

Levelock Village Council  
B.O.F. Meeting 11/28/2019  
Proposal # 28 a new fishery

Greetings Board of Fish Members Thank you for having the meeting in Dillingham. My name is Alexander Tallekpalek, In support of Proposal 28.

Levelock is a thriving community that is open minded to revitalizing our way of life. Adding a fishery as described in this proposal will give opportunities. It is a tribal effort and Levelock is a supporter to all fishermen that passes through before the season and after. This opportunity will bring more local fishermen to fish longer, new local permit entrants will develop faster. With Levelock's projects moving forward in the fishing industry. We anticipate a facility that will process fish and provide jobs at capacity of about 75 employees.

As a (CDQ) Community and developing long term goals for a processing plant and creating jobs in Levelock. Having this proposal passed would prepare the industry for longer seasons. More through management from ADF&G, a more robust salmon allocation. Having said that, ADF&G sets up their operation in Levelock. Arrive approximately June 26<sup>th</sup> and leave July 15<sup>th</sup>. This opportunity can have its advantages as to an established fishery bringing ADF&G in earlier to better prepare themselves for each season.

We've established housing for law enforcement and used legislative funds for that. Levelock is a developing community and is on the rise for a fishery operation. Having this proposal approved would not place any deficit on salmon stock or that the fishery will be more constrained. Challenges would be that, enforcing this will enable ADF&G/AWT to enter a waived agreement to Levelock on utilizing the community for staging area to commence their work during the season. Working with our tribe can be a unique experience and for funding this can be exceptional in other ways when working with a tribe.

In this proposal, it is asking for up to 16 sites adjacent to the village of Levelock. Having this will create an easier fishery for commercial fisherman. Levelock has 2 setnet permits holders living in Levelock now. We have locals in the region that will fish longer and likely chances of advancing more into the fishery. Fishermen would benefit this due to the equipment we have

for a forklift, ice for the fisherman. Families of many sizes can fish off the beach and the processing plant will be in operation to serve those needs. Bringing quality of salmon is a fishing industry goal. Having one hand feeding the other would make the most profitable adventures for the fisherman and Levelock Packing will be served at capacity with this fishery along with the Alagnak Harvest area and the other districts that we will be involved with. Planning for the best quality starts right off our beach. Levelock sits perfectly for this fishery and we would not travel away for our lifestyle? We had this opportunity well before this board was created. And Levelock has been recognized before as a canary and determined to continue with a fishery. You as a board would make tribal history and a fishery made for revitalizing communities in our region. Keep in mind that small operations can produce better quality of salmon and this fits the criteria.

I also have comments on proposal 36. Repeal conditions that must be met prior to allowing commercial fishing for salmon in the Alagnak River. I agree that (the King Salmon sustainable escapement goal was met in the previous year) be removed from the current management plan. Aerial surveys were conducted, and I feel confident that those surveys were not efficient for opening the fishery properly. We need counting towers, a better management plan for the upcoming seasons.

Alagnak River is expecting 3.97 million salmon to return with a minimum of 2.28 million escapement and 1.54 million to harvest. I would encourage this board to keep in mind that opening this fishery while the Nak/Kvichak is closed for the purpose of Kvichak escapement reasons. And that the Alagnak's surplus of salmon is concentrated with the Kvichak stock is undermined due to ADF&G's lack of abilities to full fill their management plan for funding reasons. I would encourage this board to eliminate the phrase, (the ARSHA will not open regardless of the sockeye salmon escapement to the Alagnak River.) The river system exceeds its escapement and if the Kvichak doesn't receive its escapement during peak season. We need the Alagnak to uphold the Kvichak set netters an opportunity to harvest salmon while the Kvichak district remains closed during an EO.

Thank you.