: waters **of Culross Passage south of a line from 60° 45.85' N. lat., 148° 13.73' W. long. to 60° 45.61' N. lat., 148° 11.75' W. long.** [EAST OF A LINE FROM POINT PIGOT AT 60° 48.21' N. LAT., 148° 20.90' W. LONG. TO A POINT AT 60° 40.71' N. LAT., 148° 13.87' W. LONG., SOUTH OF A LINE FROM POINT PIGOT TO A POINT WEST OF POINT CULROSS AT 60° 45.45' N. LAT., 148° 11.07' W. LONG.] and **waters of Culross Bay south and west of a line** from Point Culross **at 60° 45.44' N. lat., 148° 08.81' W. long.** to a point west of Culross Light at **60° 45.06' N. lat., 148° 08.04' W. long., and water of Port Nellie Juan north and east of a line from 60° 34.86' N. lat., 148° 08.62' W. long. to 60° 36.49' N. lat., 148° 11.40' W. long.** [60° 45.16' N. LAT., 148° 07.87' W. LONG., INCLUDING WATERS OF CULROSS BAY AND CULROSS PASSAGE, AND NORTH OF A LINE FROM A POINT APPROXIMATELY 1.5 MILES WEST OF PORT NELLIE JUAN LIGHT AT 60° 34.86' N. LAT., 148° 08.62' W. LONG. TO A POINT ON THE MAINLAND AT 60° 36.46' N. LAT., 148° 11.37' W. LONG.];

(3) Port Nellie Juan Subdistrict: waters **of Port Nellie Juan and Kings Bay south and west of a line from [A POINT ON THE MAINLAND AT] 60° 34.86' N. lat., 148° 08.62' W. long. to 60° 36.49' N. lat., 148° 11.40' W. long.** [60° 36.46' N. LAT., 148° 11.37' W. LONG. TO A POINT APPROXIMATELY 1.5 MILES WEST OF THE PORT NELLIE JUAN LIGHT AT 60° 34.86' N. LAT., 148° 08.62' W. LONG., INCLUDING PORT NELLIE JUAN AND KINGS BAY]...

(i) Southwestern District: **state waters south and west of 60° 36.87' N. lat., 148° 06.13' W. long. to 60° 17.94' N. lat., 147° 33.94' W. long. to 59° 59.47' N. lat., 147° 47.52' W. long. to 59° 50.93' N. lat., 148° 02.93' W. long., excluding the Eshamy and Northwestern districts** [MAINLAND WATERS FROM THE OUTER POINT ON THE NORTH SHORE OF GRANITE BAY TO CAPE FAIRFIELD AND WATERS SURROUNDING KNIGHT ISLAND, CHENEGA ISLAND, BAINBRIDGE ISLAND, EVANS ISLAND, ELRINGTON ISLAND, LATOUCHE ISLAND, AND ADJACENT ISLANDS].

(1) Port San Juan Subdistrict: waters of Elrington Passage north of 59° 59.97' N. lat., and waters within one mile of the northern and eastern shore of Evans Island, from Evans Point **at 60° 07.95' N. lat., 147° 54.86' W. long.** south to the longitude [LATITUDE] of the northern tip of Elrington Island **at 60° 02.32' N. lat., 148° 00.11' W. long.;**...

(j) Montague District: **state waters south and east of 60° 36.87' N. lat., 148° 06.13' W. long. to 60° 17.94' N. lat., 147° 33.94' W. long. to 59° 59.47' N. lat., 147° 47.52' W. long. to 59° 50.93' N. lat., 148° 02.93' W. long., and west of 60° 36.87' N. lat., 148° 06.13' W. long. to 60° 12.86' N. lat., 146° 45.08' W. long., and** waters surrounding [MONTAGUE ISLAND, GREEN ISLAND,] Middleton Island[,] and adjacent islands.

(1) Port Chalmers Subdistrict: waters of the Montague District in Montague Strait, north of [AN ADF&G REGULATORY MARKER LOCATED ON THE WEST SHORE OF MONTAGUE ISLAND AT] 60° 02.50' N. lat., and south of [AN ADF&G

REGULATORY MARKER LOCATED NEAR GRAVEYARD POINT ON THE WEST SHORE OF MONTAGUE ISLAND AT] **60° 20.02' N. lat.** [60° 20.00' N. LAT.];...

(k) Southeastern District: **state waters south and east of a line from Shepard Point to Salmo Point and along shore to a point at 60° 35.95' N. lat., 145° 47.67' W. long. to 60° 36.87' N. lat., 146° 58.73' W. long. to 60° 12.86' N. lat., 146° 45.08' W. long., excluding the Copper River and Bering River districts** [WATERS SURROUNDING HAWKINS ISLAND, HINCHINBROOK ISLAND, AND ADJACENT ISLANDS, EXCEPT THE WATERS OF HINCHINBROOK ISLAND ON THE SOUTHEAST SHORE BETWEEN HOOK POINT AND BOSWELL ROCK].

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The department has reviewed and identified district and subdistrict boundary descriptions in Prince William Sound that need to be clarified or amended for consistency and accuracy. The proposed district and subdistrict boundary lines align with statistical area boundaries and will aid in managing salmon fisheries prosecuted within these areas.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F17-096)

PROPOSAL 52

5 AAC 24.100. Description of area.

Amend Prince William Sound Area description to specify lines of longitude for the eastern and western boundaries, as follows:

5 AAC 24.100 is amended to read:

The Prince William Sound Area includes all waters of Alaska between **148° 50.25' W. long. at** Cape Fairfield and **144° W. long. near** Cape Suckling.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? There is no geospatial reference in this regulation to accurately define the western and eastern boundaries of the Prince William Sound Area. Defining these boundaries along lines of longitude will allow for a consistent and repeatable point of reference for those involved in area fisheries.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F17-097)
